America Counts

ACTUAL VOTE

Poll Tape Access by State

How to use Actual Vote in all 50 states and DC · November 3, 2026

A note before you start. America Counts is a small non-partisan nonprofit trying to do something big: help ordinary people check vote reporting across a vast and complicated election landscape, with 50 states, DC and thousands of counties, each with its own rules, equipment and habits. Most of the state-by-state research here was done with AI tools working from statutes and official guidance. We check what we can, through calls to election offices, reports from the field and our own recordings, but we can't check all of it by hand. We do our best to make the Actual Vote process smooth and user-friendly, but we can't guarantee that every piece of information here will always be right, or that you won't run into unexpected difficulties. When something doesn't match what you find, please tell us. That's how this guide gets better.

Read this first

1. **Always call before you go.** Before we operate anywhere, especially somewhere new, we call the county elections office and confirm its poll tape posting policy, however good the research looks. Do the same. Ask where tapes are posted, when, for how long, and whether you may observe and video-record them.
2. **The law and the practice can differ.** These pages describe what state law and official guidance say. A county or polling place may simply not follow the specific law: tapes may not be posted, may be posted late or inside, or poll workers may not know the rule. And in states we haven't worked in, there's always a chance you'll run into a policy or rule being enforced that we weren't aware of. Be courteous, don't argue, and tell us what you found.
3. **Much of this research is AI-powered.** The state research was compiled largely with AI tools working from primary sources (statutes, administrative rules and Secretary of State manuals), along with some calls to election offices and word-of-mouth tips. AI research can be wrong, and we can't check all of it by hand. Where we have human research (calls to elections offices, reports from people in the field, our own recordings), it overrides the AI research. If something you hear from an official or see on election night contradicts a page, trust what you heard or saw.
4. **Where we have worked.** Actual Vote has recordings or published analyses in 18 states: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin. These are marked ★. Every other state is untested in the field.
5. **Rules vary by county and change over time.** Equipment, counting locations and procedures differ between counties and between elections. Each page shows when its information was last updated.
6. **Seeing is not the same as recording.** A right to view a tape doesn't always include a right to video-record it. Follow the instructions of election officials, never record voters or ballots, and don't record where it is barred.
7. **Early-voting tapes are their own way to help.** In many states most ballots are cast early. Early-voting tabulators usually store votes for the whole period and print one results tape per machine after polls close on election day: at the early-voting site or vote center, at the elections office, or at a central count. Way 3 on each state page says what we know. When in doubt, call, and if they have no plan to show the tapes, ask them to display them.

Where to go next

This PDF covers one question: how to reach poll tapes in each state. Everything else lives on americacounts.us. Each link below is clickable, and the address is printed for paper copies.

Start Here

americacounts.us/start-here

What Actual Vote is, why poll tapes matter and how the process works. Start here if you're new.

Make Your Plan

americacounts.us/start-here/make-your-plan

Compare the six ways to access poll tapes, pick the one that fits you and your state, and get ready for election night.

Get the App

americacounts.us/actual-vote/get-the-app

Download Actual Vote for iPhone or Android and make a practice recording before election day.

Scan to get the app

READ THESE BEFORE YOU RECORD

User Agreement
americacounts.us/actual-vote/user-agreement
The agreement between you and America Counts when you use the app.

Privacy Policy
americacounts.us/privacy-policy
What we collect, how we use it and how we protect it.

Health, Safety, and Practicality Statement
americacounts.us/health-safety-and-practicality-statement
Staying safe in the field, and what we can and can't guarantee.

Using Actual Vote
americacounts.us/using-actual-vote
The practical guide: planning, recording, and what happens after you submit.

BEFORE YOU SHARE OR RELY ON THIS GUIDE

- **This copy may be out of date.** It was generated on November 3, 2026. The website is updated as we learn, so check your state's page at americacounts.us/actual-vote/in-your-state before you go.
- **Who we are.** America Counts is a project of Democracy Counts, Inc., a non-partisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We are not a government agency or an election office, and we don't speak for any.
- **What Actual Vote does.** It compares the totals printed on poll tapes with officially reported results, so anyone can check vote reporting. It produces evidence, not conclusions: when the two differ, we ask election officials how that could happen. We don't endorse or dismiss claims about any election, candidate or party.
- **Not legal advice.** This is practical guidance for volunteers. If a legal question matters, ask the state or county election office or a lawyer.
- **Please share it.** Print and share this guide freely, unaltered. The latest version is always at americacounts.us/files/poll-tape-access-by-state.pdf.
- **Corrections and questions.** Tell us what your county said or what you saw: info@democracycounts.org or americacounts.us/contact. We verify every report and update the page.

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ACCESS TYPES

- **Poll tapes posted outside, in public.** Drive a circuit of polling places and record each posted tape.
- **Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only.** Be there before they close up — realistically about one location a night.
- **Access poll tapes after election night.** Use the office and public records.
- **Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night.** Get appointed as a watcher first.
- **Observe the count.** Watch the central count.
- **Varies by county.** Check your county.

Each state page follows that state's page on americacounts.us: its summary, the same six numbered ways to participate (greyed out where one doesn't apply), and the reason wherever a way doesn't apply.

Alabama

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Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Alabama posts poll tapes in two places. State law requires the inspectors to post a copy of the signed certificate of result — in practice, the voting machine's results printout — in front of the polling place immediately after the count (Ala. Code § 17-12-10), AND to post each voting place's results at the county courthouse within two hours of poll closing (§ 17-12-8). The courthouse posting puts every precinct in the county in one place.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Alabama posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Alabama counts in-person and mailed absentee ballots together at each county's absentee polling place, and the final absentee tape isn't run until polls close after 7 p.m. (Absentee Election Manager guide). That's one tape per county. Only party-appointed watchers are guaranteed a place there, and we don't know whether the tape is posted. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Alabama Open Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Alaska

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Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

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Alaska doesn't post poll tapes, and there's no walk-up access — at close the precinct board seals the results certificate and sends it to the director (AS 15.15.370). The one route to the tape is a credential: parties, candidates, and authorized ballot-measure groups may appoint watchers, and the Division of Elections' poll-watcher guide says that at scanner precincts "the poll watcher may request the election board to print an additional copy of the results tape." So the way to record an Alaska tape with the Actual Vote app is to get appointed as a watcher in advance. Two notes: Alaska uses ranked-choice voting, so an election-night tape shows first-choice totals only (later rounds are tabulated centrally); and the Division posts precinct-level results online that night.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Alaska	Alaska doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Alaska	The public isn't admitted at the close in Alaska; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Alaska counts early votes centrally at the Division of Elections' regional offices, not at the early-voting site: early votes cast through the Thursday before the election are counted on election night, and later ones seven days after (counting schedule). Accredited watchers may be present; whether a report is posted, we don't know. In 2024 about 27% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In Alaska the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Alaska Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Arizona

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Access poll tapes after election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Arizona seals everything and ships it: the election board's close-out report goes inside the sealed ballot box to the central counting place (A.R.S. § 16-608), and releasing tallies early is a felony (§ 16-551(C)) — so vote centers post nothing and poll workers cannot show tapes. Results appear on county websites starting about an hour after polls close, along with dropped-ballot totals and tabulation log files. You can also ask your county election office for an appointment to record the official tally sheets after election day.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Arizona	Nothing is posted at the polling place on election night in Arizona; tapes become available afterwards (ways 5 and 6).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Arizona	The public can't watch the close in Arizona; tapes become available after election night (ways 5 and 6).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Arizona counts early ballots centrally. Counting is open to party and public observation, with a live video feed of the tabulation room (A.R.S. § 16-621), and early tallies can't be released until an hour after polls close (§ 16-551). We don't know whether tapes are produced or posted. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you at the source and lets you see the count firsthand. In this state, though, the rules bar recording the tape in that role (see the note on this page), so it's a way to help the count run well rather than a way to record.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Arizona Public Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Arizona makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: New Mexico. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Heads up: Arizona restricts on-site recording of the tape. Don't record where it isn't allowed; rely on official results and the post-election records route instead.

Arkansas

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Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

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Arkansas requires posting by statute, statewide, inside the polling room, and the close is open to the public. One copy of each machine's completed return record “shall be posted upon the wall of the polling room for all to see” (Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-527), signed by every poll worker present, and “after the polls have been closed, the counting of votes shall be open to the public” (§ 7-5-316(a)). The State Board of Election Commissioners' 2026 poll worker guide makes wall-posting a closing checklist step and says the production of the tabulator results tapes is “open to the public and to any authorized poll watchers to observe.” So you can be there at the 7:30 p.m. close and video-record the posted tape with the Actual Vote app. Neither the law nor the guide addresses photography, so ask the poll judge before filming. The morning zero tape is also posted by law, and at the rare hand-count site a certificate of election is posted outside the building.

