

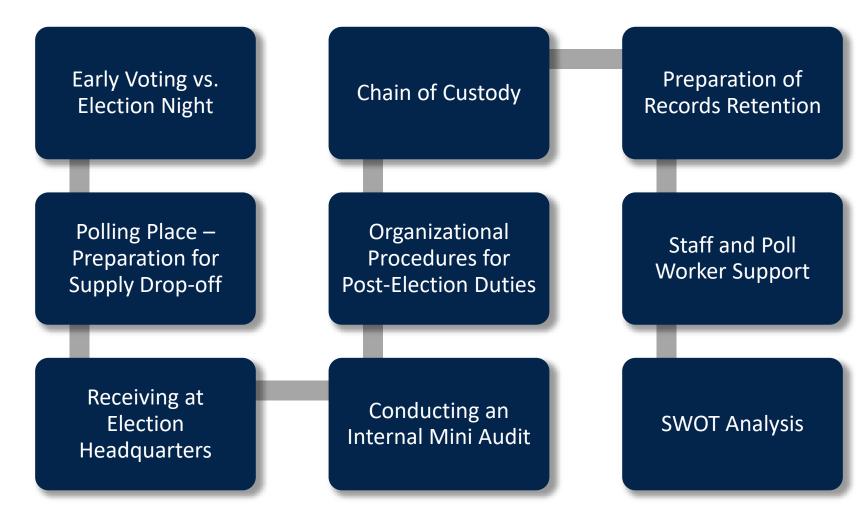
Wrapping up an Election: Completing Paperwork

43rd Annual

Election Law Seminar for County Election Officials

August 11-13, 2025

Topics of Discussion





Texas Secretary of State

ELECTIONS DIVISION



WRAPPING UP AN ELECTION **BLACKOUT BINGO**

Verify voter and Judge/Deputy Early Voting Clerk signatures on Provisional Ballot Envelope

Create a checklist when receiving items at close-out

Have a color-coded or organizational method to store paperwork and envelopes

Statement of Compensation and Oaths or time sheet is completed with required information and signatures

Conduct an internal mini-audit to ensure all required paperwork is completed

Media sticks/V-drives containing cast vote records are accounted for to identify which locations have not arrived

Provide receipt for transfer case when ballots are returned

FREE SPACE

Attended the Wrapping Up an Election: Completing Paperwork Breakout Session

Provide a deadline to return to election headquarters

Ensure unused forms have been completed with a ZERØ and signature

Verify returned equipment has all required wires, chargers, and ADA devices

Two-person verification is performed when receiving all required items

Register of Official Ballots/ **Ballot and Seal Certificate** is completed

Verify the following ballots are accounted for in locked and sealed containers/ballot boxes:

- Voted
- Spoiled Blank Stock Limited Ballot
- Provisional Cancelled BBM

documentation is complete and seal numbers were verified and intact

Ensure all chain of custody

Wrapping up an Election Blackout BINGO

Early Voting vs. Election Night

Forms

- Register of Official Ballots
- Ballot and Seal Certificate
- Notice of Total Number of Voters Who Have Voted

Procedures

- Periodic check-points
- Two locks vs. one lock
- Second keyholder
- Limited ballots
- Provisional ballots
- Logic and accuracy testing

Volume and Scope

- Number of locations
- Potential bottlenecks
- Workload
- Receiving substations

Results

- Direct impact of results
- Tabulation
- Reconciliation
- Posting requirements

Polling Place—Preparation for Supply Drop-off

Develop resources

- Checklists
- Quick guides and examples
- Detailed instructions

Prefill headers on forms

Train poll workers

- Complete forms and chain of custody
- Organize and prioritize forms
- Use two-person verification

Set a deadline



Hint: X Marks the Spot

Provide a **deadline** to return to election headquarters

Hint: X Marks the Spot

Two-person verification

is performed when receiving all required items

Example Checklists

LEAVE AT POLLING PLACE

PUT IN A SECURE AREA - GROUPED TOGETHER OR IN SECURITY CART ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP THE NEXT DAY BY REFUGIO COUNTY PRECINCTS

FOLD UP

PUT IN LARGE FLAT BLACK BAG

SANITATION WAND

PUT IN COLORED BINS AS LABELED

SUPPLIES/STAMPS/NAME TAGS

(DO NOT PUT ANY CORDS INTO VOTING MACHINES OR POLL PAD)

- BLACK DISPLAY BOARDS
- PRIVACY SCREENS
- BOOTH STANDS (TV TRAYS)
- ALL CORDS
- ALL SUPPLIES AND BINS

 - BLACK
 - BLUE
- GREEN VOTING EQUIPMENT
- ALL DUOs
- DUO GO
- SCAN BALLOT BOX

BOOTH 1, BOOTH 2, ETC. PUT IN CARDBOARD BOX CASE W EMPTY OF ALL CONTENTS REMEMBER TO CHECK EMERGENCY/PROVISIONAL BA

BRING INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE, REMOVE SIGNAGE AND STO

CONES/BLUE POST SIGNS/TENTS/BLACK TRASH CAN STANDS

- RAMPS/THRESHOLDS
- VOTE HERE SIGNS, ETC.



