



# Navigating Official Turnout Statistics

**How to navigate this user guide:** This document features a list of definitions for the terms used in each official turnout statistical report. The terms are separated by the report in which they show up. Turnout reports are taken from a snapshot of the voter file, which means that they may include ballots cast by individuals whose registration has subsequently been cancelled or moved, whose registration was previously pending or inactive, or who registered on Election Day. In rare cases, they may also reflect more than one ballot cast by a voter, such as a rejected provisional or federal write-in absentee ballot from a voter who also cast a legally sufficient ballot by mail. Please note that these reports may not always align exactly. This is due to the timing of the data snapshots and potential updates to voter information.

Use the list below to easily navigate between reports:

- [Statewide Turnout By...](#) - These definitions apply to the following reports:
  - Statewide by Party and County
  - Statewide by Party and Congressional
  - Statewide by Party and Legislative
  - Statewide by Party and Precinct
- [Statewide by County and Canvass](#)
- [Statewide Votes Accepted by County and Canvass](#)
- [Statewide Vote-By-Mail Voting by County](#)
- [Statewide Provisional Voting by County](#)

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## Statewide Turnout By...

**\*Important note: The following report illustrates voter turnout. Turnout includes all individuals with a record of having cast a ballot in the election, regardless of whether that ballot was counted and included in the election results.**

**Election Day:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by individuals on election day at their assigned polling place and are given a regular ballot to be cast and tabulated at the precinct.



**Early Voting:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by individuals who vote during early voting at an early voting center in their county and are given a regular ballot to be cast and tabulated at the early voting center.

**Vote by Mail:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by individuals who requested and returned a mail-in ballot, regardless of whether the ballot was returned by mail, to a ballot drop box or in another legally authorized manner. This number includes both accepted and rejected ballots. This number does not include Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots or mail-in ballot voters who turned out as a provisional voter or poll voter .

**Provisional:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by individuals who cast a provisional ballot at an appropriate time and location. This number does not include provisional ballots cast by voters who were issued a vote-by-mail ballot that was not canceled and voters who already voted in person during early voting or on election day. Reminder that this number does not signify the number of provisional ballots accepted.

**Eligible Voters:** Signifies all registered voters who are not in an “incomplete” or “cancelled” status, including all registered voters marked “active”, “inactive”, or “pending”. If a voter is marked “incomplete”, it means that their application is missing required information.

**Turnout:** Signifies the total number of election day voters, early voting voters, vote by mail voters, and provisional ballot voters as defined above divided by the number of eligible voters.

## Statewide by County and Canvass

**\*Important note: The following report illustrates voter turnout. Turnout includes all individuals with a record of having cast a ballot in the election, regardless of whether that ballot was counted and included in the election results.**

**Early Voting:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by people who show up to vote during early voting at an early voting center in their county and vote a ballot. This number does not include individuals who voted provisionally.



**Election Day:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by people who show up to vote on election day at their assigned polling place and vote a ballot. This number does not include individuals who voted provisionally.

**Vote by Mail:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by people who voted by mail and their ballots were received by mail, placed in a ballot drop box, or delivered in person. This number does not include Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots.

**Provisional:** Signifies the number of ballots cast by people who cast a provisional ballot at an appropriate time and location. This number does not include provisional ballots cast by voters who were issued a vote-by-mail ballot that was not canceled and voters who already voted in person during early voting or on election day. Reminder that this number does not signify the number of provisional ballots accepted.

## Statewide Votes Accepted by County and Canvass

**Election Day:** Signifies the number of people who show up to vote on election day at their assigned polling place and vote a regular ballot. This number does not include individuals who voted provisionally.

**Early Voting:** Signifies the number of people who show up to vote during early voting at an early voting center in their county and vote a ballot. This number does not include individuals who voted provisionally.

**Vote by Mail:** Signifies the number of people who voted by mail and whose vote-by-mail ballots have been canvassed and counted. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) are included in this number.

**Provisional:** Signifies the number of people who voted a provisional ballot at any appropriate time and location during the specified time of the election cycle and their ballot was accepted in-full or in-part.

**Total:** Total number of voters who voted on election day, during early voting, by vote by mail, and provisionally and their ballots were counted.



## Statewide Vote-By-Mail Voting by County and Canvass

**Ballots Sent:** Signifies the total number of mail-in ballots that were requested and subsequently sent to the voter by the board of elections in the manner requested by the voter. If more than one ballot was sent to the voter, this reflects the most recent ballot, as any previous ballot is voided. This number includes Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABS).

**Ballots Received:** Signifies the total number of mail-in ballot envelopes marked as received by the local board of elections to later be canvassed as accepted or rejected. This number only includes Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABS) when the voter did not also return a regular ballot.

**Ballots Accepted:** Signifies the total number of mail-in ballots that have been canvassed and accepted by the Board of Canvassers. Canvassing is when the Board of Canvassers reviews, validates, and counts ballots prior to certifying official election results.

**Ballots Rejected:** Signifies the total number of mail-in ballots that have been canvassed and rejected by the local board of elections for one of the reasons listed in the chart labeled “reasons for rejecting mail-in ballots”.

Reasons for Rejecting Mail-In Ballots:

- **Board Action:** Signifies a mail-in ballot that was rejected by the Board of Canvassers.
- **Identification of DL# or SS# was not timely received:** Signifies voters who returned a mail-in ballot but were in a pending status because their identity had not been confirmed with the Motor Vehicle Administration or Social Security Administration, and they did not provide proof of identity by [deadline].
- **Late for election:** Signifies any ballot received after the cutoff date, which is 10 days after the election at 10 AM.
- **No signature:** Signifies a mail-in ballot received without a signed oath that was not cured by 10 days after the election at 10 am.
- **Voted more than one ballot:** Signifies ballots that were not accepted because the voter submitted more than one ballot. This includes situations where the voter went to the polls in person and cast a regular or provisional ballot that was counted.



## Statewide by Provisional Voting by County

**Provisional Ballots Cast:** Signifies the total number of provisional ballots that were cast, either during early voting or on Election Day. This number includes both accepted and rejected ballots.

**# Accepted in Full:** Signifies the total number of provisional ballots that were canvassed, and the entirety of the ballot was counted.

**# Accepted in Part:** Signifies the total number of provisional ballots that were canvassed, and only part of the ballot was accepted. For example, if a voter who registered to vote in Baltimore City voted provisionally in Calvert County and the voter answered questions on the ballot which only pertained to Calvert County, those questions on the ballot would not be counted.

**# Rejected:** Signifies the total number of provisional ballots canvassed and not counted for one of the reasons listed in the chart labeled “reasons for rejecting provisional ballots”.

### Reasons for Rejecting Provisional Ballots:

- Applicant is not registered to vote
- Applicant returned a voted absentee ballot or has already voted
- No signature on the application
- Applicant not eligible to receive a provisional ballot
- Identification or DL# or SS# was not timely received
- Incomplete information was provided on the application
- DL# or SS# was received but was not verified
- Identification was received but did not satisfy the identification requirements
- No provisional ballot or more than one provisional ballot in the envelope
- Identifying mark on the ballot
- The applicant is not 18 years old by the general election
- Proof of residency was not timely received
- Proof of residency was timely received but did not satisfy the requirements