Information Supplied by Secretary of State on Early Pricessing of Absentee Ballots

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From: Flynn, Julie < Julie.Flynn@maine.gov > Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 9:38 AM

To: Bellows, Shenna <Shenna.Bellows@maine.gov>; Cook, Emily <Emily.Cook@maine.gov>

Subject: procedures for early processing

Importance: High

People can be there to observe and 2 people must be processing at all times. They open the envelope, remove the folded ballot, amass a handful of folded ballots in order to conceal which voters the ballots are from, then unfold them to insert them into the tabulator.

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Information Supplied by Secretary of State after 2/1/21
Public Hearing

Fact Sheet on Early Processing of Ballots for 11/3/20 General Election Pursuant to Title 21-A Section 760-B

1. **Optional procedure:** Note: Executive Order 8 FY 20/21 allows processing of absentee ballots to begin as early as seven days prior to the election.

• The Municipal Clerk may opt to process absentee ballots the **Tuesday** (10/27), **Wednesday** (10/28), **Thursday** (10/29), **Friday** (10/30), **Saturday** (10/31), **Sunday** (11/1), and/or **Monday** (11/2) prior to Election Day (11/3).

2. Time limits on processing

- Processing can occur between 9 am and 9 pm on any of the seven days (October 27 November 2) prior to Election Day, unless an inspection is requested (see section 4). If an inspection is requested, the inspection period would be 9 am to 10 am and processing may not begin until after 10 am.
- The Municipal Clerk designates the time for processing to begin.

3. Notice requirements

- The Municipal Clerk must complete the Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election
 Day to designate 1 hour for inspection and designate the time for early processing to start after the
 inspection period. If no inspection is requested, the Clerk may begin processing at 9 am (or at chosen
 time after 9 am), by designating <u>Time Processing Begins</u> as "9 am, or immediately following a
 requested inspection".
- The Municipal Clerk must give notice at least 30 days before Election Day (by 5 pm on Monday, October 4, 2020 – filing deadline was modified Executive Order 8 FY 20/21) by:
 - mailing a copy of the Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day to the Municipal Party Chairs (D, G, R) at their last known addresses; or by mailing a copy of the Notice of Election to the State Party Chairs (if no municipal chairs); and
 - providing a copy of the Notice to the Division of Elections by one of these methods
 - 1. Email a scanned attachment (cec.officials@maine.gov)
 - 2. Fax (287-6545 or 287-5428)
 - 3. Mail (101 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333)

Note: If a copy of the Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day is not received by the Division of Elections by **October 5, 2020**, the municipality **may not** process absentees prior to the election.

4. Inspection before Processing

- A member of the public who wishes to inspect absentee materials must make a written request to the Clerk by 9 am on each day that the clerk intends to process absentee ballots prior to Election Day, to inspect the absentee applications/envelopes before they are processed.
- The Municipal Clerk must allow 1 hour for inspection before processing (e.g. 9 am to 10 am).
- The Municipal Clerk may start processing immediately after the inspection period has elapsed, or at the time designated on the Notice, if later.

5. Ballot Processing and Other Procedures

- The Municipal Clerk follows absentee ballot processing procedures in Title 21-A §759, §760-A.
- The procedures for handling full ballot boxes (optical scan only), pollwatching and challenging ballots are conducted in the same manner as on Election Day.

6. Counting and Results Prohibited before the Close of the Polls on Election Day

Ballots may not be counted, voter intent may not be determined and election results may not be
obtained or released until after the polls close on Election Day (and after all in-person voters have
voted and all absentee ballots have been processed).

7. Security of Processed Ballots and Tabulating Equipment

At the conclusion of early absentee ballot processing, the Municipal Clerk shall ensure:

- the processed absentee ballots are locked and sealed in tamper-proof containers, as required by the "Uniform Guidelines for Securing Ballots and Other Materials"; and
- these locked and sealed containers must be further secured in a vault or other locked, secure location until ballots are counted after the polls close on Election Day.

Instructions for Completing the Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day Revised by the Office of the Secretary of State, September 2020

The Notice provided in this mailing is only for the purpose of notifying the Secretary of State and political parties of the municipality's intent to process absentee ballots prior to Election Day.