RETURN TO ELECTIONS OFFICE

Final Voters of the Day (See Texas Election Code 41.032)

Election Day - Closing the Polling Place Checklist NOTE: Please do not take down or remove any signage until the last voter has voted. All legally required signs must remain posted in the designated places under the Texas Election Code, (See Texas Election Code 62,002) Read through the Closing the Polling Place Checklist prior to assigning duties to your workers.

MUST BRING BACK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IF YOU ARRIVE WITHOUT THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW, YOU WILL HAVE TO GO BACK TO YOUR POLLING PLACE TO RETRIEVE

NO EXCEPTIONS

- VOTING EQUIPMENT
 - SCAN
- CONTROLLER
- BALLOT TRANSFER BOX (BLACK)
- WITH VOTED BALLOTS
- BLANK THERMAL PAPER BOX (BLACK)
- PLACE COMPLETED ENVELOPES INSIDE BEFORE SEALING
- SPOILED BALLOTS ENVELOPE
- UNUSED BLANK THERMAL PAPER BALLOTS ENVELOPE
- REGISTER OF BLANK BALLOT PAPER LOG
- UNUSED BLANK THERMAL PAPER BALLOTS-SIGNED BY ELECTION JUDGE ENVELOPE
- THROWN OUT PAPER BALLOTS ENVELOPE

rescribed by Texas Secretary of State

- REQUEST AND CANCELED BALLOTS ENVELOPE
- REGISTER OF SURRENDERED BALLOT BY MAIL (GRAY)
- REQUEST TO CANCEL BALLOT BY MAIL FOR USE IN ED POLLING PLACE
- POLL PAD RECEIPTS IN RECEIPT ENVELOPE
- - JUST IPAD TABLET & WIFI/MIFI DEVICE INSIDE GREEN CASE
- LEAVE BEHIND CORDS/STAND/PRINTER IN LABELED BINS
- ELECTION NIGHT BAG (RED)
- MUST BE COMPLETED AND PUT INSIDE GOLD ENVELOP

REGISTER OF OFFICIAL BALLOTS/BALLOT & SEAL CERTIFICATE - SOS CLOSING POLLS BALLOT AND SEAL CERTIFICATE
STATEMENT OF COMPENSATION FORM / TIMESHEET SPOILED BALLOT LOG

- PROVISIONAL BALLOT BAG (GREEN)
- GREEN PROVISIONAL ENVELOPES
- COMPLETED LIST OF PROVISIONAL VOTERS
- EMERGENCY BALLOT BAG (RED)



Examples of Prefilled Headers

7-26 Prescribed by Secretary of State Section 127.156, 65.013, Texas Election Code 9/2023

REGISTER OF OFFICIAL BALLOTS/ BALLOT AND SEAL CERTIFICATE

Election Title: Constitutional Amendment Location Name: Unicorn County Expo Center

Date: 11/04/2025 Ballot Scanner Identification Number(s):

INSTRUCTIONS: This is the most important form completed by the ELECTION JUDGE!

Please fill in each of the lines below and sign the form. Direct each clerk and up to two poll watchers (if present) to sign the form. File each copy of this form in the appropriate locations as directed below.

PRE-POPULATED LABEL

Prescribed by Secretary of State
Section 62.003, Texas Election Code
9/2023

Pct. No. - 25	Authority Conducting Election: Unicorn County
Date of Election: 11/04/2025	Type of Election: Constitutional Amendment

Pct. No.	Authority Conducting Election
Date of Election	Type of Election

OATH OF ELECTION JUDGES AND CLERKS

7-18
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 85.032(b), Texas Election Code
9/2023

RECORD OF EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOX SEALS

I, the Early Voting Clerk for the

Election, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct list of the paper seals used to seal the slot of the early voting ballot box at the end of each day of early voting.

Date	Serial Number	Date	Serial Number
101001000		10 10 2 10 00 5	
10/20/2025		10/27/2025	
10/21/2025		10/28/2025	
10/22/2025		10/29/2025	
10/23/2025		10/30/2025	
10/24/2025		10/31/2025	
10/25/2025			
10/26/2025			

I further certify that the number of the seal used to detect unauthorized opening of the box was 123123456 . This seal was place on the early voting ballot box

prior to the beginning of early voting

Signature of Early Voting Clerk Signature of Deputy Early Voting Clerk

Signature of Poll Watcher (if present) Signature of Poll Watcher (if present)

(seal)

