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What is final count?

Final count is a count of absentee ballots for an election that were not considered at initial count. The final results of an election are determined at final count based on the votes accepted at initial count and final count. Final count begins on Day 41 of the election period, and is conducted by the district electoral officer. At the end of final count, the district electoral officer can declare a candidate elected.

Ballots considered at final count include:

- Absentee – Out of voting area: Voting within the voter’s electoral district but not at the voter’s assigned voting place ([Election Act, s. 99](#))
- Absentee – Out of electoral district: Voting outside of the voter’s electoral district ([Election Act, s. 100](#))
- Advance absentee – Out of the electoral district: Voting at advance voting outside of the voter’s electoral district ([Election Act, s. 101](#))
- Alternative absentee voting: Voting in the office of the district electoral officer between Writ Day and 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day ([Election Act, s. 104](#))
- Alternative absentee voting by voting package: Vote by Mail ([Election Act, s. 106](#))
- Special voting: Mobile teams visit locations with voters unable to attend another voting opportunity, such as hospitals, isolated communities, logging and fishing camps ([Election Act, s. 98](#))

When is final count?

Final count normally starts on Day 41 of the election period. This allows enough time for certification envelopes containing ballots to be sent from the electoral district where cast, to the district where the voters are registered. Final count continues for no more than three days, to Day 43, if necessary.

In a by-election, because the volume of absentee certification envelopes is much lower, and is limited to a single district, the Chief Electoral Officer may authorize final count to begin earlier.

Who conducts final count?

Final count is held in the district electoral office and is conducted by the district electoral officer (DEO). The DEO may be assisted by other election officials, but the DEO personally deals with any ballots or envelopes that are subject to an objection. The DEO and at least one other election official are present at final count.

Who may be present at final count?

Candidates and one candidate representative per candidate may be present at final count. Individuals must make a solemn declaration of secrecy before observing final count. Staff of the DEO office generally assist in final count preparation and activities.