Executive Order 8 FY 20/21 authorizes municipalities the option to process absentee ballots beginning on the 7th day before Election Day, including Sunday. If you choose to process early, you can do so on any date or combination of dates below (with proper notice to this office and the political party chairs, at least 60 days prior to the election):

Early Processing Day Option(s)	Date Option(s)
Tuesday	10/27/2020
Wednesday	10/28/2020
Thursday	10/29/2020
Friday	10/30/2020
Saturday	10/31/2020
Sunday	11/1/2020
Monday	11/2/2020

The steps for completing the Notice are as follows:

- 1. Complete the municipality name
- 2. Complete the date(s) and time(s) of Early Processing
- 3. Complete the location name and address for the place where early processing will occur.
- 4. Provide an attested copy of the completed Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day to the Secretary of State (Division of Elections) and the municipal chair of each political party at least 30 days before Election Day (by October 5, 2020). Notice to the political parties must be mailed to the last address of each municipal chair known to the Clerk. If there is no municipal chair, the notice must be mailed to the state party chair of each party. Contact information for the state party chairs is provided in this mailing and posted on the Elections Temp page.
- 5. A copy of the **Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day must** be posted with the Notice of Election and sample ballots in each voting district in the municipality at least 7 days prior to election day and each voting place on election day, pursuant to Title 21-A, section 621-A(1). The Clerk shall also record a copy of the Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day.

<u>Note:</u> A Clerk intending to process absentee ballots before Election Day must read and comply with the Uniform Guidelines for Securing Ballots and Other Materials. The clerk must confirm this fact and initial the Notice of Intent to Process Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day where indicated. A copy of the Uniform Guidelines is posted on the temp site.

Clerks intending to process absentee ballots <u>only on Election Day before the polls have closed</u>: or <u>process only on Election Day after the polls have closed</u> should not complete the Notice provided in this mailing. These Clerks will need to complete only the actual Notice of Election (to be provided in a future mailing).

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Uniform Guidelines for Securing Ballots and Other Materials for Early Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day Hand-count Municipalities Rev. September 2020

1. Staffing requirements.

- 1.1. A minimum of 2 staff must be in attendance at all times during early processing, when accessing the secure storage area for absentee ballots, or when transporting unprocessed or processed absentee ballots between the secure storage area and the processing location.
- 1.2. The Clerk may designate municipal staff or election officials (Warden, Deputy Warden/Ward Clerk and election clerks) to early process the absentee ballots.
- 1.3. If election clerks are used for early processing, the requirements of 21-A MRS section 503 shall apply.

2. Location for Early Processing.

- 2.1. The Clerk must designate a single location for early processing.
- **2.2.** The location must be of sufficient size to accommodate all necessary staff, absentee ballot materials and the ballot box in one processing area, which must be surrounded by a guardrail enclosure similar to the one used on Election Day.
- **2.3.** The location must accommodate public access, outside the guardrail enclosure, at all times during early processing of absentee ballots. At a minimum, the public area outside the guardrail enclosure must be large enough to accommodate at least one pollwatcher from each of the qualified parties.
- 3. Ballots to be processed. The only ballots that may be processed prior to Election Day are ballots that meet the following requirements:
 - **3.1.** Ballots received before the first time designated for early processing on each day that ballots are processed early, which have been added to the CVR and included on the List of Absentee Voters (which is then printed and used for early processing of the ballots); and
 - 3.2. Ballots that have been designated on the envelopes (in the Clerk's Notes section) as "OK to Cast"; and
 - 3.3. Ballots that have been made available to the public during any inspection period requested by 9 a.m. on each day that absentee ballots are processed prior to Election Day. (If no inspection period has been requested, this requirement does not apply).