Print

Reset

Receiving at Election Headquarters

Establish a flow for check-in

Prioritize paperwork

Detailed checklists

Chain of custody protocols

• Two-person verification

Train internal staff

Plan for remote receiving stations, if applicable



Hint: X Marks the Spot

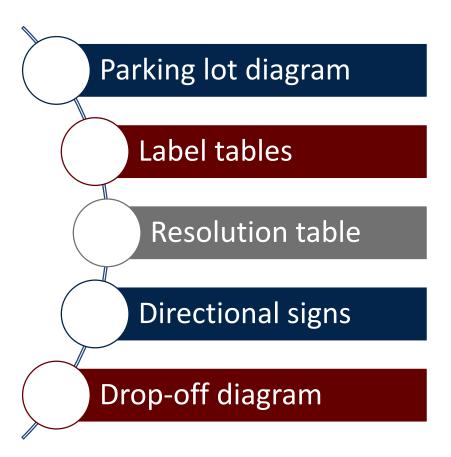
Ensure all **chain of custody** documentation is complete and seal numbers were verified and intact Hint: X Marks the Spot

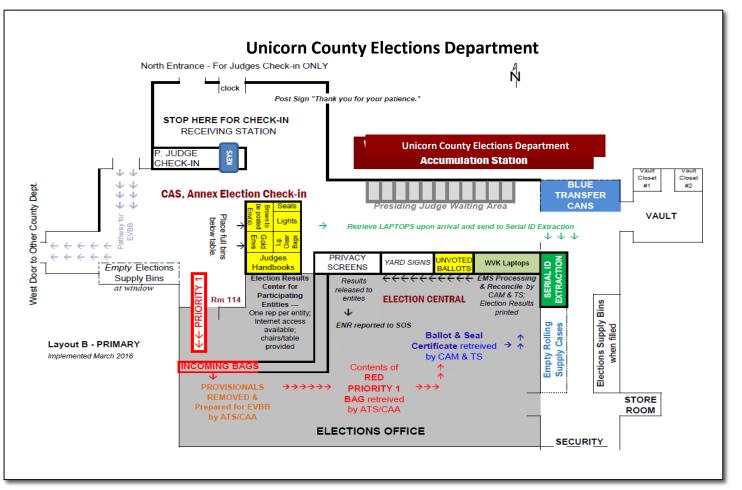
Two-person verification is performed when receiving all required items

Hint: X Marks the Spot

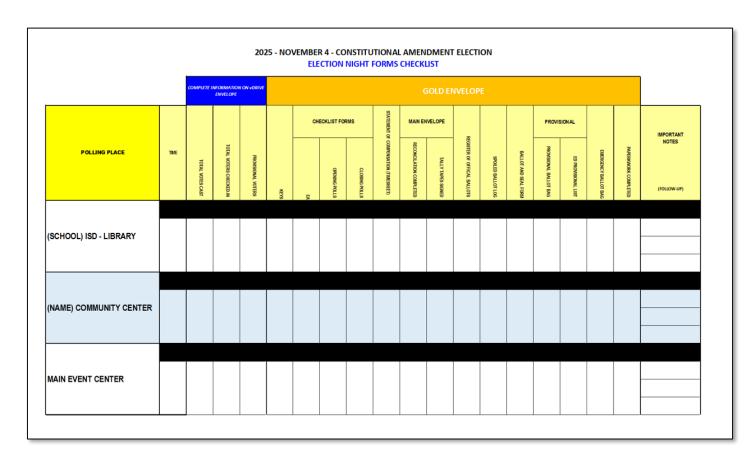
Create a **checklist** when receiving items at close-out

Example Check-in Flow





Example Checklists



ELECTION NIGHT	T		
OLRV SUMMARY LIST (TEAM) - UPDATE IN COUNT STATION ELECTION NIGHT - SEAL LOG	•		
ELECTION AND THE PROPERTY OF T			
ELECTION NIGHT - SEAL LOG		FORM	LAST UPDA TED
WIGHT - FORMA			OPUATED
		DF	1
CENTRAL COUNT TARE		DF	9-23
CENTRAL COUNT TABULATION TRACKER FORM LICENSED PEACE OFFICER FORM			9-23
LICENSED PEACE OFFICER FORM		DF	9-23
TRANSFER EARLES		COMPUTER	9-23
SCAN / CONTROLLED		COMPUTER	
1 AV - SCAN		HART	9-23
1 ED - SCAN / CO.		17-9001	9-23
1 ED - SCAN / CONTROLLER (FOR EACH POLLING PLACE) RECEIPT FOR TRANSFER CASES			
RECEIPT FOR TRANSFER CASES 1 ED (FOR EACH POLLING PLACE)			
TO IT OR EACH POLLING BY			$\overline{}$
CATUSON SURD & COURS		8-3	
1 EV-SCAN ROLLANDIAN STATION DERECONAICE		0.3	9-23
1 AV - SCAN			
1 ED - SCAN / CONTROLLER (FOR EACH POLLING PLACE)		101	22
RECEIPT FOR TRANSFER CASES	8-3	9-23	
1 ED (FOR EACH POLUNG PLACE)			
OATH FOR EVBB & CENTRAL COUNTING STATION PERSONNEL	10-1	9-23	
1 ELECTION NIGHT WORKERS - CENTRAL COUNT			
1 ELECTION NIGHT WORKERS - CENTRAL COUNT	7-3	9-23	
	COMPUTER	9-23	
1 POST IN BACK - INSIDE DOOR (11X17)	COMPUTER	F23	
1 FOR YOUR RECORDS (LETTER SIZE)			
ELECTION NIGHT EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT	SIGN		
1 POST IN BACK - INSIDE DOOR	5.517		
RESTROOM CLOSED	SIGN		
1 POST ON FRONT OUTSIDE DOOR			
FRONT PARKING LOT			
BLOCK SECTION IN FRONT OF OFFICE DOOR WITH ORANGE CONES	AS NE	EDED	
BACK PARKING LOT			
MOVE ALL VEHICLES TO FRONT OF EA OFFICE			
PREPARE TABLES FOR ACCEPTANCE			
FOR OUTSIDE SEAL CHECK			
FOR INSIDE FORMS CHECK			

