

Mail ballot procedure – Rhode Island

Application

- Registered voter completes mail ballot application and submits at local (city or town) Board of Canvassers office
- Board of Canvassers staff enters data into central voter system
- Staff prints certification sheets from central voter system
- Board of Canvassers members review certification sheet and approve application
- Board of Canvassers hand-delivers certification sheets to Board of Elections, Branch Avenue, Providence

Ballot Issued

- Elections Division of Department of State issues ballot based on local entry and certification in central voter registration system;
 - mails ballot to voter at home address; or
 - mails to residential address indicated on application; i.e. vacation home or out-of-state school
 - submits to Board of Election for nursing homes and hospitals;
 - to be hand delivered to the facility by a bi-partisan pair appointed by the Board of Elections

Voting

- Voter completes ballot in private
- Voter places ballot in oath envelope and seals the envelope
 - Voter signs outside of envelope
 - Signature is witnessed or notarized
- Oath envelope is placed inside mailing envelope
- Voter mails ballot to Board of Election

Verification

- Board of Election conducts public meetings at which time the voter's signature on the oath envelope is compared to the voter's signature on the central voter registration system
- Board of Election staff opens oath envelopes, separating ballots from envelopes; thereby removing voter identity associated with the ballot and ensuring voter privacy
- Envelopes are retained in accordance with state law
- Ballots are conveyed to secure location, to be process using authorized voting equipment