Polls close: 7:30 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Arkansas	Arkansas doesn’t post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and record the posted tape**	Arkansas law requires one copy of each machine’s results to be posted on the wall of the polling room “for all to see,” and after the polls close, the counting of votes is open to the public. The State Board’s poll worker guide says the same for printing the results tapes. Be there at the 7:30 p.m. close, watch the tapes print, and record the posted copy with the Actual Vote app. Neither the law nor the guide addresses filming, so ask the poll judge first. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Arkansas canvasses early-voting machines on election night, at a time and place the county board of election commissioners announces in its public notice, and no earlier than 7:30 p.m. (A.C.A. § 7-5-413). “The processing and counting of absentee and early votes is open to the public” (A.C.A. § 7-5-416), and officials may not stop people recording in a place open to the public (A.C.A. § 21-1-106, quoted in the 2024 county board manual). In 2024 about 72% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

California

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● **Varies by county**

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from San Francisco County, Santa Clara County.

California **depends on your county.** California has a strong posting law — where ballots are counted on site at a vote center, the board must post the signed results on the *outside* of the building for 48 hours. But most ballots are counted centrally, and only about 20 of the 58 counties tabulate at the vote center. So your move depends on which kind of county you're in — and we've worked out which is which (below).

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record the posted tape outside — if your county counts on site**	In counties whose vote centers tabulate ballots on site (about 20 of 58, from the Secretary of State's April 2026 equipment table; only Santa Clara is confirmed in the field so far), the board posts the signed "results of votes cast" form on the outside of the building, where it stays for at least 48 hours — you can record it at your leisure. Onsite counties include Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Fresno, Placer, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare and others. Check your county and confirm with the script below.
2	**Observe the central count — if your county counts downtown**	In central-count counties (about 38, including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Riverside, Alameda, San Mateo, Sonoma, Butte and Imperial) nothing is posted at the vote center. The count is open to public observation (some counties ask you to check in or reserve a time), and some (Riverside, LA) livestream it — observe and record there. For Sonoma, Butte, Imperial and San Diego, see our county research below.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	California mostly counts vote-center ballots centrally, so most counties have no early-voting tape. Some counties, like Santa Clara, put tabulators in vote centers; each prints one tape covering every day it was used, at the close on election night. The public may observe the central count, and some counties (such as San Diego) allow video there as the registrar permits. In 2024 about 5% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Your county registrar can often provide many precincts' tapes or results records at once — a great way to batch-record on your own schedule, whether your county counts on site or downtown. In a vote-center county every tape covers one machine, not one precinct, so ask for the official results by tabulator too.
6	**Request records or cast vote records**	California processing and results records are open to the public, and counties publish results during the canvass; you can also request records to cover precincts you couldn't reach in person.

Colorado

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Observe the count

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Colorado votes by mail, counts centrally, and posts nothing — in fact, Colorado repealed its posting statute (C.R.S. 1-7-602, "Judges to post returns") in 2013, in the same act that created the mail-ballot system. Central count is open only to appointed watchers, and even watchers lose their credentials for photographing or recording where voter information is in view. The public paths are online: El Paso County publishes digital images of every ballot and how the machine read each one (anyone can inspect them), Denver livestreams its ballot-processing room around the clock, and results post on election night.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Colorado	Colorado votes by mail and counts ballots centrally, so there's no polling-place tape (see way 2).
2	**Observe the count**	Colorado counts every ballot, including those cast at voter service centers, at the county's central count. Only appointed watchers may observe there, and a watcher who records where voter information is in view loses the credential. The public route is the county's published ballot images, its livestream where it has one, and records requests.
3	~~Record early-voting tapes~~ Not available in Colorado	Colorado votes mostly by mail and counts every ballot, including those cast at voter service centers, at the county's central count, so there's no early-voting tape. A watcher who records where voter information is in view loses the credential (8 CCR 1505-1, Rule 8). Use a records request for the central-count reports (way 6).
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you at the source and lets you see the count firsthand. In this state, though, the rules bar recording the tape in that role (see the note on this page), so it's a way to help the count run well rather than a way to record.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Colorado Open Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Colorado makes election-night recording hard — but these neighbors post a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: New Mexico or Oklahoma. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Heads up: Colorado restricts on-site recording of the tape. Don't record where it isn't allowed; rely on official results and the post-election records route instead.

Connecticut

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Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

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Connecticut requires the results tapes to be posted, and the requirement held through the state's 2025 switch to new Dominion DS300 tabulators. At close, the moderator and two assistant registrars sign the result tapes and "post one in the polling place for public inspection" (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 9-242a-22; 2025 Moderators' Manual). Results must "remain in full public view" and any person present may compare them to the tabulator (C.G.S. § 9-309), and the moderator reads the results aloud. So you have the option of recording the posted tape with the Actual Vote app. Two notes. First, under a March 2026 law (Public Act 26-1), early voters feed their ballots straight into a tabulator; each night the registrars publicly open it to seal that day's ballots, and when polls close on election day the moderator has the early-voting tabulators produce their vote totals. The law doesn't say where those totals are printed or whether they're posted, so call your registrars of voters to ask. Second, explicit photo/video rights are written for news media — the general public can always read and transcribe, so confirm camera use with officials.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Connecticut	Connecticut doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and record the posted tape**	Connecticut requires the signed results tape to be posted inside the polling place for public inspection, and the results must remain in full public view. The public may watch the canvass. Be there at the 8 p.m. close and record the posted tape with the Actual Vote app. Photo and video rights are written only for news media, so check camera use with the moderator first. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Since a March 2026 law (Public Act 26-1), early voters feed their ballots straight into a tabulator. Each night the registrars publicly open it to seal that day's ballots, and when polls close on election day the moderator has the early-voting tabulators produce their vote totals. The law doesn't say where those totals print or whether they're posted, so call your registrars of voters. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Delaware

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Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

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Delaware polling places don't post results, and nothing is announced at the precinct. Results media are sealed and couriered to the state (15 Del. C. § 4975); the only people entitled to examine the results tapes on election night are candidates and party-accredited challengers (§ 4977), and everyone else is excluded from the voting room. The public's first look at the actual tapes is the Board of Canvass in Superior Court two days later. If you want election-night access, get appointed as a challenger through a party (general elections) or a candidate (primaries).

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Delaware	Delaware doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Delaware	The public isn't admitted at the close in Delaware; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Delaware tabulates early-voting ballots at the same time as absentee ballots, and absentee results can't be reported before polls close (15 Del. C. § 5510). We don't know where early-voting machine tapes are printed or whether they're posted. The Board of Canvass, which reviews machine records two days after the election, is open. In 2024 about 41% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In Delaware the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Delaware Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Delaware makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Pennsylvania. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

District of Columbia

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

The District of Columbia posts a summary count outside each vote center. D.C. law requires that “upon the conclusion of voting at any Vote Center, the Board shall post a summary count of votes cast,” “in a conspicuous place that can be seen from the outside of the Vote Center immediately upon completion of voting” (D.C. Code § 1-1001.09(j-1)). It’s mandatory, at the 8 p.m. close, and visible from public space — so you can video it with the Actual Vote app, no credential needed. One caveat: ranked-choice voting starts with the June 2026 primary, so in races with three or more candidates the posted summary shows first-choice totals, with the full rounds tabulated centrally afterward.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	District of Columbia posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Each D.C. vote center has its own tabulator. Anyone may petition the Board of Elections for an election-observer badge at least two weeks ahead; observers may watch the equipment being closed, and cameras are allowed unless the site coordinator finds them disruptive (3 DCMR 706). We don’t know whether early-voting tabulators are closed at the end of early voting or on election night. In 2024 about 22% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the D.C. Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Florida

Contents

● **Poll tapes posted outside, in public**

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Broward County and a published analysis (2024 Florida General).

Florida law requires poll tapes to be posted at the polls. The county election board must “post at the polls, for the benefit of the public, the results of the voting” as the count is completed (Fla. Stat. § 102.071), and the county poll-worker manuals we examined (Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough and Orange) direct posting the scanner results tape at the precinct, usually signed. In Broward in November 2024, our volunteers recorded posted tapes at polling places, though at some sites tapes weren't posted or had already come down. A statutory alternative allowing central posting instead (§ 101.5614(7)) exists on the books but appears unused.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Florida posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Florida tabulates early votes centrally, and no early-voting results may be released before polls close (Fla. Stat. § 101.657, § 102.141). The canvassing board meets in public. We don’t know whether early-voting tapes are printed or posted, so call your Supervisor of Elections. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Florida Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Georgia

Contents

● **Poll tapes posted outside, in public**

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Cobb County and a published analysis (2026 Cobb County, GA Primary Runoff).

Georgia law requires that one signed scanner results tape — a poll tape — be posted on the polling place door on election night (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-420(a); Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 183-1-12-.12(a)(4)).