Conduct an Internal Mini-Audit

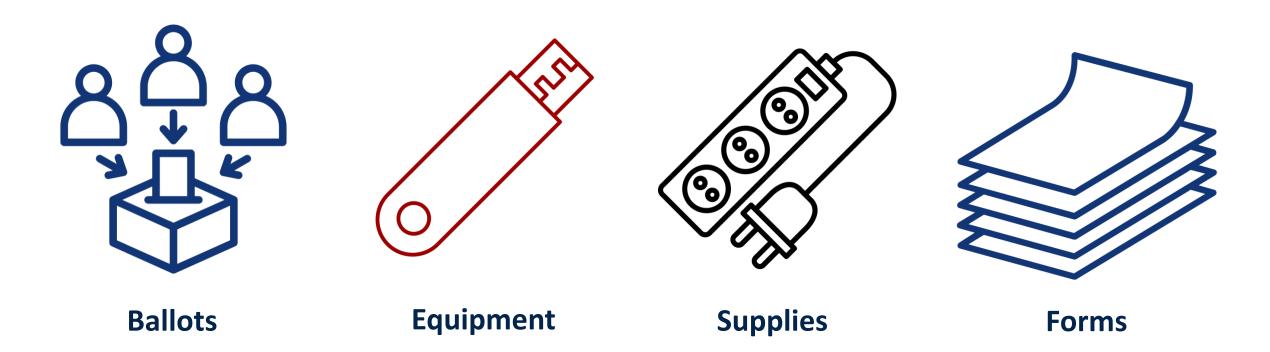




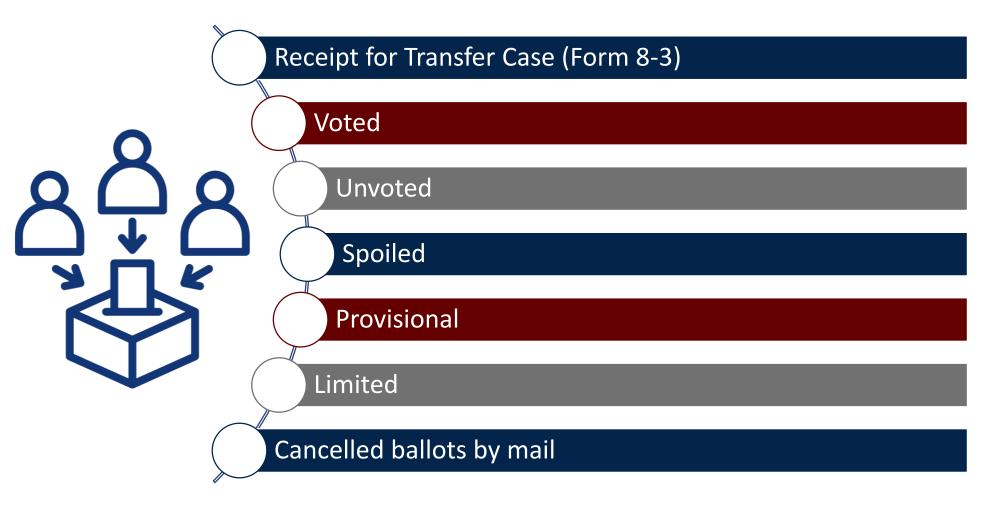
Hint: X Marks the Spot

Conduct an internal mini-audit to ensure all required paperwork is completed

Internal Mini-Audit Should Include



Internal Mini-Audit: Ballots



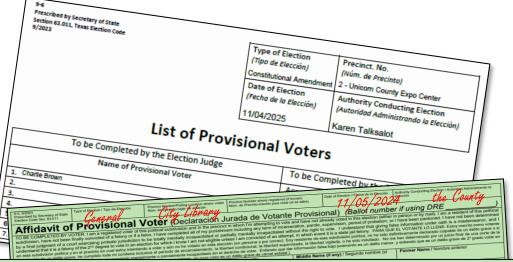


Hint: X Marks the Spot Verify the following ballots are accounted for in locked and sealed containers/ballot boxes:

