

PUBLIC INTEREST

— LEGAL FOUNDATION —

223K Clark County NV Mail Ballots Went to Wrong Addresses in 2020 Primary

County Returns: 17% of Clark County Voter Roll Shows Wrong Addresses

AUGUST 2020 -- Unlike Washoe County and others, Clark County (Las Vegas metro) opted to send actual mail ballots to every registered voter on file for the June 2020 Primary election. The figures released by the Clark County Election Department to the Foundation outline the risks of the forthcoming all-mail election for Nevada purely from cost and process error standpoints.

Prior to the election, county officials testified that an all-county mailing would be needlessly expensive and result in significant amounts of ballots sent to wrong or outdated addresses, given that “inactive” registrants would be included in the bulk mailings. They projected an expense of \$184,738 to send to inactive registrants with an expectation that at least 90% would bounce back undeliverable in the mail.

Clark County	
Total Mail Ballots Transmitted	1,325,934
Voter Returned & Accepted	305,008
USPS Undeliverable	223,469
% Undeliverable Active	42%
% Undeliverable Inactive	58%
Mailed to Active & Inactive Registrants	

Washoe County	
Total Mail Ballots Transmitted	291,434
Voter Returned & Accepted	95,824
USPS Undeliverable	27,640
% Undeliverable Active	100%
% Undeliverable Inactive	0%

Some Context

According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Surveys spanning the 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 General Elections, the entire state of **Nevada reported only 5,863 mail ballots returned undeliverable.**

What AB4 Does in November 2020

- All “active” registered voters will receive a mail ballot.
- Ballot harvesting: individuals other than family members will be able to return ballots for others.
- 140 polling places will be available throughout the state (down from 572 in 2016 Election)

PILF President J. Christian Adams

“These numbers show how vote by mail fails. New proponents of mail balloting don’t often understand how it actually works. States like Oregon and Washington spent many years building their mail voting systems and are notably aggressive with voter list maintenance efforts. Pride in their own systems does not somehow transfer across state lines. Nevada, New York, and others are not and will not be ready for November.”

Undeliverable Addresses by Party	
Democrat	92,337
Republican	53,129
Others	78,003
TOTAL	223,469

Undeliverable Addresses by Status		
Active	93,585	42%
Inactive	129,884	58%
TOTAL	223,469	100%

Sources

Clark County Voter Registrar Joe Gloria (August 3, 2020)

Washoe County Voter Registrar Deanna Spikula (June 10, 2020)

U.S. Election Assistance Commission; 2016 Election Administration & Voting Survey