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Georgia posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Georgia keeps advance-voting memory cards in the scanners until polls close. The scanners' results tapes are then printed at the county's tabulating center or elections office, and one copy of each scanner's tape "shall be made available for the information of the public" (Ga. Rule 183-1-14-.02). In Cobb County, our volunteers video-recorded 18 of 21 advance-voting tapes posted at the main elections office on election night in June 2026. Your county may print or post them somewhere else. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Georgia Open Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Hawaii

Contents

Observe the count

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Hawaii votes by mail and tabulates at four county counting centers, which are closed to walk-in visitors — no one may enter without authorization from the chief election officer or county clerk, and disclosing any counting-center printout before polls close is prohibited. Two real alternatives: anyone may apply to serve as an Official Observer (the public's “eyes and ears” inside the counting center, verifying zero reports and certifying summary reports), and the Office of Elections publishes a Statewide Precinct Detail report — every precinct's results in one document, the functional equivalent of every poll tape in the state.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Hawaii	Hawaii votes by mail and counts ballots centrally, so there’s no polling-place tape (see way 2).
2	**Observe the count**	Hawaii counts at its counting centers, and no one may enter without the authorization of the chief election officer or the county clerk. The public’s route is the Official Observer program, whose volunteers watch the count on the public’s behalf; apply through the Office of Elections, and ask whether observers may video-record what’s printed.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Hawaii votes mostly by mail. Voter service center scanners aren’t closed out on site: their data and ballots go to the counting center, where results are printed after the last voter statewide has voted (counting center manual). Volunteer Official Observers watch the counting center, and per-scanner reports can be printed there. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Hawaii Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA). You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Idaho

Contents

Access poll tapes after election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Idaho doesn't post poll tapes on the door. In the optical-scan counties — most of the state's voters — the scanner and its printout are sealed up and returned to the county (Idaho Code § 34-1203). The roughly nine to eleven small hand-count counties follow a Secretary of State manual that says to "post a correct copy of the election results" inside the polling place, but only after 8 p.m. statewide (Idaho spans two time zones), with the location unspecified. Idaho also lets credentialed watchers observe the count, but a state directive bars them from taking "photos or… videos while inside any polling place" — so even that route doesn't yield a recording. The reliable public data is your county's election-night results online and the official canvass report afterward.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Idaho	Nothing is posted at the polling place on election night in Idaho; tapes become available afterwards (ways 5 and 6).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Idaho	The public can't watch the close in Idaho; tapes become available after election night (ways 5 and 6).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Idaho keeps early-voting ballot boxes sealed until tabulation on election day at the county's central count, and results can't be released until every polling place in the state has closed (Idaho Code § 34-1013). Watchers must be named by a party or candidate at least 12 days ahead, and watchers are barred from recording in polling places. In 2024 about 25% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you at the source and lets you see the count firsthand. In this state, though, the rules bar recording the tape in that role (see the note on this page), so it's a way to help the count run well rather than a way to record.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Idaho Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Heads up: Idaho restricts on-site recording of the tape. Don't record where it isn't allowed; rely on official results and the post-election records route instead.

Illinois

Contents

Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Cook County.

Illinois requires posting by statute — with a credentialed twist. State law requires a totals report "posted in a conspicuous place inside the polling place" when a pollwatcher is present, plus a personal copy for every watcher who asks and protected time to transcribe (10 ILCS 5/24B-10.1). The state's own judge manual adds: "Pollwatchers may find it useful to take a photo of the tape." But the posting is inside, where only credentialed people remain after close — so the Illinois play is getting watcher credentials (citizens' organizations can register with each election authority 40+ days out). Chicago tapes a copy to the wall and reserves at least four tapes for watchers, but Chicago and Cook County ban photography inside — there, take your free copy home and record it.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Illinois	Illinois doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not available in Illinois	The public isn't admitted at the close in Illinois; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Illinois counts early ballots at the election authority's central counting location, and not until polls close on election day (10 ILCS 5/19A-25.5). Whether the public or pollwatchers may see the tapes there isn't clear. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In Illinois the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Illinois makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Kentucky. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Indiana

Contents

Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from St. Joseph County.

Indiana prints poll tapes but doesn't post them, and the public can't stay to see them. The inspector announces the printout is available for inspection — but only to the precinct election board and credentialed watchers, who may inspect and copy it (IC 3-12-3.5-2); everyone else must leave. The practical route is a credential: party, candidate, or media watcher (a signed totals copy is prepared for the news media at every site by law) — and since July 2025 a watcher may move between multiple polling places on election night.

Polls close: 6 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Indiana	Indiana doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not available in Indiana	The public isn't admitted at the close in Indiana; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Indiana counts absentee ballots, including early in-person votes in optical-scan counties, at a central location on election day; counties with touchscreen machines may load early-voting results there before polls close, but none may be released until then (2026 Election Administrator's Manual). Party, candidate and media watchers may attend the central count. About 44% of 2024 ballots were cast early in person (Secretary of State figures). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In Indiana the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act (APRA). You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Indiana makes election-night recording hard — but these neighbors post a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Kentucky or Ohio. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Iowa

Contents

Access poll tapes after election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Iowa doesn't post poll tapes — and a 2021 law actually requires the tape to be sealed and carried away. The only public moment at the precinct is spoken: when the count is done, "one of the precinct election officials shall publicly announce the total number of votes received by each of the persons voted for" (Iowa Code § 50.11). The printout is signed, attached to the tally list, then placed "in a securely sealed envelope with the signatures of all board members… across the seal" and transported to the county (§ 50.14) — no copy stays behind. The public channel is online: the Secretary of State posts precinct-level results as counties report. You can also request the signed tally lists and printed results from your county auditor as public records afterward.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Iowa	Nothing is posted at the polling place on election night in Iowa; tapes become available afterwards (ways 5 and 6).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Iowa	The public can't watch the close in Iowa; tapes become available after election night (ways 5 and 6).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Iowa counts absentee ballots, including early in-person votes, centrally on a special precinct board, which can't release its tally until the count is complete on election day. Only board members, party challengers and a few designated observers may be in the room (Iowa Code § 53.23). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Iowa Open Records Act (Chapter 22, Iowa Code). You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Kansas

Contents

Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Kansas doesn't post poll tapes at the polling place — the DS200 closing report is signed, kept with official documents, and hand-carried to the county in a sealed pouch. Access runs through being a credentialed poll agent: "authorized poll agents shall be allowed to be present and observe the proceedings at all original, intermediate and final canvasses" (K.S.A. 25-3005), so a party- or candidate-appointed poll agent can watch the precinct board close out (recording is at the supervising judge's discretion; there's no Kansas law against photographing a printed results tape). After the election, any authorized poll agent may review the signed official abstracts from all precincts at the county election office before the canvass (§ 25-3009(e)). Counties also post precinct totals online on election night.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Kansas	Kansas doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Kansas	The public isn't admitted at the close in Kansas; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Kansas counts advance ballots at the county election office on a special election board, which can't complete its tabulation before election day (K.S.A. 25-1134). Appointed poll agents may observe the canvass (K.S.A. 25-3005); some counties, like Sedgwick, say it's open to the public. In 2024 about 42% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In Kansas the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA). You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Kansas makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Oklahoma. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Kentucky

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Kentucky law requires poll tapes to be posted. The signed results printout from each voting device must be posted on the door of the precinct (KRS 117.275(3)), and the State Board of Elections trains officers to post it on the door or window with at least four election officers' signatures. The Secretary of State's office notes that media 'runners' routinely photograph posted precinct results on election night.

Polls close: 6 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Kentucky posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Kentucky keeps early-voting machines locked and sealed until the ballots are counted, and no one may publicize tallies before 6 p.m. on election day (KRS 117.076). Where those tapes are printed, and whether they're posted, we don't know. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Kentucky Open Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Louisiana

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Louisiana law requires poll tapes to be posted. At the close of voting, commissioners must have each voting machine print four identical official results reports, sign and certify them, and post the printouts at a conspicuous place at the polling place (La. R.S. 18:571(A)(6)) — state procedure puts the posted copy on the outside wall or on glass, viewable from outside. One caveat: through 2026 Louisiana still votes on paperless machines, so the posted tape is the machine's official self-reported result rather than a count of paper ballots.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Louisiana posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Louisiana's parish board counts early-voting machines at a public facility on election day and must post the results from each early-voting machine report. Candidates, their representatives and voters may attend, but the count itself "shall not be video, audio, or tape recorded" (La. R.S. 18:1313.1). Don't record during the count; ask whether you may observe and video-record the posted results afterwards. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Louisiana Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Maine