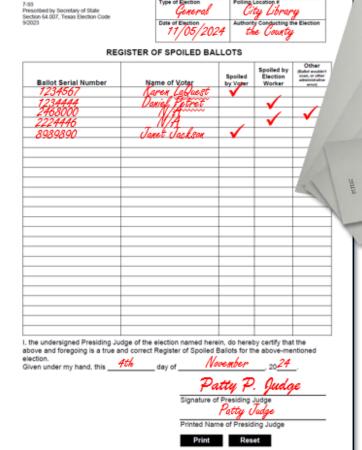
- Voted
- Spoiled
- Blank Stock
 Limited Ballot Provisional
 Cancelled BBM

Hint: X Marks the Spot

Provide receipt for transfer case when ballots are returned **Examples of Checking Ballots**







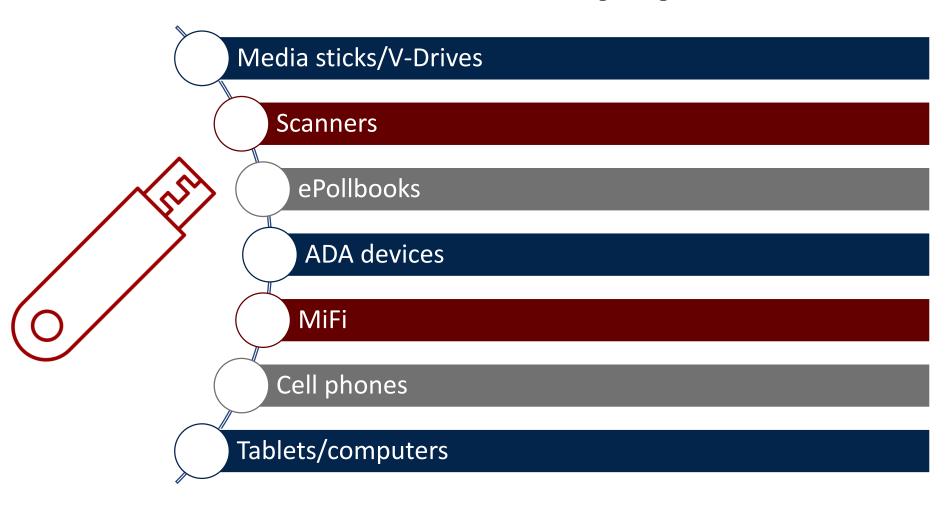


BINGO

Hint: X Marks the Spot

Verify voter and Judge/Deputy Early Voting Clerk **signatures** on Provisional Ballot Envelope

