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Are you ready to cast your vote in Arapahoe County Nov. 6?

Clerk and Recorder's Office offers three helpful tips to make voting easy Election Day

LITTLETON, CO --- Voters can follow three easy steps to ensure their election process goes smoothly on Election Day.

"Our goal is to have a smooth and fair election for everyone," said Clerk and Recorder Nancy A. Doty. "We are asking voters to take the initiative by following these easy steps to ensure their experience goes smoothly."

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Nov. 6. Anybody standing in line by 7 p.m. will be allowed to vote. Voters can find the nearest Vote Center and check wait times at Vote Centers on Election Day by visiting www.arapahoevotes.com or by calling 303-795-4511. Typically, the early morning and late afternoon are the busiest times at Vote Centers.

Tip #1 – Return your mail-in ballot as soon as possible.

If you have a mail in ballot, return it as soon as possible. Don't wait until Tuesday to return your ballot. Nearly 250,000 mail-in ballots were distributed to voters who requested mail-in ballots. And, as of Noon Nov. 2 more than 184,000 ballots (both mail-in and early vote) have been cast in Arapahoe County.

While it is too late to mail your ballot to ensure it gets to Arapahoe County in time, voters can drop it off to one of 16 mail-in ballot drop off locations or return it to any of the County's 32 Vote Centers on Election Day. A list of drop-off locations is available on www.arapahoevotes.com.

Despite rumors that mail-in ballots might not count on Election Day, your vote does count, no matter which way you cast it.

"Take time to consider the candidates and issues from the comfort of your own home, and then drop off your mail-in ballot with total confidence that it will count, just the same as any vote cast on a voting machine," Doty said, adding that the rumor may create a problem for voters on Election Day who attempt to surrender a mail-in ballot thinking they can vote on a machine.

According to State law, any voter who surrenders their mail-in ballot on Election Day cannot vote on a machine and must be given a paper ballot called a Provisional ballot. A Provisional ballot is the same as a paper ballot, but the process of counting the ballot takes more time. As outlined in Colorado law, Provisional

ballots require additional scrutiny to ensure a voter has not voted twice. Therefore, Provisional ballots are not counted any sooner than 8 days after the election, or Nov. 14, to ensure the voter is qualified to vote in Arapahoe County and has not cast a ballot by mail or voted early.

Tip #2 – Study your ballot so you are prepared to vote

If you are voting in person on Election Day, the General Election ballot is lengthy and lines could be long, so be prepared to vote. Bring your sample ballot to help you make your choices. A well prepared voter completes the ballot in less than 4 minutes, where an unprepared voter could take 8 to 15 minutes to cast a ballot.

Tip #3 - Bring proper identification

Arapahoe County offers 32 Vote Center locations. Voters can choose the vote center most convenient to them to cast their ballot on Election Day so there is no wrong place to vote. To find the Vote Center nearest you, visit www.arapahoevotes.com or call 303-795-4511.

Be sure to bring proper identification, preferably a valid Colorado Drivers' License, a valid Colorado ID card issued by the Colorado Department of Revenue or a valid U.S. Passport. A complete list is available on www.arapahoevotes.com.

Arapahoe County is offering Voter Assistance Centers where voters will be able to update voter registration, emergency register, request a new ballot, request a replacement ballot (if you spoil your ballot) and drop off their voted mail-in ballot. The locations are as follows:

- Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder's Office (Aurora Branch)
490 S. Chambers Road, Aurora, 80017
- Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder's Office (Byers Branch)
538 N. Highway 36, Byers 80103
- Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder's Office (Centennial Branch)
6954 S. Lima St., Centennial
- Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder's Office (Administration Building)
5334 S. Prince St., Littleton 80120

For more information about the Nov. 6 General Election, contact the Elections Division at 303-795-4511 or visit www.arapahoevotes.com.

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