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Maine posts unofficial results — with a catch — and, better, lets you watch the count. The posting law (21-A M.R.S. § 700) says that after the return is prepared, "if a secure place is available at the voting place or municipal office where the public may view a paper copy of the unofficial election results even when the voting place or municipal office is closed, an election official shall post a paper copy." Three soft spots: it only applies if such a secure place exists, the copy may go at the town office rather than the poll, and no duration is set. The dependable right is the count itself: ballots must be "counted publicly so that those present may observe," and the warden "shall declare the results publicly" (§ 695). So you have the option of recording with the Actual Vote app — by video-recording a posted sheet where one exists, or by being present for the public count and the spoken declaration. Ranked-choice races post first-choice totals locally; the full results come from the Secretary of State after certification.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Maine	Maine doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Watch the public count and record the results**	In Maine the ballots "must be counted publicly so that those present may observe," and the warden declares the results aloud at the voting place. A 2025 law allows photography and video in the voting place from outside the guardrail and at least 15 feet from any voter. Where the town has a secure place, a paper copy of the unofficial results is posted too, sometimes at the town office instead of the poll. Be there at the 8 p.m. close and record the results with the Actual Vote app. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	In Maine, absentee ballots cast in person are fed into the polling-place tabulator on election day, so they're on the polling-place tally tape (way 2), and the count is public (21-A M.R.S. § 852). The warden may run an extra copy of the tape to post; ask your clerk in advance. In 2024 about 19% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey).
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Maine Freedom of Access Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Maryland

Contents

● **Varies by county**

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Maryland posts poll tapes at Election Day precincts, and in at least two counties the posted copy goes outside. State regulation requires every county's election judges' manual to cover how to “print, sign, and post total reports” at closing (COMAR 33.10.01.24). The 2026 judges' manuals for Montgomery and Carroll counties, the two we have read, both say to post a signed results report “on an outside door or wall for public viewing,” so there you can video-record it with the Actual Vote app after the 8 p.m. close. The State Board's own closing summary instead says judges “print a second totals report and post it in the voting room,” so ask your county board where it posts. Inside the voting room, the close is not on the State Board's list of events any individual may observe. It is for accredited challengers and watchers, designated by the State or local board, a candidate, a party, or a political committee, who must be inside before polls close and “cannot use cameras and electronic devices” in the voting location (Challengers and Watchers Manual, 2026). Early-voting centers print nothing when they close. Instead, from 9 a.m. on election day the local board prints a totals report for each early-voting unit, and it must let individuals observe unless that would threaten the count's accuracy or impede it (COMAR 33.17.07.04). Results can't be released before polls close, so ask your local board when and where it prints them.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record the outside posting where your county uses one**	Maryland’s election judges post a signed results report at close. The 2026 manuals for Montgomery and Carroll counties both put it on an outside door or wall for public viewing, so there you can record it with the Actual Vote app after polls close at 8 p.m. The State Board’s own summary says the voting room instead, so ask your county board where it posts. Inside the voting room, the close is open only to accredited challengers and watchers, designated by a candidate, party, political committee or election board, who must be inside before polls close and may not use cameras or phones there. Early-voting centers print nothing at close; their totals are printed at the local board from 9 a.m. on election day, where individuals may usually observe.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not available in Maryland	Where your county posts inside the voting room, only accredited challengers and watchers may be there at the close, and they may not use cameras or phones there. See way 1 for the counties that post outside.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Maryland’s early-voting centers print nothing when they close. From 9 a.m. on election day the local board prints a totals report for each early-voting unit, and it must let individuals observe unless that would threaten the count’s accuracy or impede it (COMAR 33.17.07.04). Results can’t be released before polls close. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Maryland Public Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Massachusetts

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Essex County.

Whether a tape is posted varies by city or town — but Massachusetts has the strongest public floor anywhere: the general public must be allowed inside after the polls close, the results tape is read out loud, and anyone present may check the vote count on the tape for half an hour (950 CMR 54.06). The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division told us directly that the public may video-record the poll tapes during the counting. Many places — Boston, Springfield, Rehoboth, and others — also post a copy of the results tape on the wall.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Massachusetts	Massachusetts doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and record the tape**	Massachusetts doesn't require a posted tape, but after polls close the general public must be allowed inside, the results tape is read out loud, and anyone present may check the vote count on the tape for half an hour. The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division told us the public may video-record the tapes during the count, and many towns, including Boston, Springfield and Rehoboth, also post a copy on the wall. Be there at the 8 p.m. close and record the tape with the Actual Vote app. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Massachusetts towns either feed early ballots into each precinct's tabulator on election day, so they're on the precinct tape (way 2), or count them at a central facility, where each precinct's early-ballot tape is printed after polls close (950 CMR 47.15). Opening and depositing early ballots must be open to the public (c. 54 § 25B). In 2024 about 17% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Michigan

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Michigan polling places don't post poll tapes; all three signed totals tapes are sealed into return envelopes, and the state manual has no posting step. But the precinct canvass is public (the doors stay unlocked, MCL 168.801), and the results “shall be made available to interested persons who may be present” (MCL 168.807) — so stay for the close and ask to view (and video-record) the totals tape. An earlier edition of the state's own manual instructed making results available by posting one copy of the tape.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Michigan	Michigan doesn’t post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Record the close at your polling place**	In Michigan, poll tapes aren’t posted outside for the public, so the election-night route is to be at your polling place when the polls close and ask to view and record the tape. What you can see varies — check the summary above. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Michigan holds a public canvass at each early-voting site after polls close at 8 p.m. on election night: the inspectors “generate the totals or summary tape and make results available to those present” (MCL 168.720j). Your clerk must post where and when the canvass happens by the Friday before the election. Be there. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Michigan makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Ohio. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state’s precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn’t replace them.

Minnesota

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Anoka County, Hennepin County.

Minnesota posts a results tape, and the doors stay unlocked so you can watch. The Secretary of State's Election Judge Manual directs judges at close to "Print at least three copies of the results tape... Post one publicly," and says "The public may watch closing tasks and view vote totals." So you can enter at the 8 p.m. close, watch the tape print, and video-record the posted copy with the Actual Vote app — no recording restriction on the public at closing. One honest note: this posting instruction comes from the statewide election-judge manual (and the precinct-count rule) rather than a statute that says those exact words, but it's the procedure every judge is trained on. Judges will tell you the posted totals don't include absentee ballots, which are counted separately.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Minnesota	Minnesota doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and record the posted tape**	Minnesota's election judges must post a copy of the results tape publicly inside the polling place at close, and the public may watch closing tasks; the doors stay unlocked. Be there at 8 p.m., watch the tape print, and record the posted copy with the Actual Vote app. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Minnesota's early ballots are sealed each day and counted by the county or city ballot board after polls close on election day, and "the count must be public" (Minn. Stat. § 203B.121). Ask your ballot board where and when it counts. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Mississippi

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

On paper, Mississippi requires posting in state and federal elections: the Secretary of State's County Election Handbook (not the municipal one) instructs poll managers at scanner precincts to post a copy of the scanner's tally sheet "to the wall of the precinct" and to post the signed results certificate "in the polling place to be inspected at any time by the public." Poll managers must also publicly proclaim the results at the box, and the whole count happens "in fair and full view of the voting public." Central-count counties post nothing at the precinct (their returns are public at the counting center), and we haven't field-verified county practice yet, so what you find is valuable either way. Backstop: any voter may ask to inspect the results certificate (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-591) — no appointment or credential needed.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Mississippi	Mississippi doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and record the posted tape**	In state and federal elections, Mississippi's County Election Handbook tells poll managers at scanner precincts to post the results on the wall inside the polling place (central-count counties post nothing at the precinct), and the count happens "in fair and full view of the voting public," so the public is likely allowed to be there (we haven't field-verified this yet). Be there at the 7 p.m. close and ask to record the posted tape with the Actual Vote app. Any voter may also ask to inspect the results certificate. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Mississippi counts absentee ballots, including in-person ones, centrally on the county resolution board after polls close (1 Miss. Code R. 17-3.2). Whether the public may attend, or a results report is shown, we don't know. A 2025 bill that would have required the board to post its absentee vote totals died in committee (HB 23, 2025). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Mississippi Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Missouri

Contents

Access poll tapes after election night

★ Actual Vote has worked here: a published analysis (2026 Henry County, MO Primary).

Missouri doesn't post poll tapes at the polling place. At close, the tabulator prints a reconciliation tape that "shall be transported to the election authority" (15 CSR 30-10.150); nothing is displayed for the public, and the results travel to the county on a sealed USB drive. Watchers may observe the closing but have no right to photograph or copy the tape, and challengers must leave when polls close. (A verbal "announce in a loud voice" step exists only in the small number of hand-count paper-ballot precincts.) So recording isn't an option at the precinct — instead, compare your county's online precinct results and the Secretary of State's results portal, and you can request the precinct statement of returns under the Sunshine Law. Expect pushback on the tapes themselves: in August 2026 Henry County denied a request for its poll tapes, citing § 115.493.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Missouri	Nothing is posted at the polling place on election night in Missouri; tapes become available afterwards (ways 5 and 6).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Missouri	The public can't watch the close in Missouri; tapes become available after election night (ways 5 and 6).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Missouri counts absentee ballots on election day at a central location (RSMo 115.299). Some counties, like Boone, have no-excuse absentee voters feed their ballots straight into tabulators, which are read on election night. Who may watch, and whether tapes are shown, isn't set out. In 2024 about 28% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you at the source and lets you see the count firsthand. In this state, though, the rules bar recording the tape in that role (see the note on this page), so it's a way to help the count run well rather than a way to record.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Missouri Sunshine Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Missouri makes election-night recording hard — but these neighbors post a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Kentucky or Oklahoma. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Heads up: Missouri restricts on-site recording of the tape. Don't record where it isn't allowed; rely on official results and the post-election records route instead.