Internal Mini-Audit: Equipment





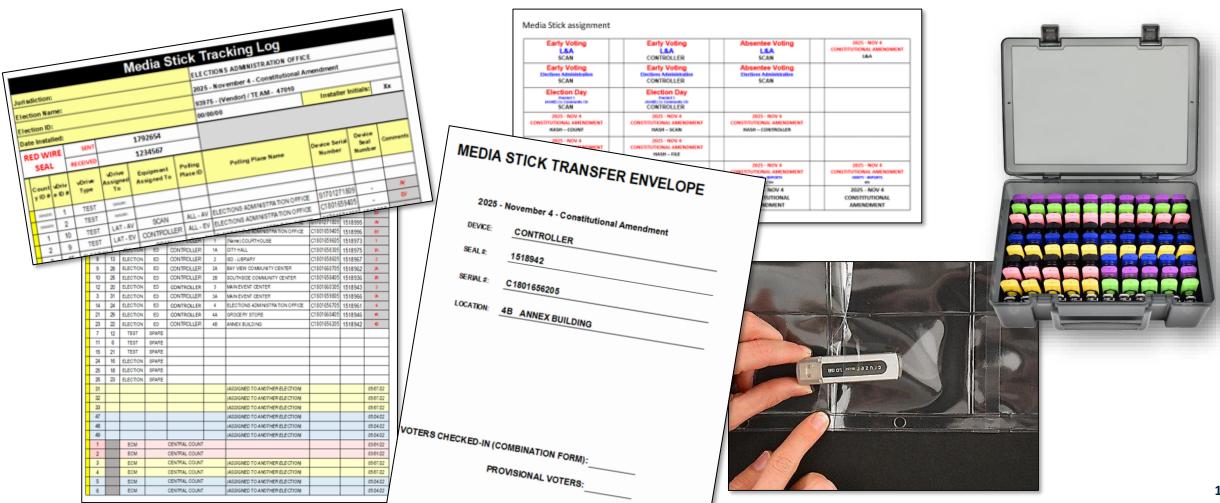
Hint: X Marks the Spot

Verify returned equipment has all required wires, chargers, and ADA devices

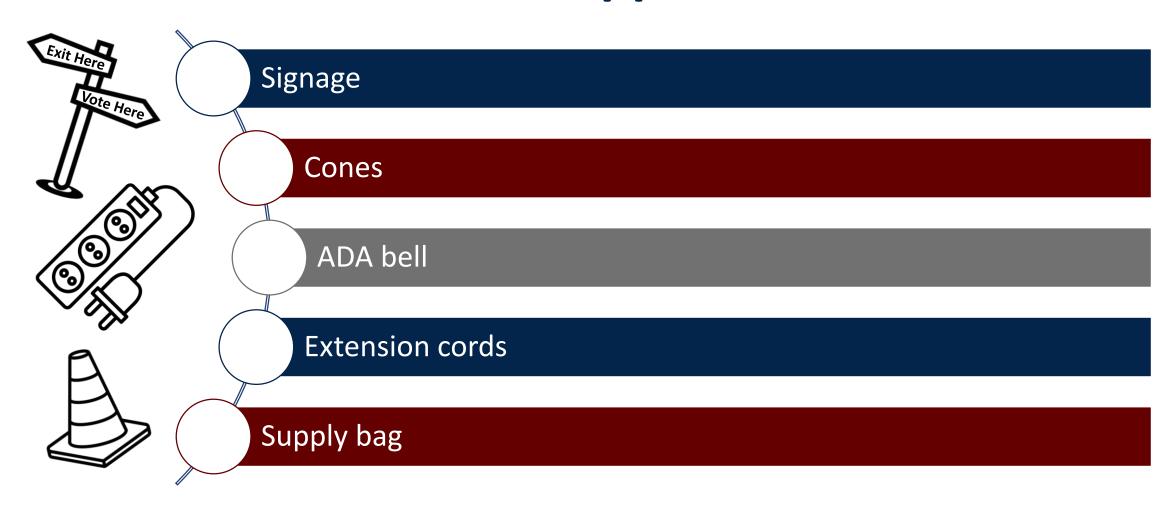
Hint: X Marks the Spot

Media sticks/V-drives containing cast vote records are accounted for to **identify** which locations have not arrived

Examples of Checking Media Sticks/V-Drives



Internal Mini-Audit: Supplies



Internal Mini-Audit: Forms

Legal Record Complete Verification Accurate Accountable Compliant of Transparent Purpose Auditable **Document Issues** Legible

Forms	Used to Conduct the Election
	Statement of Residence
	Reasonable Impediment Declaration Form
	Combination Form
	Oaths of Assistance and Interpreter
	Information of Person That Provided Transportation to Seven or More Voters for Curbside Voting Form
	Affidavit of Provisional Voter Envelope
	Notice to Provisional Voter
	Notice to Provisional Voter for ID Voters
	Secrecy Envelope
	Request to Cancel Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place
	Standard Affidavit
	"I Voted" Stickers
	Chain of Custody Form(s)
	Statement of Compensation and Oaths / Timesheets
	Constitutional Oaths
	Election Official Name Tags
	Poll Watcher Name Tags
	Register of Official Ballots
	Ballot and Seal Certificate
Ш	Combined Register of Official Ballots / Ballot and Seal Certificate (if applicable)
	Register of Spoiled Ballots
	Register of Surrendered Ballots by Mail
	Registration Omissions List
	Problem Log Sheet
	List of Provisional Voters
	Tally Sheet Book (for hand-counted paper ballots, if applicable)
	Return Sheet (for hand-counted paper ballots, if applicable)
	Envelope #1 (To: Presiding Officer of Canvassing Authority) (see Texas Election Code 66.022, 66.003)
	Envelope #2 (To: General Custodian of Election Records) (see Texas Election Code 66.023, 66.003)
	Envelope #3 (To: Presiding Judge) (see Texas Election Code 66.024, 66.003)
	Envelope #4 (To: Voter Registrar) (see Texas Election Code 66.0241, 66.003)
	Envelope #5 (Primary Election Only) (To: County Chair only if the County Chair is responsible for paying the election
	workers) (see Texas Election Code 32.094)
	Envelope for Spoiled Ballots
	Envelope for Requests and Cancelled Ballots
	Secure Container for Provisional Ballot Affidavit Envelopes
	te: Paperwork should be filed in appropriate return envelopes. Please follow your election authority's procedures for cement.



Hint: X Marks the Spot

Register of Official Ballots/ Ballot and Seal Certificate is completed

Hint: X Marks the Spot

Statement of Compensation and Oaths or time sheet is **completed** with required information and signatures

rimary Forms

- ☐ Certificates of Party Affiliation (Primary Election Only) (Texas Election Code 162.009)
- ☐ Affidavits of Non-Participation and Affiliation (Primary Election Only) (Texas Election Code 162.008)
- Notice of Party Convention Handouts (Primary Election Only) (Texas Election Code 172.1114) (If provided by the parties)

Note: In a separate primary, each party will have its own complete set of forms. In a joint primary, the parties will have a shared results envelope. All other paperwork and envelopes must be kept separately.

