



Delaware County Bureau of Elections
Vote Tabulation Information & FAQ
Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Delaware County Precincts: 383
410,681 registered voters as of Aug. 17, 2026

Mailing address for chief election official:

Elections Director James P. Allen
Bureau of Elections
Delaware County Government Center
201 W Front St.
Media, Pennsylvania 19063

Election Agency Phone:

610-891-4673

Election Agency Voter Hotline:

610-891-VOTE / 610-891-8683

When are the polling places open?

All precinct polling places are to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day.

Can the polls ever close later?

Yes, under limited circumstances. The Board of Elections may seek a court order to extend voting hours at a polling place whose operations were impacted during the day. If the court issues such an order, the order would apply only to the affected precinct(s), and state law would require any voters who arrived after 8 p.m. to cast provisional ballots.

Pre-election web site where unofficial election results are available on Election Night:

[Delco Votes! | Delaware County, Pennsylvania](#)

Note: All references to time frames (below) are based on past history and current planning. These times are subject to change if unanticipated circumstances arise.

How long before Election Day will we see how the Election Night results will be presented?

Historically, the agency posts a "zero" preview of the election results web page in the days before Election Day. This is to assist organizations who may be preparing to gather election results from the web sites of two or more counties.

When will unofficial results at the precinct level become available at this web site?

The goal is to have as many Election Day and Mail/Absentee ballots reported as soon as practically possible. Historically, the agency has begun reporting:

- The first batches of Mail/Absentee ballots at or about 8:15 pm ;
- From 9-11:30 pm, the bulk of in-person precinct counts should be arriving to be loaded.

Counting can and often does continue beyond midnight. Counting past midnight occurs when mail/absentee ballots from the 8 pm closing of drop boxes and final mail deliveries must be reviewed and uploaded to the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) database for voter registration and voter history (participation). Precinct results can be delayed if poll workers fail to properly deliver memory devices promptly after they close the polls on Election Night.



Delaware County Bureau of Elections Vote Tabulation Information & FAQ Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Are the unofficial results complete soon after Election Night or by Wednesday morning?

No. By law, mail/absentee voters whose ballots arrived by the close of polls and provisional voters may present ID through the Monday after Election Day to support counting their ballots. Military/overseas ballots may arrive and be eligible for counting up to 7 days after election day. Counts typically conclude 8 to 11 days after Election Day and results are certified at the county level no later than 20 days after Election Day, often sooner.

NOTE: By law, all eligible mail/absentee, provisional and military/overseas ballots are counted, whether or not there are any "close races" during the unofficial counts leading up to certification.

How, when and where votes are tabulated

Are votes tabulated in the polling place?

Yes. When the polls close at 8 pm, the Judge of Election and other poll workers are to print and display tapes from the ballot scanners to provide the unofficial results. These tapes provide only the unofficial results of ballots that were cast through the scanner that day in that precinct polling place. These tapes do NOT reflect any Mail/Absentee ballots or Provisional ballots.

How are unofficial results delivered to the central-count location?

The election-results materials are delivered by poll workers to a central location and then relayed to the central-count offices.

- Memory devices are removed and uploaded into the central-count servers on Election Night. If the memory devices are not delivered by the poll workers timely or are damaged, the memory device is recovered/recreated as soon as possible after Election Day and then uploaded into the central-count servers. If the device is damaged or cannot be recovered, the scanner can be used to generate a duplicate memory device.
- The ballot boxes are closed with numbered, tamper-evident seals and remain closed unless there is a need for a recount or in the event that precinct is part of the 2 percent re- tabulation that is required by law, or in the event that precinct is part of the Department of State's risk-limiting audit, or in the event there is a significant discrepancy between voters logged and ballots cast.

What if the memory devices are not returned properly on Election Night by the poll workers or the memory device cannot be read?

The ballot scanner can be retrieved from the polling place or at the warehouse to generate a replacement/duplicate memory device. In the event the scanner is damaged and cannot generate a replacement/duplicate memory device, the Board of Elections can seek a court order to break the seal on the precinct ballot bag and run the ballots through a different scanner in the presence of credentialed observers from the campaigns and/or political parties.

How will the unofficial results be reported and released on the election agency's web site?

Results will be reported as they become available, and will be presented by precinct and in three columns: (1) Votes from ballots cast on Election Day in the precinct polling place; (2) Votes from Mail/Absentee ballots; and (3) Votes from Provisional Ballots that are qualified to be counted.



Delaware County Bureau of Elections Vote Tabulation Information & FAQ Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Votes from Election Day ballots cast in the precincts

Unofficial results reported for each precinct from in-person voting on Election Day will be reported as the memory devices: (1) arrive at the central count location on Election Night and (2) are uploaded. The uploading historically has begun at or about 9:15 pm. Through midnight on Election Night, the Board will work to update these numbers on the web site approximately once every half hour until the initial counts of Election Day and Mail/Absentee ballots conclude.

Votes from Mail/Absentee ballots

Batches of By-Mail and Absentee envelopes received the Monday before Election Day or earlier will be pre-canvassed starting at 7 am on Election Day and then canvassed (tabulated and reported) after polls close at 8 pm at the central-count offices. Those results will begin appearing on the web site between 8:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Election Night.

After the last US Postal Service delivery (no later than 8 pm), and after the drop boxes are closed at 8 pm, those later-arriving By-Mail and Absentee envelopes will be processed very late Tuesday and into Wednesday, continuing until all have been processed. Through midnight on Election Night, the Board will work to update these numbers on the web site at least once every 30 minutes. Updates on the web site will resume Wednesday morning.

Votes from Provisional ballots

Provisional ballots are reviewed in the week after Election Day to determine whether that voter was entitled to vote for all or some of the offices on that ballot, or not entitled to vote at all in that precinct. During that process, the data on the provisional ballot envelopes are compared to voter registration records, Mail/Absentee records and other documents to determine voter eligibility. The provisional ballots are then processed 7-14 days after Election Day after the recommendations are considered and approved by the Board of Elections.

Votes from Military/Overseas ballots

By law, military/overseas ballots mailed by the Monday before Election Day are eligible to be received as late seven days after Election Day (the Tuesday after Election Day) and still be eligible to be counted to be added to counts. Eligible votes from these ballots are added to the column for Mail/Absentee votes.

Votes from Write-Ins and Evaluations of Overvotes & Undervotes

Write-in votes from all ballots (Election Day, Mail/Absentee and Provisional) are processed at the central-count offices and reported in the 7-10 days after Election Day.

Overvotes and undervotes in the precinct are detected in the presence of the voter at the ballot scanner, and the voter is given the opportunity to do one of the following: (1) make changes to the ballot; (2) spoil that ballot and cast a new one, or (3) cast that original ballot "as is."

Overvotes and undervotes on Mail/Absentee, Provisional and Military/Overseas ballots are not detected in the presence of the voter, and then are evaluated through the "resolution" process to find if the voter's intent can be determined. A clear undervote or a clear overvote will result in no vote for the affected office(s) on that ballot. These determinations are based on the instructions in the document "What Constitutes A Vote," pursuant to the Pennsylvania Election Code.



Delaware County Bureau of Elections
Vote Tabulation Information & FAQ
Delaware County, Pennsylvania



When do the unofficial vote counts become “official”?

The Board of Elections must certify the results within 20 days (or less) after Election Day, but no sooner than five days after the last ballot is counted. The Department of State then certifies after all counties' certifications are completed and submitted.