Montana

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Montana doesn't post a poll tape on the polling-place door — but **it has one of the strongest "watch the count" rights in the country.** By law, the vote count must be open to public observation, and election judges must display a return form at the place where the ballots are counted. For most Montanans that place is a central counting center, not the precinct — so the Montana play is to go observe the count and record the displayed results.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Montana	The return form is displayed at the counting center, and the printed Voting Results Report is sealed to the election administrator. Your route is observing the count (above), not a posted door tape.
2	**Observe and record the public count**	This is the main way to get tapes in Montana. Montana law requires that any official vote count be open to public observation, and that a return form be displayed at the place of counting. Find where your county counts (often a central counting center after 8 p.m.), go observe, and record the displayed results with the Actual Vote app. Recording rules can vary by county, so ask the administrator.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Montana counts at the county's central counting location, and "the vote count must be open to public observation"; the signed results form must be displayed where counting happens (Mont. Code § 13-15-101, quoted in Yellowstone County's 2026 counting guide). If counting starts before polls close, observers sign a promise not to share results early. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count. Recording rules can vary by county, so ask the administrator.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county election office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' return forms at once — a good way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for the results records**	The precinct return forms are public records you can request by precinct — convenient, though later in the chain of custody than recording the count as it happens.

Nebraska

Contents

Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Nebraska has no law that either requires or forbids posting a results tape, and no county is known to post routinely. What matters is your county's setup: about a fifth use precinct optical scanners (DS200), and state law does NOT exclude the public from those polling places during the count (§ 32-1013(3)) — so you can be present and watch the scanner print its tape. The large counties (Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy) and the all-mail counties count centrally, where access requires a party-watcher credential. Either way, precinct-level results post online from 8 p.m. Central, and returns are public records afterward.

Polls close: 8 p.m. Central / 7 p.m. Mountain

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Nebraska	Nebraska doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	**Be there at the close or observe the count**	In the roughly one in five Nebraska counties that count on precinct optical scanners, state law doesn't exclude the public during the count (§ 32-1013(3)), so you can be there at the close, watch the scanner print its tape, and ask to video-record it. Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and the all-mail counties count centrally, where you need a party-watcher credential (way 4). Call your county to ask which kind it is.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Nebraska counts early ballots centrally on a counting board, and no results may be released before polls close (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-1027). Only party watchers and observers the county authorizes may be present (§ 32-1013); the county may authorize a nonpartisan observer, so ask it to authorize you. In 2024 about 8% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In Nebraska the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Nebraska Public Records Statutes. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Nevada

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Nevada votes by mail with in-person vote centers — and while vote centers post nothing, state law requires the county clerk to post a signed copy of the county's cumulative results “in a conspicuous place on the outside of the counting facility or courthouse” (NRS 293.383(2)), and altering or removing that posting within 48 hours is a crime (NRS 293.760). One signed posting per county, protected for two days — recordable on election night or the next morning. Seventeen counties cover the whole state.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record the posted county results**	Nevada’s vote centers don’t post tapes, but each county clerk must post a signed copy of the county’s cumulative results outside the counting facility or courthouse, protected for 48 hours. Record it with the Actual Vote app on election night or the next morning — seventeen counties, one posting each.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Nevada counts early-voting returns in public on election day, and nothing may be reported before polls close (NRS 293.3606). Each early-voting machine’s totals are produced that day and taken to the central counting place (NRS 293.3608). Each county also posts its signed cumulative results outside the counting facility (way 1). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Nevada Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

New Hampshire

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Hillsborough County.

New Hampshire requires posting: a 2024 law made it mandatory. For towns using ballot-counting machines (most New Hampshire ballots), “the printed results from the voting machine shall be posted for public review at the polling place within 60 minutes of running the last ballot” (RSA 659:63, as amended by HB 1569). Underneath that, the count is constitutionally public and the moderator must “make a public declaration” of the results by name and number. Hand-count towns (many small towns) count entirely in public. New Hampshire runs elections by town/ward and towns set their own closing times, so the 60-minute clock runs from your town’s close.

Polls close: 7 p.m. at the earliest, by town

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in New Hampshire	New Hampshire doesn’t post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and record the posted tape**	New Hampshire law requires machine results to be posted for public review at the polling place within 60 minutes of the last ballot, and the count is constitutionally public, so you may be there. Go to your town’s polling place at its closing time and record the posted tape with the Actual Vote app. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	New Hampshire has no separate early voting: absentee ballots, including those cast in person at the clerk’s office, go into the same counting device at the polling place on election day (RSA 659:49), so they’re on the polling-place tape (way 2).
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the New Hampshire Right-to-Know Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

New Jersey

Contents

Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Union County.

New Jersey requires the results to be read aloud at every polling place: the judge must "read and announce in distinct tones the result as shown by the counters," and anyone lawfully present gets "ample opportunity" to compare the announced results against the machine itself (N.J.S.A. 19:52-5). The state manual even lists posting the results on the wall as an approved option — each county board chooses, and we don't yet know of one that directs posting (tell us if yours does!). The catch: the public isn't admitted. The law limits who may be in the polling place to election workers, challengers and a few others (N.J.S.A. 19:15-8). The reliable route is a challenger appointment through a party, candidate, or ballot-question committee. Same night, every county clerk must post a web report of ballots received, counted, and remaining by 11:59 p.m.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in New Jersey	New Jersey doesn't post the tape for the public; on election night it's seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in New Jersey	The public isn't admitted at the close in New Jersey; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	During early voting, New Jersey's machines print tapes showing only how many ballots were cast, and no results are generated when early voting ends. The memory media go to the county board of elections, which canvasses them after polls close (2026 early voting guidelines). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In New Jersey the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	New Jersey makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Pennsylvania. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

New Mexico

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

New Mexico requires a results copy to be posted on the outside door. State law says the presiding judge delivers all returns to the county clerk on election night "with the exception of the one legible copy from each voting machine posted on the outside of the entrance door to the polling place" (§ 1-12-34 NMSA 1978). It's one machine printout per tabulator, so a busy vote center posts several. The judge also reads the results aloud and anyone present may compare them to the printed returns (§ 1-12-38). The exterior posting is fully public — you can video it with the Actual Vote app from the sidewalk, no credential needed. New Mexico votes at county voter convenience centers on Dominion equipment; polls close 7 p.m.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	New Mexico posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	New Mexico's early-voting tabulators print their results tape only when the county's absent voter board convenes, normally on election night (1.10.12.12 NMAC). Only appointed, trained challengers, watchers and observers may be in the room, and challengers may not use recording devices; registered election-related organizations can appoint watchers. In 2024 about 60% of ballots were cast early in person (EAC election survey). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

New York

Contents

Watcher credential needed to access poll tapes on election night

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Tompkins County.

New York prints a results tape at every ballot scanner, but displaying it is optional — inspectors must “post the results tape or announce its contents or both” (Elec. Law § 9-102), any posting is on an interior wall, and access during the canvass belongs to candidates and accredited poll watchers rather than the general public. The reliable paths: get appointed as a poll watcher through a party or campaign, or capture the county board's election-night results posting, which must appear “in a public place and on the internet” (§ 9-126).

Polls close: 9 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in New York	New York doesn’t post the tape for the public; on election night it’s seen by credentialed watchers (way 4).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in New York	The public isn’t admitted at the close in New York; the way in is a watcher or observer credential (way 4).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	New York canvasses early-voting ballots only after polls close, at the board of elections or a site it designates, and no unofficial tallies may be printed or viewed before then (Elec. Law § 8-600). The canvass follows the election-day procedure and may start at 8 p.m. on election day, but everyone present stays cut off from outside contact until polls close (9 NYCRR 6211.2). Whether watchers or the public may see the tapes isn’t clear. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don’t have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can’t be checked.
4	**Get a watcher credential and record from inside**	In New York the realistic election-night route runs through a watcher/observer credential arranged in advance. Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the New York Freedom of Information Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	New York makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Pennsylvania. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state’s precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn’t replace them.

North Carolina

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Iredell County, Pitt County, Buncombe County, Henderson County and a published analysis (2024 North Carolina Second Primary).

North Carolina does not require posting, but officially recommends it. No statute or rule requires posting; the State Board recommends posting a results tape at the precinct (Numbered Memo 2022-14), and the state closing checklist makes it an optional third copy, so whether a tape goes up is each county's call. We called Wake County, the state's largest, in October 2026, and its Board of Elections told us it would be posting its results tapes. That call covers Wake only. But based on it and our own past experience recording posted tapes in North Carolina, our judgment is that there's a reasonable chance other counties post too, so if you're elsewhere in the state it's worth calling your county board of elections to ask. You do have the right to witness the count, officials must announce each race's totals to observers present once returns are certified (08 NCAC 10B .0105(i)), and anyone may video-record a posted tape.