4. Ballots that may not be processed. The following ballots may not be processed early:

- **4.1.** Ballots received prior to Election Day, after processing has begun on each day that absentee ballots are processed early. These ballots may be entered into the CVR, but **may not** be processed until Election Day or a subsequent scheduled day of early processing if the Clerk is processing ballots on multiple days, at the times designated on the Notice of Election for processing.
- **4.2.** Rejected ballots. These <u>may not</u> be processed until after the polls close on Election Day, to allow the voters to vote either in person on Election Day or by a second absentee ballot. Be sure that the absentee ballot is designated as "Rejected" in CVR.

5. Use of official ballot box.

- **5.1.** The Clerk must provide an official ballot box, with a functioning lock, for use in processing the ballots.
- **5.2.** Before beginning to process ballots, the Clerk/Warden and 1 other staff must open the ballot box, to show publicly that it is empty; re-lock the box; and secure the key until processing is completed.

6. Processing procedure.

- **6.1.** The requirements for pollwatching and challenging of ballots are the same as provided in Title 21-A for Election Day.
- **6.2.** The procedures for early processing of absentee ballots are the same as provided in Title 21-A for processing absentee ballots on Election Day (§759, §760-A).

7. Securing processed absentee envelopes and applications.

7.1. After processing the ballots, the empty absentee envelopes (with their applications attached, where applicable) must be placed in one or more boxes or envelopes (please do not use tamper-proof containers) separate from the ballots, which are sealed (and locked, if applicable) as required for voted materials on Election Day.

8. Logging and securing processed materials.

- 8.1. When processing is complete, the election officials must remove the processed absentee ballots from the ballot box, without unfolding them or reviewing any votes cast. The officials must record the number of State ballots that were processed (but not the votes cast on these ballots) and indicate this number on line A of the "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots" (Hand-count Paper Ballots).
- 8.2. The number of absentee voters, designated on the CVR List of Absentee Voters as having their ballots accepted and processed during the early processing times, must be recorded on line B of the "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots" (Hand-count Paper Ballots).
- 8.3. Any discrepancy between line A and line B must be noted on line C of the log. The Clerk or Warden and a second election official must date and sign the log, and a copy of the log must be submitted to the Division of Elections with the Return of Votes Cast (within 2 business days after the election).
- 8.4. The ballots must be placed in one or more tamper-proof containers that are labeled "Uncounted Absentee Ballots for the "Name/Date" Election". Each container must be locked and sealed and the information recorded on a Certificate of Sealed Ballot Container.
- 8.5. The officials must verify that the ballot box is empty, and make it available for voting on Election Day.
- 8.6. The locked and sealed tamper-proof containers must be placed in a vault, or other locked and secure location, to which only the Clerk and the Clerk's designees have access. On Election Day, the Clerk along with at least 1 other person must transport to the voting place the tamper-proof containers of processed, but uncounted, ballots and any absentee ballots not yet processed. The containers must remain within the guardrail enclosure, in view of all persons present, during Election Day until the polls close.
- 8.7. After the polls have closed on Election Day, and after all voters have voted and all additional absentee ballots have been processed into the ballot box, the Warden must verify that the seal/lock on each tamper-proof container matches the ones recorded on the Certificate of Sealed Ballot Container. The Warden must then open the tamper-proof containers bearing the uncounted ballots and remove the ballots for counting.
- 8.8. The election clerks will combine the Election Day ballots and early processed absentee ballots and put them in lots of 50, and count them as required by law and the Uniform Counting Procedures provided by the Secretary of State.

9. Designating Absentee Voters on the Incoming Voting List.

- 9.1. The Clerk or Registrar must enter each absentee voter's information into the absentee module of the CVR. Each voter who has had an absentee ballot designated as received and accepted in the system will have an "AV" printed on the Incoming Voting List beside the voter's name, so long as the absentee ballot entries are made before the Incoming Voting List is printed.
- 9.2. If the Clerk receives absentee ballots from voters after the Incoming Voting List is printed for the election, the Clerk must follow the procedure in Title 21-A §760-A to ensure that the voting list is designated manually with an "AV" beside each voter's name, before the ballots are processed on Election Day.

Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots

	On a second seco	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Date of Early Processing (Complete separate log	for each day processed)
	Municipality	
	For the November 3, 2020 Ge	eneral Election
	Hand-Count Paper 1	Ballots
	_ A. Count of the # of absentee ballot enveloped processed into ballot box).	s (from which a ballot was removed and
	B. Count of the # of voters on the CVR List of accepted and processed.	of Absentee Voters with ballots designated as
	C. Discrepancy (A – B).	
D-4-#:	Signature of Clerk/Warden	Signature of Second Official
Date/time	Digitature of Cicik/ warden	pignature of poolid Official

Note: The Clerk must file a copy of this Log with the Return of Votes Cast within 2 business days after the election - by 5:00 pm on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

Uniform Guidelines for Securing Ballots and Other Materials for Early Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day DS200 Municipalities Rev. October 2020

1. Staffing requirements.

- 1.1. A minimum of 2 staff must be in attendance at all times during early processing, including when accessing the secure storage area for absentee ballots, or when transporting unprocessed or processed absentee ballots between the secure storage area and the processing location.
- **1.2.** The Clerk may designate municipal staff or election officials (Warden, Deputy Warden/Ward Clerk and election clerks) to early process the absentee ballots.
- 1.3. If election clerks are used for early processing, the requirements of 21-A MRSA section 503 shall apply.

2. Location for Early Processing.

- 2.1. The Clerk must designate a single location for early processing.
- 2.2. The location must be of sufficient size to accommodate all necessary staff, absentee ballot materials and the tabulating device(s) in one processing area, which must be surrounded by a guardrail enclosure similar to the one used on Election Day.
- **2.3.** The location must accommodate public access, outside the guardrail enclosure, at all times during early processing of absentee ballots. At a minimum, the public area outside the guardrail enclosure must be large enough to accommodate at least one pollwatcher from each of the qualified parties.
- 3. Ballots to be processed. The only ballots that may be processed prior to Election Day are ballots that meet the following requirements:
 - 3.1. Ballots received before the first time designated for early processing on each day that ballots are processed early, which have been added to the CVR and included on the List of Absentee Voters (which is then printed and used for early processing of the ballots); and
 - 3.2. Ballots that have been designated on the envelopes (in the Clerk's Notes section) as "OK to Cast"; and
 - **3.3.** Ballots that have been made available to the public during any inspection period requested by 9 a.m. on each day that absentee ballots are processed prior to Election Day. (If no inspection period has been requested, this requirement does not apply).
- 4. Ballots that may not be processed. The following ballots may not be processed early:
 - **4.1.** Ballots received prior to Election Day, after processing has begun on each day that absentee ballots are processed early. These ballots may be entered into the CVR, but **may not** be processed until Election Day or a subsequent scheduled date of early processing along with any ballots received on Election Day, at the times designated on the Notice of Election for processing on Election Day.
 - **4.2. Rejected ballots.** These <u>may not</u> be processed until after the polls close on Election Day, to allow the voters to vote either in person on Election Day or by a second absentee ballot. Be sure that the absentee ballot is designated as "Rejected" in CVR.

5. Use of official tabulating machine; verifying zero count before processing.

- 5.1. The Clerk must provide a DS200 tabulating machine for use in processing ballots.
- **5.2.** Before beginning to process ballots on the first day, the Clerk/Warden and 1 other staff must open both side doors to access the one large compartment of the DS200 tabulating machine, to show publicly that it is empty; re-lock the compartment doors; and secure the key until processing is completed.
- **5.3.** Before beginning to process ballots on the first day, the Clerk/Warden also must produce a "Zero" tape and verify that the public counter on the machine reads zero.
 - **NOTE:** If the Clerk is processing absentee ballots on more than one day and the same memory stick is being used for each day, the zero tape is only run on the first day of processing. On subsequent early processing days, the Clerk must confirm that the public counter displays the same count as it did when early processing concluded on the prior day and was recorded on the "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots".

6. Processing procedure.

- **6.1.** The requirements for pollwatching and challenging of ballots are the same as provided in Title 21-A for Election Day.
- **6.2.** The procedures for early processing of absentee ballots are the same as provided in Title 21-A for processing absentee ballots on Election Day (§759, §760-A).
- **6.3.** The Clerk/Warden must complete the "Warden's Log of Opening the Ballot Box", using the same process that is followed on Election Day, before any processed ballots may be removed or compressed.

