



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, there are three remote accessible vote-by-mail systems in use in California, Democracy Live Secure Select 1.2.2, Dominion ImageCast Remote 5.10A, and Los Angeles County Voting Solutions for All People Interactive Sample Ballot 3.0.

## How do RAVBM systems work?

Generally, an RAVBM system gives a voter an opportunity to access ballot contests using an online portal. This allows a voter with a disability to read it and mark it using their own assistive technology device. After the voter marks their selections, they will print them out and return them to their county elections office. Disability Rights California published a [video demonstration of an RAVBM system](#).

## How would a voter return their selections to their 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 using RAVBM?

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 RAVBM up to and including Election Day.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, Military and Overseas Voters and voters with disabilities can also request RAVBM from their county elections office when they use the same day voter registration process.

## How secure are RAVBM systems?

California has one of the most strenuous testing and certification programs in the country to ensure private and independent RAVBM system access so that your vote is secure.

<sup>1</sup> Some counties allow voters with disabilities 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.

## 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 Sample Ballot/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 few.
- ✔ 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.