Internal Mini-Audit: "ZERØ Mark"

Identify all unused forms

Apply the "ZERØ Mark"

Election judge (or designated judge) signature

Train all judges

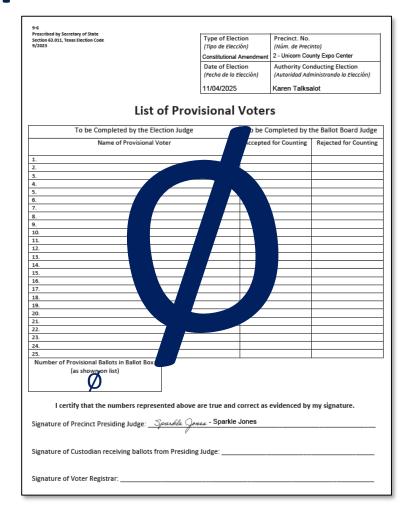
- Final review
- Legibility
- Accountability

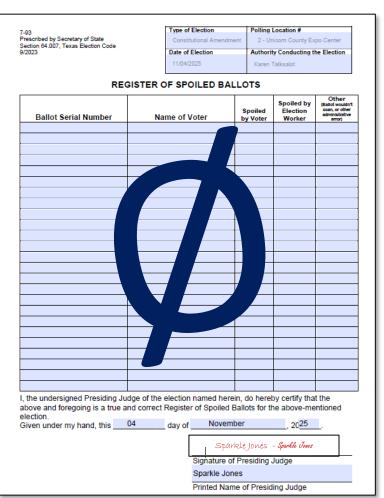


Hint: X Marks the Spot

Ensure unused forms have been completed with a **ZERØ** and signature

Example of "ZERØ Marks"





Central Counting Station

Central Counting Station plan

Logic and Accuracy test 2 and test 3

Organizational plan for unread media vs. read media

Tracking

Chain of custody protocols

Trained election workers

Reconciliation forms



Hint: X Marks the Spot

Ensure all **chain of custody** documentation is complete and seal numbers were verified and intact

Are You Ready?

Post-Election Duties

Late Arriving Mail Ballots and 6-Day Cure Period

Recounts

Early Voting Ballot Board Reconvening

Risk Limited Audit (RLA)

Reconvening of the Central Counting
Station

Canvassing the Results

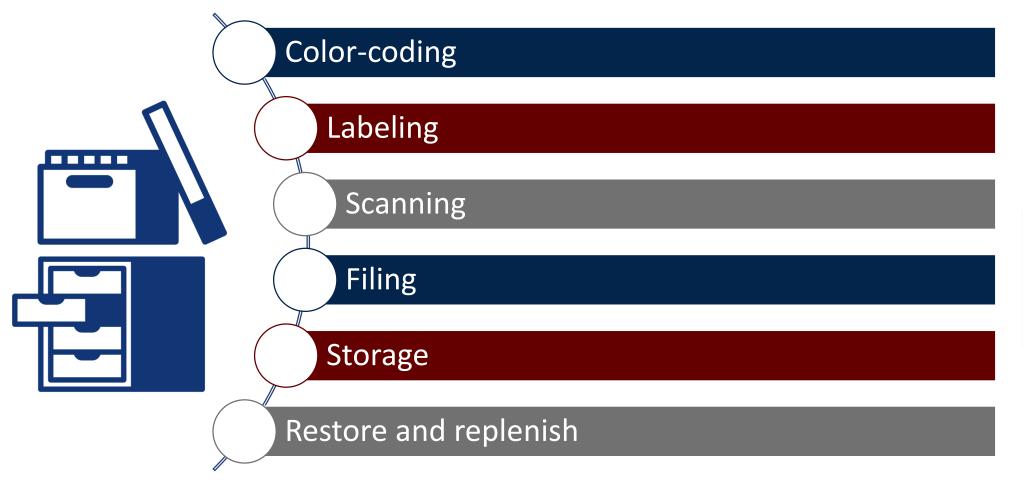
Rejected Ballots-Attorney General's Office

