



# COUNTY OF ELBERT

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**Dallas Schroeder**  
Clerk and Recorder  
440 Comanche Street  
P.O. Box 37  
Kiowa, CO 80117  
Ph: (303)621-3116  
Fax (303)621-3168

## Press Release – For Immediate Release – June 28, 2018

### Re: 2018 Primary Election Results

Election Day for the 2018 Primary Election was June 26, 2018. All ballots are required to be returned by 7:00 PM, on Election Day. Election Judges work in a meticulous, organized and dedicated environment to ensure every ballot returned on time will be counted. Initial results were posted on the Elbert County website at 7:16 PM, election night and 2 more subsequent uploads were processed before the Election Officials went home for the night. It is important to know that these are UNOFFICIAL RESULTS.

At the end of the night, we had a Republican Primary Commissioner race that was only separated by 8 votes. The purpose of this release is to inform the public of the next steps that will take place in determining the winner of the Commissioner race.

All the steps that will be outlined below are standard practices across the State of Colorado.

UOCAVA (overseas and military voters) ballots will be accepted if postmarked or transmitted by 7:00 PM on Election day and received by July 5, 2018. Voters who have had their signatures rejected by the Election Judges, or who didn't sign their ballot are sent a letter informing them of the situation with their ballot and they also have until July 5 to "cure" their signature. History has proved in Elbert County we will have a small number of these "cures" or late UOCAVA ballots. Our practice is to hold back a small number of ballots at the end of the Election night. These ballots are then mixed with the small number held back on Election night to ensure voter anonymity of every voter.

The way State Statute reads, a voter does not have to return their ballot to their County Clerk, but to any County Clerk in the State and as long as it is received by any County Clerk by 7:00 PM on Election night, it becomes the County Clerk's responsibility to make sure the ballot is date stamped and forwarded to the correct County. This Election, so far, we have received ballots that were dropped off in Douglas, El Paso, Arapahoe, Jefferson and Adams Counties.

Denver County also provides a service to the majority of Counties in the State. Since almost all of Colorado's mail is now routed through Denver, Denver Elections goes to the downtown sorting facility before 7:00 PM on Election night and picks up all the ballots, regardless of County, and secures them at their facility. They then notify the respective Counties if they have some of their ballots. Accommodations are then made for those ballots to be transferred to the correct County.

We know that we have received from the other Counties more than excess of 200 ballots so far that will need to be processed. We held back just over 50 ballots on Election night. Given that, we know we have

over 250 ballots yet to process. We do not know a final number at this time because we do not know if other Counties are returning ballots to us or how many people with signature issues will “cure.”

The first chance we now have to finish tabulating these ballots is after 5 PM on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. On that evening, we will bring in Election Judges to finish processing these ballots and we will upload an update to the Election Night Reporting site. These will still be UNOFFICIAL RESULTS. After this happens across the State, we must still do our Risk Limiting Audit and Canvass to certify the Election. This must occur by July 17th and July 18th, respectfully. After a successful completion of the Risk Limiting Audit and Canvass, the Election will be certified.

With this particular race so close, the likelihood of a mandatory recount is very high. We will put out information on the recount if and when it becomes necessary. Recounts must be complete by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. That means that it could be towards the end of the July before a certified winner of the Republican Primary Commissioner race in District 2 is determined.

Please stay tuned to the County website and the Clerks twitter account (@ElbertCoClerk) for additional information.