Polls close: 7:30 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in North Carolina	North Carolina doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Witness the count, then record the posted tape**	North Carolina's State Board recommends, but doesn't require, posting a results tape at the precinct once the count is done, and any member of the public may video-record a posted tape. We called Wake County in October 2026 and it told us it would be posting its results tapes. That covers Wake only, but from it and our past experience in North Carolina, our judgment is there's a reasonable chance other counties post too, so it's worth calling your county board to ask. Either way, you may enter at the close to witness the count, at the chief judge's direction, but no recording is allowed while counting is under way. Be there at 7:30 p.m. and record the tape once it's posted. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	North Carolina's one-stop (early voting) tapes may not be printed when early voting ends. They're printed on election day at the county board's absentee meeting, which any voter may attend, and no results may be released before 7:30 p.m. (Numbered Memo 2020-08). No recording is allowed while counting is under way, but the State Board calls posting the tapes at the county board office "a good practice," and anyone may video-record a posted tape (Numbered Memo 2022-14). North Carolina's official results combine all of an early-voting site's machines, so record every machine's tape from a site. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the North Carolina Public Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

North Dakota

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

North Dakota doesn't post a tape on the door, but the count is public and happens at the polling place: "the canvass must continue without adjournment until completed and must be open to the public," and "except in unusual and compelling circumstances, the canvass shall occur at the polling place" (§ 16.1-15-02). Any individual may observe "vote tabulation" by informing the election inspector and wearing a badge (§ 16.1-05-09). In the big vote-center counties, one scanner may cover several precincts, so the on-site report is a vote-center total. Recording rules aren't spelled out — ask the county. Precinct results post online and in the county newspaper.

Polls close: 7 to 9 p.m., by county

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in North Dakota	North Dakota doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Record the close at your polling place**	In North Dakota, poll tapes aren't posted outside for the public, so the election-night route is to be at your polling place when the polls close and ask to view and record the tape. What you can see varies — check the summary above. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	North Dakota counts early votes as their own precinct on election night, at a location the county auditor designates, which "must be open to any person for the purpose of observing" (N.D.C.C. § 16.1-07-15). The voting system prints a results record there. About 27% of 2024 ballots were early votes (Secretary of State, unofficial). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the North Dakota Open Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Ohio

Contents

● **Poll tapes posted outside, in public**

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Hamilton County, Cuyahoga County, Licking County.

Ohio is one of the best states in the country for Actual Vote. Because Ohio law has a certified poll tape posted on the front of each polling place when polls close (one county, Montgomery, told us it doesn't, so call yours first), you can drive from site to site on election night and record several — turning one evening into a stack of poll tapes we can convert into election transparency. You can also become a poll worker or observer, make an appointment at your county board of elections, or file a public-records request — all described below.

Polls close: 7:30 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Ohio law has a certified results tape posted on the front of each polling place at close, usually outside or in a window facing out. How long it stays up isn't set, and Montgomery County told us it doesn't post, so call your county first. Where it's posted, you can drive a circuit and record many polling places in a single night with the Actual Vote app. You could also drive to the location you voted at, video-record the poll tapes there, then drive home and call it a night. Whatever you do, your videos become high-quality evidence about vote reporting that can be collected with the app, since you're recording the tapes soon after they're printed.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Ohio's in-person early votes are absentee ballots cast at the board of elections. They may be scanned before polls close but not tabulated, and no count may be disclosed before then (R.C. 3509.06). We don't know whether the board prints or posts a tape for them. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer and record from inside**	Poll workers and appointed observers are inside at the close and can watch the tape print. It takes signing up or getting a credential in advance, but it puts you right at the source.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county board of elections**	County boards can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — election-day, early, and absentee — on your schedule. A great way to cover a whole county.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under Ohio law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — convenient, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Oklahoma

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Oklahoma requires posting on the door by statute, statewide. After the last voter votes, the precinct inspector prints the eScan A/T results; the inspector, judge, and clerk all sign them as certificates that the precinct results are true and correct; and "[t]he inspector shall cause one copy of each certificate to be posted on the door or entrance of the polling place" (26 O.S. § 7-132). Because all 77 counties run the same state-owned equipment, the same procedure applies everywhere — no county variation. The signed certificate stays on the door after the team leaves, so you have the option of video-recording it with the Actual Vote app. Video-recording a record posted on a public door is fine.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Oklahoma posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Oklahoma reads the in-person absentee (early) voting results into the county election board's tally computer right after polls close at 7 p.m., before precinct results in every county except Oklahoma and Tulsa. Reports are printed through the evening, and copies are made available to board members, the news media "and other interested persons as needed" (OAC 230:35-3-87). The early-voting machines themselves print no daily results (26 O.S. § 14-115.4). Ask your county election board whether you may attend on election night and video-record the early-voting report. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Oregon

Contents

Observe the count

> Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Oregon votes by mail and counts at county elections offices; nothing is posted, and watching the count in person requires written observer authorization — signed by a party officer, a candidate, or the county clerk (so any citizen can be authorized; it's worth asking). Inside, the law requires the counting board to “audibly announce the tally as it proceeds.” Lane County livestreams all of its ballot-processing rooms 24/7; results publish on election night; and the post-election hand-count audit is open to public observation.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Oregon	Oregon votes by mail and counts ballots centrally, so there’s no polling-place tape (see way 2).
2	**Observe the count**	Oregon counts ballots centrally. Where the public may observe the count, watch it, and ask before you video-record the tapes or results as they’re processed: whether recording is allowed inside a counting center often isn’t settled, and some states bar it. Check the summary above for the rules.
3	~~Record early-voting tapes~~ Not available in Oregon	Oregon votes by mail and counts at the county clerk’s office, so there’s no early-voting tape. People with written authorization may watch the count (ORS 254.482) (way 2).
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Oregon Public Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Pennsylvania

Contents

● **Poll tapes posted outside, in public**

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Philadelphia County.

Pennsylvania law requires poll tapes to be posted. Wherever the voting system tabulates ballots at the precinct — the norm in all 67 counties — one record of the results must be "publicly posted at the district polling place," and all reports and returns must be signed by all of the district election officers (25 P.S. § 3031.13(f), (h)). Philadelphia and Allegheny County manuals implement this with signed results tapes posted outside the polling place.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	Pennsylvania posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	~~**Record early-voting tapes**~~ Not available in Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania has no in-person early voting. Ballots cast early at the county office are mail ballots, which aren't pre-canvassed until 7 a.m. on election day (25 P.S. § 3146.8(g)), so there's no early-voting tape. Mail ballots show up in the county's results and records (way 6).
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Rhode Island

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Rhode Island makes a copy of the results available at the polling place and reads them aloud. State law requires that "a copy shall be made available to the public at the polling place" (§ 17-19-33(a)(2)), and the warden must "read off in a clear and loud voice the vote for each candidate, and upon each question" (§ 17-19-32). Rhode Island is also one of the clearest states on recording: the Board of Elections rule expressly allows electronic recording inside the polling place, outside the railed voting area. One caveat for comparisons: the precinct tape covers in-person Election Day votes only. Mail ballots are counted centrally, and early votes are on each early-voting site's own tape (way 3); both appear separately on the state results site. Polls close 8 p.m.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Rhode Island	Rhode Island doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be there at the close and ask to record the tape**	Rhode Island law requires a copy of the results to be made available to the public at the polling place, and the warden reads the totals aloud. The public may be there at the close, and a Board of Elections rule expressly allows recording outside the railed voting area. Be there when polls close at 8 p.m., ask for the public copy, and record it with the Actual Vote app. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Rhode Island's early voting happens at each city or town's early-voting site. Under the Board of Elections' Early Voting Conduct rule, filed in July 2026, the Board of Canvassers publicly closes and seals the site's tabulator when polls close on election night, signs the results tapes, and "a copy of each results tape shall be posted in a conspicuous location within the Early Voting site or the Board of Canvassers' office." Electronic recording is allowed inside the site, outside the railed voting area (410-RICR-20-00-29). Ask your local Board of Canvassers where the tape will be posted. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

South Carolina

Contents

Poll tapes posted outside, in public

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Greenville County, Pickens County.

