



CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

# Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## What is Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM)?

Any voter can request to use Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM). Voters with disabilities, many of whom rely on others to assist them in reading and marking their ballot, can use RAVBM to cast their vote privately and independently from home. This IS NOT internet voting.

## How many RAVBM systems are there in California?

Currently, the California Secretary of State has conditionally approved four systems: Democracy Live Secure Select 1.2.2, Five Cedars Group Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) v5.2.1, Dominion ImageCast Remote 5.10A, and Los Angeles County Voting Solution for All People Interactive Sample Ballot 3.0.

## How do RAVBM systems work?

Generally, an RAVBM system gives a voter an opportunity to download a ballot. This allows a voter with a disability to read it and mark it using their own assistive technology device. After marking the downloaded ballot, the voter prints out their selections and return them to the county elections office. Disability Rights California published a **video demonstration of a RAVBM system**.

## How would a voter return their selections to the County Elections Office?

Either mail it or drop it off at a polling place or vote center in the specially provided envelope the voter receives from their County Elections Office and sign the envelope, which has specially punched holes to indicate where a person with a sight disability should sign.

## What are the requirements for receiving an RAVBM ballot?

A voter can request RAVBM on the Secretary of State's website by going to **My Voter Status** or by contacting their **County Elections Office**. A voter may request an RAVBM ballot up to and including Election Day. <sup>1</sup> Additionally, Military and Overseas Voters and voters with disabilities can also request an RAVBM from their County Elections Office when they use the Same Day Voter Registration process.

<sup>1</sup> Some counties allow voters to use RAVBM by going directly to the portal from the County Elections Office's website without a formal request. Individual counties can modify their website as needed.

## How secure are RAVBM systems?

California has one of the most strenuous testing and certification programs in the country to ensure that your private and independent ballot is secure.

## Outreach Ideas for RAVBM:

There are many ways counties may successfully publicize this new accessible voting system.

- ✔ Have information about the RAVBM system, including information about how a voter can request to use it, and a video demonstration of the RAVBM system on the Elections Office Website.
- ✔ Through the County's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC), including a demonstration of the RAVBM system at a VAAC meeting.
- ✔ Publish in the County Voter Information Guide.
- ✔ Send information to all stakeholders and community-based organizations, for example: Department of Rehabilitation or all Independent Living Centers, California Council of the Blind or the National Foundation of the Blind to name just a couple.
- ✔ Encourage the stakeholders and community-based organizations to post the information, including the video demonstration, on their website.
- ✔ Provide demonstrations of how to use the RAVBM system at outreaches at disability-related organizations.



**For more information on Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM), please visit the Secretary of State's website at:**  
**<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/remote-accessible-vote-mail>**



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