

# Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail

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

Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM) systems will allow voters with disabilities, many of whom often rely on others to assist them in reading and marking their ballot 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 three systems, Democracy Live Secure Select 1.2.2, Five Cedars Group Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) v5.2.1 and Dominion ImageCast Remote 5.2.

## **How do RAVBM systems work?**

Generally, a RAVBM system gives a voter with a disability an opportunity to download a ballot, allowing them to read it and mark it using their own assistive technology device. At that point, the voter with a disability has to print 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 with a disability 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 you will receive from your 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 a RAVBM ballot?**

In some counties, a voter with a disability who would like to use the RAVBM system must have registered as a Vote-by-Mail voter. A voter may request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot or a RAVBM up to seven days prior to Election Day.<sup>1</sup> Voters in Voter's Choice Act counties, other than Los Angeles, do not have to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot this as they will

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<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.

automatically be receiving a ballot with the return envelope. They must however, request RAVBM.

### **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 with a disability 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 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.

**Individuals with Disabilities may also Contact Disability Rights California Voting Hotline for further information: 888-569-7955**