South Carolina posts poll tapes as a matter of statewide procedure. The state's Poll Manager's Handbook requires three poll managers to sign all three results tapes and post one copy in a publicly visible location at the polling place — in a window readable from outside where possible (citing S.C. Code §§ 7-13-1110, 7-13-1880). Signing the tape and posting it to the precinct door is documented statewide practice, and observers may photograph posted tapes.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record posted poll tapes at polling places after closing time**	South Carolina posts results tapes where the public can see and record them. You can visit several polling places after the close and record each with the Actual Vote app.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not needed here	The tape is posted where the public can see it, so you can record it without being inside at the close (way 1).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	South Carolina moves early-voting ballots to the county board each night, and results can't be reported before polls close (S.C. Code § 7-15-420). We don't know whether early-voting tapes are printed or posted. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

South Dakota

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

South Dakota doesn't post a tape on the door, but it has one of the strongest "watch the count" rights in the country: "members of the public may observe the voting and counting process at any polling location," arranged so you can "plainly see and hear what is done" (§ 12-18-9), and the count is conducted "publicly, in the presence of all persons desiring to attend" (§ 12-20-1). For machine counting, the tabulator's printed results are "open to the public" at the counting location. This is most direct in the growing number of hand-count precincts. Recording isn't spelled out — ask the county auditor. Results post online after all polls close at 7 p.m. Central.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in South Dakota	South Dakota doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Record the close at your polling place**	In South Dakota, poll tapes aren't posted outside for the public, so the election-night route is to be at your polling place when the polls close and ask to view and record the tape. What you can see varies — check the summary above. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	South Dakota keeps in-person absentee ballots sealed until election day and counts them with mailed absentee ballots, at the precinct or the county's central count, which "shall be open to the public" (SDCL 12-17B-10). There's no separate early-voting tape: the early votes are on the tapes of whichever count includes them (way 2). Ask the auditor whether absentee results print as their own report. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the South Dakota Public Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Tennessee

Contents

● **Varies by county**

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Shelby County.

Whether a poll tape is posted in Tennessee depends on your county's voting equipment. In the roughly 46 counties using MicroVote voting machines, a state rule with the force of law requires the third results tape from each machine to be posted on the wall of the polling place (Rule 1360-02-13-.22). But counties using ballot scanners — including Shelby (Memphis), Davidson (Nashville), Knox (Knoxville), and Hamilton (Chattanooga) — are expressly exempt from posting (Rule 1360-02-12-.10(4)). In every county, the results must be publicly announced at closing (T.C.A. § 2-7-130).

Polls close: 7 p.m. Central / 8 p.m. Eastern

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	**Record the posted tape where your county posts it**	Tennessee's rules vary by county. Where the tape is posted for the public, record it after polls close with the Actual Vote app — the summary above says where that applies. Elsewhere, use an elections office appointment or a records request.
2	**Be there at the close or observe the count**	In every Tennessee county the results must be announced publicly at closing (T.C.A. § 2-7-130). In scanner counties such as Shelby, Davidson, Knox and Hamilton, where nothing is posted, be there at the close to hear the announced totals, and ask whether you may observe and video-record the tape.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Tennessee removes the vote totals from early-voting machines at a place and time the county election commission must give notice of to all candidates and political parties, and no candidate's votes may be totaled until all polls in the county have closed (T.C.A. § 2-6-304(e)). The law doesn't say whether the public may watch, so ask your county election commission when and where, and whether you may attend. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Tennessee Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Texas

Contents

Access poll tapes after election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Texas is a *different kind* of state for Actual Vote. **Nothing is posted at the polling place on election night** — so you can't drive a circuit and record tapes the way you can in some states. But Texas makes up for it with the **strongest after-the-election access in the country**: once your county finishes its unofficial count, every precinct's poll tape becomes public and you can go inspect and record it at the elections office. The Texas play is the **week after** the election, not election night.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Texas	Texas does not post tapes on election night: the signed copies go into sealed envelopes and a locked ballot box for delivery to the county (the presiding judge keeps one copy, Envelope No. 3), and a state law (§ 62.013) makes an unauthorized posting by an election officer a misdemeanor (whether it applies after the polls close is untested). There is nothing posted at the polling place to record.
2	~~**Be there at the close or observe the count**~~ Not available in Texas	The public can't watch the close in Texas; tapes become available after election night (ways 5 and 6).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	When early voting ends, Texas machines print only a count of ballots scanned, not votes, and central-count reports made before election day can't include vote counts (SB 2217, 2025). Early votes are counted at the county's central counting station. Travis County, at least, also prints an early-voting tape there from each site's scanner results the day after early voting ends, and keeps it sealed until polls close (county plan; our Travis research). Once the unofficial count is done, the precinct returns become public records you can inspect and video-record at the elections office (way 5). Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Texas's presiding judge and alternate presiding judge are appointed from lists the two major parties submit (one from each party in county elections), and at the close they print and sign the results tape. Poll watchers, appointed by parties and candidates, can stay through the close, inspect the returns and sign the tape. But Texas bars recording images within 100 feet of a voting station except as part of an election officer's official duties (§ 61.014). The Secretary of State defines a voting station as the area where the voter marks the ballot, and says election officials may use devices only to conduct official duties (Advisory 2026-13). The ban has no time limit, so it most likely still applies while the tape prints after polls close, and watchers must disable recording devices. Don't film the tape at the polling place, even with everyone's agreement, unless your county makes video-recording the signed tape part of your official duties in writing. Watchers can copy the totals by hand. The presiding judge's own copy (Envelope 3) becomes a public record once its delivery is complete (§ 66.057(c)), so it can be video-recorded away from the polling place afterwards; check with your county first.
5	**Inspect and record poll tapes at your county elections office**	This is the main way to get tapes in Texas. Texas doesn't post tapes on election night, but it has the best after-the-fact access in the country. Once your county finishes its unofficial count — generally election night — each precinct's results tape becomes public and you can inspect it at the elections office during regular business hours, as a matter of right (no formal request needed). Bring the Actual Vote app the week after the election and record the tapes there. Records are kept for 22 months, so there's no rush. From September 2026, the county's central system must also be able to produce results by polling place (§ 127.133), so ask for that report too. In Travis County, early-voting tapes are printed too; see our county research below.
6	**Request electronic copies, ballot images, or cast vote records**	Texas also gives you an electronic copy of election records within 15 days for at most $50, and makes cast vote records and ballot images public the day after the final canvass — Texas is one of the best states in the country for this kind of data. Convenient for covering many precincts, though it's later in the chain of custody than recording the tape in person.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Texas makes election-night recording hard — but these neighbors post a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Louisiana, New Mexico or Oklahoma. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Heads up: Texas restricts on-site recording of the tape. Don't record where it isn't allowed; rely on official results and the post-election records route instead.

Utah

Contents

Observe the count

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Utah votes by mail with vote centers, counts at county counting centers, and posts nothing — but any registered Utah voter may, at any time, become a watcher simply by registering with the election officer (Utah Code 20A-3a-801): no party or candidate appointment needed. Watchers observe tabulation, audits, canvassing, and signature verification from no more than six feet away, and large counties must project on-screen ballot adjudication for watchers to see. Counting-center proceedings are public by statute, and each early-returns release must disclose how many voted ballots remain uncounted. Watchers may not disclose counts before officials release them, and that ban is a felony.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Utah	Utah votes by mail and counts ballots centrally, so there's no polling-place tape (see way 2).
2	**Observe the count**	Utah counts ballots centrally. Where the public may observe the count, watch it, and ask before you video-record the tapes or results as they're processed: whether recording is allowed inside a counting center often isn't settled, and some states bar it. Check the summary above for the rules.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Utah votes mostly by mail and tabulates centrally at the county clerk's office. Any registered voter may register as a watcher of tabulation and result uploads, and may record as long as it doesn't reveal a vote (Utah Code § 20A-3a-801). We don't know whether early in-person ballots get their own report. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Utah Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA). You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Utah makes election-night recording hard — but a neighbor posts a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: New Mexico. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Vermont

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Vermont is not vote-by-mail-only (an earlier note had that wrong) — it has in-person polling in every town and a public count. By law, the public "may remain within the polling place... able to observe the counting process" (17 V.S.A. § 2581). In the many small hand-count towns, the presiding officer must announce the results aloud as each office is tallied. In larger tabulator towns, the machine prints a results tape that the town may post on an "Unofficial incomplete results" placard and may announce — posting there is optional, but you can watch the tape print. The Secretary of State posts unofficial results online as towns report. Polls close 7 p.m.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Vermont	Vermont doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Record the close at your polling place**	In Vermont, poll tapes aren't posted outside for the public, so the election-night route is to be at your polling place when the polls close and ask to view and record the tape. What you can see varies — check the summary above. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Vermont's early ballots end up on the town's single polling-place tape: they're deposited at the polls on election day or, where the town allows, fed into the tabulator at the clerk's office beforehand (17 V.S.A. § 2546a). So this is the same as way 2: be there at the close.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Vermont Access to Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Virginia

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

★ Actual Vote has worked here: a published analysis (2023–2026 Prince William County, VA Multi-Election).