7. Securing processed absentee envelopes and applications.

7.1. After processing the ballots, the empty absentee envelopes (with their applications attached, where applicable) must be placed in one or more boxes or envelopes (please do not use tamper-proof containers) separate from the ballots, which are sealed (and locked, if applicable) as required for voted materials on Election Day.

8. Logging and securing processed materials.

8.1. When processing is complete, the Clerk/Warden must record the public counter number on Line A of the "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots".

The Clerk/Warden must ensure that no tally tape of results is generated until <u>after</u> the polls close on Election Day and all voters have voted and all absentee ballots have been processed through the machines. If the Clerk is processing ballots on more than one day, a "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots" must be completed <u>each</u> day.

- **8.2.** Ballots that were scanned by the DS200 must be removed and immediately placed in one or more tamper-proof containers, labeled "Fully Counted Absentee Ballots for the *Name/Date* Election". Each container must be locked and sealed and the information recorded on a Certificate of Sealed Ballot Container.
- **8.3.** Ballots from the auxiliary bin that could not be scanned must be removed, without reviewing any votes cast. The officials must record the number of State ballots that were deposited into the auxiliary bin (but not the votes cast on these ballots) and indicate this number on line D of the "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots". These ballots must then be placed in one or more tamper-proof containers that are labeled "Auxiliary Ballots" for the *Name/Date* Election". Each container must be locked and sealed and the information recorded on a Certificate of Sealed Ballot Container.

NOTE: If the Clerk is processing absentee ballots on more than one day, the fully-counted ballots from each day can be sealed together and the ballots from the auxiliary bin can be sealed together. However, if the Clerk is using multiple machines for early processing, the ballots from the auxiliary bin must be sealed separately and marked as to the machine from which the ballots were removed. After the polls are closed on Election Day and the clerk runs the tape for the early processed ballots, the auxiliary ballots must be tallied on the appropriate "Tabulating Machine Tally Sheet".

8.4. Options for processing based on the number of tabulators and memory devices.

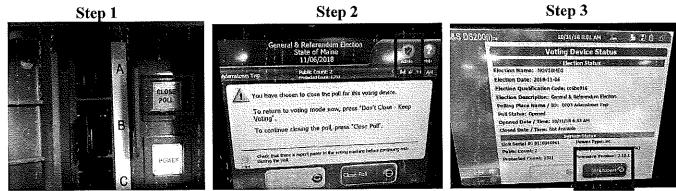
• Option 1. Use of more than 1 tabulator and memory stick. If the municipality has at least 2 DS200 tabulators and memory devices, the Clerk must test each memory device and lock it into its own tabulator. If using one or more tabulators for early processing, these same units can be assigned as either DS or absentee units for Election Day at the voting place. For example, if two units are used for early processing, one or both units can be used on Election Day with the DS stick(s). If one unit is designated just for absentees on Election Day, the same ABS stick used for early processing is used, adding additional absentee votes to the stick containing vote totals. Following early processing, the

officials must verify that the one large compartment of the tabulating machine/ballot box is empty and make it available for processing absentees only on Election Day.

Voters, however, MUST process their ballots through a unit with a DS stick on Election Day so that fully blank ballots and those containing an overvote provide a message on the screen allowing the option to make corrections.

The DS200 tabulating machine must be powered off without running any results following early processing by using the following procedure.

	Early Processing Shutdown Procedure
Step 1	Press "Close Poll" button for 1 second (located in memory stick compartment) DO NOT PRESS the "CLOSE POLL" option that will appear on the screen.
Step 2	Select the "Admin" icon at the top right of the screen.
Step 3	Select "Shutdown" on the screen.



(Note: The screenshots above are from 2018. The process is the same for this election).