State Audit

Post-Election
Hand Count Audit

Public Information Requests

Organizational Procedures





Hint: X Marks the Spot

Have a **color-coded** or organizational method to store paperwork and envelopes

Examples of Color Coding







Chain of Custody-Telling the Whole Story

Documents tell the whole story



Two-person verification

Strength and integrity in elections

Transparency



Hint: X Marks the Spot

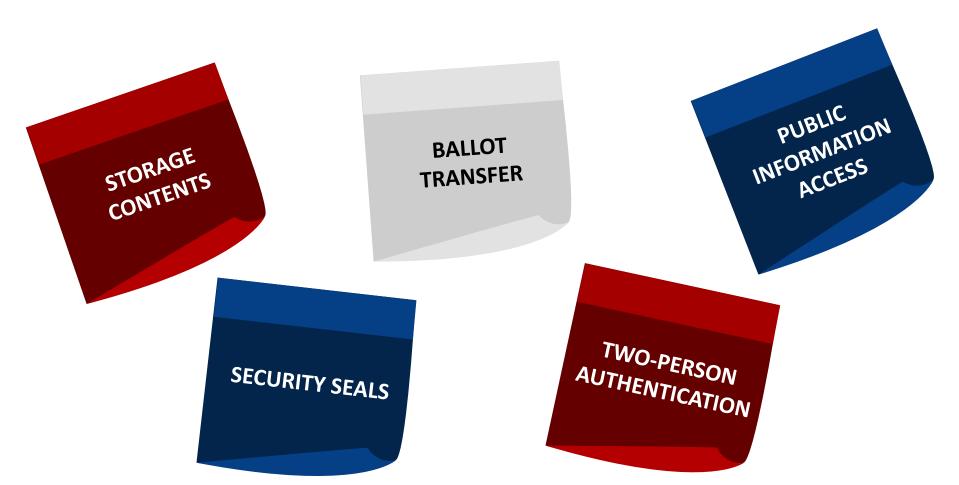
Ensure all chain of custody documentation is complete and seal numbers were verified and intact

Hint: X Marks the Spot

Two-person verification

is performed when receiving all required items

Records Retention Documentation



RECORD DESTRUCTION



Hint: X Marks the Spot

Two-person verification is performed when receiving all required items

Records Retention





Staff and Poll Worker Support





Frequent Early Voting visits

Election Day visits, if possible

Provide contact information

Resolution table

Expectations



SWOT Analysis

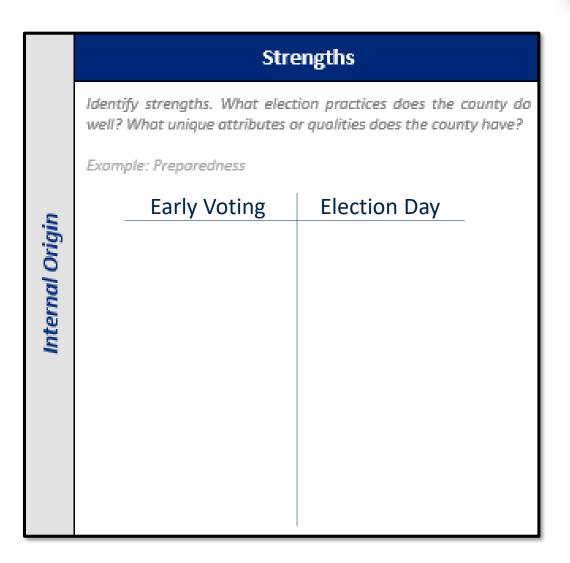
Perform a SWOT Analysis for Supply and Equipment Returns

The purpose of a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis is to provide guidance for the next steps in planning, decision making, and action. This self-evaluation tool can help devise a successful strategy for future elections.

	Strengths	Weaknesses
	Identify strengths. What election practices does the county do well? What unique attributes or qualities does the county have?	Identify weaknesses. What election practices could the county improve? What resources are limited?
	Example: Preparedness	Example: Disorganization
Internal Origin		
	Opportunities	Threats
	Identify opportunities. What trends could the county take advantage of? What steps could be taken to turn strengths into opportunities?	Identify threats. What threats could harm the election process for the county? What are other counties doing to offset threats?
	Example: Create Checklists	Example: Inclement Weather
External Origin		

The above analysis provides a comprehensive view of both internal and external factors affecting elections. Thus, ensuring consideration of relevant elements from internal capabilities to external opportunities and threats. By identifying potential threats early, a SWOT analysis allows for development of strategies to mitigate risks. Review and discuss with key decision makers the outcome of the SWOT analysis to assist with future planning.

Identify Your Strengths



Identify Your Weaknesses

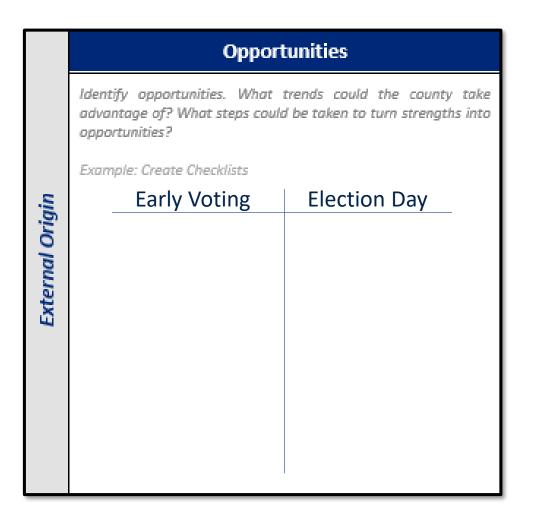
Weaknesses

Identify weaknesses. What election practices could the county improve? What resources are limited?

Example: Disorganization

Early Voting	Election Day

Identify Your Opportunities



Identify Your Threats

Threats

Identify threats. What threats could harm the election process for the county? What are other counties doing to affset threats?

Example: Inclement Weather

Early Voting	Election Day

Purpose of the SWOT



Available Support



WEBINARS



TRAINING

elections@sos.texas.gov

800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650 sos.texas.gov



RESOURCES