Virginia does not post poll tapes — but it hides two of the best non-posting rights anywhere. At the close, if party observer slots aren't filled, officers must select bystanders — ordinary citizens — to watch the count with an "unobstructed view" (§ 24.2-655), and the results must be announced aloud to everyone lawfully present (§ 24.2-657). Then, starting the day after the election, the actual printed return sheets are available at the circuit court clerk's office "for inspection and transcribing... by the public" for 60 days — no appointment, no FOIA (§ 24.2-658). Arlington even tells its officers that an observer may photograph the call-in sheet. Show up at close, transcribe the announcement, then inspect and transcribe the return sheets at the courthouse, and ask the clerk whether you may video-record them. **A word on what "does not post" means here.** It refers to the start of the chain of custody: Virginia does not require the tape to be posted at the polling place when the count closes, the way Georgia and Florida do. That is the moment a poll tape is hardest to dispute, which is why it matters. Later in the chain, some Virginia localities do publish tape images online — **Prince William posts scans of its own poll tapes** on its results site, and those scans are where the 974 tapes in our thirteen-election Prince William analysis came from, with no recording trip required. The two are not substitutes — a scan published weeks later has passed through more hands than a tape video-recorded on the door at 8 p.m. — but a county that publishes is a county anyone can audit from home. Check your own county's results page before you plan a trip, and use the rights above when it does not publish.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~**Record posted tapes at polling places**~~ Not available in Virginia	Virginia doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Watch the close as a bystander, then transcribe the return sheets at the courthouse**	Virginia doesn't post tapes. At the close, if party and candidate representatives don't fill the seats, officers must pick bystanders so that up to four people watch the count, and the results are announced aloud. Party and candidate representatives may not take photos or video inside, so plan to write down the announced totals. Then, from the day after the election and for 60 days, the printed return sheets are available at the circuit court clerk's office for the public to inspect and transcribe; ask whether you may video-record them. Some localities, like Prince William, also publish scans online.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Virginia counts early votes in each locality's central absentee precinct. No totals may leave the room before polls close, and those inside are cut off from outside contact until then (Va. Code § 24.2-712). Some localities, like Prince William, publish the tapes online afterwards, so check your county's results page. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	Virginia makes election-night recording hard — but these neighbors post a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Kentucky or District of Columbia. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Washington

Contents

Observe the count

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Washington votes by mail and counts at county counting centers, where the “proceedings must be open to the public” by statute (RCW 29A.60.170(2)) — you can walk in and watch without credentials or an appointment (King County runs a self-guided “loop” plus 14 public webcams). Results must be made public immediately on completion of the canvass, records of ballots counted must be made public at the end of each processing day, and each county's reconciliation report is published at certification (RCW 29A.60.160(4), .235(2)). Nothing is posted on paper, but the artifacts are on a statutory clock.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Washington	Washington votes by mail and counts ballots centrally, so there’s no polling-place tape (see way 2).
2	**Observe the count**	Washington counts ballots centrally. Where the public may observe the count, watch it, and ask before you video-record the tapes or results as they’re processed: whether recording is allowed inside a counting center often isn’t settled, and some states bar it. Check the summary above for the rules.
3	~~Record early-voting tapes~~ Not available in Washington	Washington votes by mail and counts at the county auditor’s counting center, which “must be open to the public” (RCW 29A.60.170). There’s no early-voting tape; observe the central count (way 2).
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts’ tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Washington Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

West Virginia

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

West Virginia counts ballots centrally, so no scanner tape is posted at the precinct when polls close. But two access points exist. A signed certificate of result — every candidate and vote total — must be "posted on the outside of the front door of the polling place" (W. Va. Code § 3-5-15(c), which § 3-6-8 applies to general elections), though because counting is central it goes up after tabulation, not right at close. And the county central counting center is open to you: the law admits "a reasonable number of the general public," and the returns must be posted publicly on completion (§ 3-4A-27). So the election-night move is the counting center, plus the public canvass about five days later where returns are posted precinct by precinct.

Polls close: 7:30 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in West Virginia	West Virginia counts centrally, so nothing prints at the precinct when polls close; the signed certificate goes on the polling place's front door only after tabulation. On election night, go to the central count (way 2).
2	**Observe the central count and record the posted returns**	West Virginia counts ballots centrally, so nothing prints at your precinct when polls close. Go to your county's central counting center instead: the law admits "a reasonable number of the general public," rotating people in if the room fills, and when the count is done a summary of the returns is posted there. Record it with the Actual Vote app, and ask the county clerk about filming inside. The law also requires a signed certificate of each precinct's results on its polling place's front door, but with central counting it can only go up after tabulation, so ask your county clerk when and where to find it.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	West Virginia's early-voting scanners don't tabulate on site: their memory devices are read at the county's central counting center on election night (W. Va. Code § 3-4A-9b), where "a reasonable number of the general public is also freely admitted" and a summary of the returns is posted (§ 3-4A-27). Ask the clerk whether early-voting results print as their own report. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.
+	**Live near a state line? Consider crossing it.**	West Virginia makes election-night recording hard — but these neighbors post a results tape right on the outside of the polling place: Kentucky, Ohio or Pennsylvania. If you live near the border, a short drive across it can be the highest-value Actual Vote move of the night. Honest caveat: a tape you record there verifies that state's precinct, not your own — it complements your in-state options, it doesn't replace them.

Wisconsin

Contents

Poll tapes posted inside, or at closing time only

★ Actual Vote has worked here: public Actual Vote recordings from Racine County, La Crosse County.

Wisconsin does not require posting by law, and practice varies by municipality. The statutes contain no posting requirement (Wis. Stat. § 7.51), but our 2024 telephone research found that all 19 municipalities in Milwaukee County are supposed to post poll tapes on election night (ask if you don't see one). Everywhere in the state, the closing canvass is a public open meeting: the results must be publicly announced, the public may view, copy, or photograph the results tapes, and many clerks will print an extra tape on request.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Wisconsin	Wisconsin doesn't post the tape outside the polling place, so the election-night route is being there at the close (way 2).
2	**Be at the public canvass and record the tape**	Wisconsin doesn't require posting, but the closing canvass is a public open meeting: the results are announced, and the public may view, copy and photograph the results tapes. Many clerks will print an extra tape on request, and Milwaukee County's municipalities are supposed to post one. Be there at the 8 p.m. close and record the tape with the Actual Vote app. Realistically about one location a night.
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Wisconsin's in-person early votes are absentee ballots, held and counted on election day with the other absentee ballots, so there's no separate early-voting tape. In most municipalities they're counted at the polling place and appear on its tape (way 2). About 38 municipalities, including Milwaukee and Green Bay, count absentee ballots at a central count instead, which is a public open meeting (Wis. Stat. § 7.52); there, record the central count's tapes, because the polling-place tapes leave those votes out.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you right at the source — the earliest point in the chain of custody, and the clearest view of the count and the tape.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Wisconsin Public Records Law. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Wyoming

Contents

Access poll tapes after election night

Actual Vote has not worked here yet. Treat this page as untested and call the county before relying on it.

Wyoming neither posts poll tapes nor lets the public watch the count — it's the most closed state on election night. By law, "only election judges shall be permitted in a polling place" after the polls close (§ 22-14-102); the machine's printed return sheet is read among the judges and sealed for the county clerk. So the routes are after the fact: the county clerk transmits precinct results to the Secretary of State (posted online that night), you can request the sealed return sheet as a public record, and the county canvass is public. A new 2026 hand-count audit of a sample of ballots may offer something to observe — ask your county.

Polls close: 7 p.m.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1	~~Record posted tapes at polling places~~ Not available in Wyoming	Nothing is posted at the polling place on election night in Wyoming; tapes become available afterwards (ways 5 and 6).
2	~~Be there at the close or observe the count~~ Not available in Wyoming	The public can't watch the close in Wyoming; tapes become available after election night (ways 5 and 6).
3	**Record early-voting tapes**	Wyoming tabulates absentee and early ballots at the county counting center on election day, and no results may be printed or released before polls close (2022 HB 52). Observers of pre-processing may not carry phones within 10 feet. We couldn't confirm public access to the election-night count. Call your county elections office ahead of time and ask where and when the early-voting tapes will be printed, and whether you may observe and video-record them. If they don't have a plan to show them, you can politely ask them to display the tapes. Ask, too, whether they can give you the official results grouped by tabulator: each early-voting tape covers one machine that counted many precincts, and published results are usually by precinct, so without that breakdown the tapes can't be checked.
4	**Become a poll worker or observer**	Working the polls or serving as an appointed observer puts you at the source and lets you see the count firsthand. In this state, though, the rules bar recording the tape in that role (see the note on this page), so it's a way to help the count run well rather than a way to record.
5	**Visit or book an appointment at your county elections office**	Election offices can often provide many precincts' tapes at once — a great way to cover a whole county on your own schedule.
6	**File a public-records request for poll-tape images**	Poll tapes are public records under the Wyoming Public Records Act. You can request digital copies by precinct and voting method — available in every state, though it captures the tapes later in the chain of custody.

Heads up: Wyoming restricts on-site recording of the tape. Don't record where it isn't allowed; rely on official results and the post-election records route instead.