Unplug the DS200 and place in a vault, or other locked and secure location, to which only the Clerk and the Clerk's designees have access. The memory device must remain locked in the machine. The machine may be removed from the secure storage area and used on the second day of early absentee processing and/or Election Day to process any absentee ballots that were received after the start of early processing and through 8 p.m. on Election Day. The Clerk will transport the second tabulator, with its own memory device, to the voting place and use it for Election Day voting according to the usual procedures. **OR**

• Option 2. Use of 1 tabulator with 2 memory devices. If the municipality only has 1 DS200 tabulator, but has at least 2 memory devices, the municipality still may process absentee ballots before Election Day by following the procedures in this section. The Clerk must test both memory devices and lock the absentee memory device in the tabulator for early absentee processing and secure the other memory device until early absentee processing is complete. After early absentee processing is completed, the officials must verify that the compartment of the tabulating machine/ballot box used for early processing is empty, power off the tabulator by using the early processing shutdown procedure described above (without running any results) and remove the memory device from the tabulator and secure it until after the polls close on Election Day.

The Clerk then must install and lock the 2nd memory device to be used on Election Day into the tabulator, unplug and place the tabulator in a vault, or other locked and secure location, to which only the Clerk and the Clerk's designees have access. The Clerk will remove the tabulator from the secure storage area and will transport the tabulator to the voting place to be used for Election Day voting

according to the usual procedures. The Clerk will transport the memory device used for early processing of absentee ballots to the voting place and keep it until after the polls have closed and the tally tapes have been printed from the Election Day memory device. Any absentee ballots that were received after the start of early processing and through 8 p.m. on Election Day, must either be processed at the voting place during Election Day using the Election Day memory device, or must be processed after 8 p.m. using the memory device used for early processing. After all Election Day voters have voted and the tally tapes have been printed, the Warden will power off the tabulator, remove the Election Day memory device from the tabulator, insert the early processing memory device and print the tally tapes reflecting the early processed absentee ballots. The Warden will complete a tally sheet for <u>each</u> memory device and combine these tallies on the Warden's Return of Votes Cast.

- 8.5. The locked and sealed tamper-proof containers of <u>fully counted</u> ballots from early processing must be placed in a vault, or other locked and secure location, to which only the Clerk and the Clerk's designees have access. As long as there is no malfunction in the tabulator that results in the ballots having to be reprocessed, these containers must be kept in the secure storage area and must not be taken to the polls, and must not be opened or have ballots removed either until a recount occurs or the time for retention of ballots in the tamper-proof containers has passed.
- 8.6. The locked and sealed tamper-proof containers of <u>auxiliary ballots</u> from early processing must be placed in a vault, or other locked and secure location, to which only the Clerk and the Clerk's designees have access. <u>On Election Day, the Clerk, along with another staff, must transport the tamper-proof containers of auxiliary ballots to the polling place or to the central location where the Clerk will process any remaining absentee ballots. The containers must remain within the guardrail enclosure, in view of all persons present, during Election Day, until the polls close.</u>
- 8.7. After the polls have closed on Election Day, and after all voters have voted and all additional absentee ballots have been processed into the ballot box, the Clerk/Warden must verify that the seal/lock on each tamper-proof container of auxiliary ballots matches the ones recorded on the Certificate of Sealed Ballot Container. The Clerk/Warden must then open these tamper-proof containers and remove the ballots to hand-count the auxiliary ballots, according to the Uniform Counting Procedures provided by the Secretary of State.
- **8.8.** The number of absentee voters, designated on the CVR List of Absentee Voters as having their ballots accepted and processed during the early processing times, must be recorded on line B of the "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots". Any discrepancy between line A and line B must be noted on line C. The Clerk/Warden and a second election official must date and sign the log, and a copy of the log must be submitted to the Division of Elections with the Return of Votes Cast (within 2 business days after the election). If the Clerk processes absentee ballots on more than one day, a separate "Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots" must be completed and filed for each day.

9. Designating Absentee Voters on the Incoming Voting List.

- 9.1. The Clerk or Registrar must enter each absentee voter's information into the absentee module of the CVR. Each voter who has had an absentee ballot designated as received and accepted in the system will have an "AV" printed on the Incoming Voting List beside the voter's name, so long as the absentee ballot entries are made before the Incoming Voting List is printed.
- **9.2.** If the Clerk receives absentee ballots from voters after the Incoming Voting List is printed for the election, the Clerk must follow the procedure in Title 21-A §760-A to ensure that the voting list is designated manually with an "AV" beside each voter's name, before the ballots are processed on Election Day.

