



## OmniBallot Frequently Asked Questions

### Can you explain how OmniBallot is Secure?

OmniBallot is an electronic method of delivering and returning ballots via a secure online portal, hosted by Amazon's secure cloud, AWS. Importantly, the ballot that is counted and tabulated is on paper. The AWS cloud has been certified for use by federal agencies under FedRamp certification. FedRamp approval allows Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Defense, FBI, the National Security Agency (NSA) and virtually all other federal security and intelligence agencies to use AWS.

OmniBallot utilizes AWS Object Lock to ensure immutable document (ballot) storage. The voter's ballot selections are encrypted and securely stored in AWS. Object Lock meets all NIST and federal requirements for secure online storage of critical agency data, including ballot data.

The OmniBallot secure portal has been deployed in over 1,000 elections across hundreds of jurisdictions over the last decade. Serving voters in 96 countries around the world since 2010, the OmniBallot Portal is the most deployed balloting portal in the U.S.

### Is OmniBallot an “online voting” system?

No. OmniBallot is a paper-based electronic document transmission tool. At the end of the voting process, a paper ballot is downloaded by the elections administrator and printed for tabulation. A voter verified paper ballot is always available for a hand recount if necessary.

### Federal and State requirements?

Each of the nearly 8,000 elections jurisdictions in the United States are required by federal law to transmit ballots electronically to military and overseas voters. The majority of those ballots are transmitted by simple email attachments, or by fax machines. The purpose of OmniBallot is to improve security relating to federal and states required electronic transmission of ballots.

### Who is Democracy Live?

Seattle-based Democracy Live is the largest provider of cloud-based balloting in the U.S. The company has been selected by the United States Department of Defense and deployed in over twenty states to deliver secure, accessible online balloting to millions of U.S. voters in over 90 countries and on every continent. Democracy Live was awarded the 2019 Accessibility in Voting Award presented at the United Nations, the 2019 AWS Best Civic Tech Award voted on by State CIO's and CTO's and a two-time winner of the Elections Center Independence Award presented to our counties for leveraging OmniBallot for voters with disabilities.

### How does OmniBallot work?

Voters using OmniBallot log into OmniBallot portal via any smart device, or computer to access, mark and return their ballot. Voters mark their ballot on their device and are offered a choice to print and mail, or electronically return their ballot. If a voter chooses to electronically return their ballot, they are prompted to credential themselves and sign their name on their smart device touch pad. The signature and ballot is then downloaded from the secure portal by the elections authority for signature review. If the signature is approved, the ballot is printed and tabulated in the same conventional manner as current tabulation.




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## High Level Ballot Flow




1. Voter marks ballot on smart device
2. Voter chooses paper or electronic submission
3. Voter signs on screen (or on paper)
4. Signature page and ballot are downloaded from Portal
5. Ballot is printed for tabulation

Signature and Ballot are downloaded from secure OmniBallot portal by the elections authority.



**Secure Portal with Electronic Ballot Return**



AWS Object Lock Secures Ballot PDF and Signature Page

1. Signature Affidavit
2. Marked Ballot
3. Ballot Printed onto Ballot Stock for Tabulation

## Independent Security Review

ShiftState Security is a cybersecurity services firm focused on applying enterprise security insights and practices to organizations looking for a more comprehensive approach to security. Founded by veteran FBI Cyber Special Agents Truppi, ShiftState provides security assessment services to companies of all sizes. Democracy Live also underwent testing conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. OmniBallot has been reviewed by over 100 Cybersecurity researchers. In over 1,000 elections deployments and through numerous testing, OmniBallot has never been compromised or breached.