Log of Early Processed Absentee Ballots

on	Date of Early Processing (Complete separate lo	g for each day processed)
	Municipality	
	For the November 3, 2020 G	General Election
	Tabulator Ball	ots
processing begins, "zero" tally tape fr completed for each count on the subse	om the machine. If Clerk is processing n day. If the Clerk is using the same mem	lic counter is set at zero and must also print a nore than one day, a separate log must be lory stick for more than one day, the public as at the end of early processing on the prior
P	3. Count of the # of voters on the CVR List designated as accepted and processed.	of Absentee Voters with ballots that are
processed this day.	C. Discrepancy (if any) between daily chang	ge of DS200 public counter and # of voters
	D. Count of the auxiliary ballots (that must	be tallied after the polls close on Election Day).
Date/time	Signature of Clerk/Warden	Signature of Second Official
Note: The Clerk r	nust file a copy of this Log with the Retur	rn of Votes Cast within 2 business days after

the election - by 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

DS200 Early Absentee Processing Checklist

1. Print an Absentee Voter Report in CVR and carefully proof the names against your accepted absentees to be early processed. You will use this report (not the Incoming Voting List) to check off names for ballots. (If you have already conducted early processing using an IVL, please use an absentee report if you are doing subsequent processing days) and print a new IVL for Election Day.

<u>Note:</u> If you batch absentees, you will use your proofed (batched) Absentee Voter Reports to check off names.

- 2. After the name is read and checked off the absentee report, unseal the absentee envelope and remove the ballot(s), keeping all ballots folded. If you have a local election, you will need to look at the top of the ballot only to distinguish the state ballot from the local ballot. Place state ballots (folded) in one bin and local ballots (folded) in a different bin.
- 3. Once you have accumulated multiple folded absentee ballots in your bin(s), you can begin processing the ballots through the DS200. You may also opt to check off and unseal all ballots to be processed, and then begin scanning depending on the number of ballots, DS units, and available staff or election clerks.
- 4. Insert ABS stick into slot B of DS while powered off. Power on.
- 5. Enter election code <u>slowly</u>. The Configuration Report will print. Verify that the 11/3/20 General Election is printed on the tape.
- 6. Open Poll. Ballot Status Accounting Report and Zero Totals will run. Go to Voting Mode.
- 7. Insert absentee ballots into the DS200 (one at a time). If any ballots cannot be scanned, place them in the front auxiliary bin of the ballot box. These will be locked up in a blue box for hand tallying on election night.
- 8. IMPORTANT READ THIS ENTIRE STEP! When all absentees have been scanned for early processing (for that day, if processing multiple days), push "Close Poll" button in left compartment.

 DO NOT PUSH CLOSE POLL WHEN IT APPEARS ON THE SCREEN. Select the Admin icon on the top right of your screen and then "Shutdown". No tapes will print (results cannot be tabulated until election night).
- 9. Remove ballots and lock and seal in blue tamper-proof container. Complete Certificate of Sealed Ballot Container and Log of Early Processed Ballots. Carefully record the public count on the tabulator and verify that it matches the total number on your Absentee Voter Report.
- 10. If you are processing on an additional day(s), lock your memory stick in the media compartment and secure the unit in a locked room until the next processing day.

If you are not processing multiple days, or it is your last day of processing, remove your ABS memory stick and lock it up until Election Day. Tear off the ABS tape (configuration report and Zero Totals) and seal in an envelope labeled, "11/3/20 General Election Early Processing Tape". (Add a unit # and ABS memory stick # if you have multiple units).

Election Day Checklist - Tabulation of DS and ABS Sticks

11. On Election Day, insert your DS stick into slot B of media compartment. If your town has multiple units and you have also designated a unit(s) for absentees only on Election Day, you can continue to use your early processing (ABS) stick

NOTE: Voters <u>must</u> insert ballots into a tabulator with a DS stick, as they are programmed to produce an alert message on the screen to warn the voter if they insert a fully blank or overvoted ballot.

- 12. Power on.
- 13. Enter election code (slowly)
- 14. Open Poll. Ballot Status Accounting Report and Zero Totals will print.
- 15. Go to Voting Mode
- 16. Confirm that the public count is zero. (If not, STOP and call Elections Division)
- 17. Voters may now insert ballots. Each ballot should increment by 1 on the public counter.
- 18. At 8:00 p.m. (after all voters in line have voted and all election day absentees have been processed), press down on the "Close Poll" button in the left compartment. Select "Close Poll" on the screen.
- 19. Two sets of results reports will automatically print, followed by the Write-in Review Report. If you would like an extra copy(s) of the results report for posting, etc., select Report Options Voting Results Detailed Polling Place.
- 20. After all reports finish printing, remove the DS tape and select "Finished Turn Off".
- 21. Once the DS unit is fully powered down, remove the DS election day stick.
- 22. Insert your ABS stick used for early processing. Power on.
- 23. Enter Election Code (slowly).
- 24. Verify that the public count matches the count you had on your ABS stick at the conclusion of early processing. A configuration report will automatically print.
- 25. Press "Close Poll" on the screen.
- 26. Two sets of results reports will automatically print, followed by the Write-in Review Report.
- 27. After all reports finish printing, remove the tape and select "Finished Turn Off". Remove the ABS tape.

Stocco, Janet

From:

Montell, Karen

Sent:

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 4:53 PM

To:

Legislature: Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Subject:

FW: [VLA] RE: procedures for early processing

Attachments:

AB Processing Date.xlsx

Hello VLA members,

Please see the attached for follow up information, as requested in today's meeting.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Montell Committee Clerk Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee (207) 287-1310 VLA@legislature.maine.gov

Please Note: Committees will not be receiving testimony at the State House complex at this time and will be conducting all meetings electronically. To register to provide oral testimony over the electronic platform or via a toll-free phone number, contact the committee clerk using the committee email address indicated above. To provide oral testimony, register no later than 30 minutes prior to the posted start time of the meeting; registrations received after that time will be accepted at the discretion of the committee chairs. Committee meetings may be heard at www.maineleqislature.org or viewed at www.youtube.com/mainestateleqislature.

Persons with special needs wishing to participate in a Legislative hearing who require accommodations should notify the Legislative Information Office as soon as possible: 207-287-1692, FAX 207-287-1580, lio@legislature.maine.qov.

From: Cook, Emily <Emily.Cook@maine.gov> Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 4:16 PM

To: Montell, Karen < Karen. Montell@legislature.maine.gov> **Subject:** RE: [VLA] RE: procedures for early processing

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hi Karen,



Another follow up with more data, per Rep. Corey's request. Patti Dubois collected this information from a handful of municipalities regarding early processing that was done prior to the November 2020 election. Can you share it with the Committee members?

Thanks, Emily

From: Cook, Emily

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:42 AM

To: Montell, Karen < <u>Karen.Montell@legislature.maine.gov</u>> **Subject:** RE: [VLA] RE: procedures for early processing



	# AB Processed Early # of hours processing # staff used	# of hours processing		# of staff hours Days Processed	Days Processed	ED staff or town	ED staff or town Inspection Requested Monitors Present # Machines Used	Monitors Present	# Machines Used
Lewiston	11,592	9	90		300 Sat only	Both	Yes	Yes	-
Bangor	12,700	18	18 25 first day, 10 other day		280 Weds Fri & Sat	Both	Yes	Yes	16 total; 8 city 8 state
Portland	31,000	78	10 plus	397	397 Every day available	Both	Yes	Yes	1 Hi Speed; 7 DS 200
W. Bath	800	4	30		20 Tues only	Both	Yes, but no show	No	1 state; 1 municipal
Waterville	900′9	9	30	180	180 Sat only	Both	Yes	Yes	8 total; 4 city 4 state
Raymond	1,736	10	9		60 Sat & Mon	ED staff	No	Yes	