OMNIBALLOT

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 <u>paper</u>. 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 4,000 elections in over 2,000 jurisdictions. Serving voters in 96 countries around the world since 2008, the OmniBallot Portal is the most deployed balloting portal in the U.S.

Is OmniBallot an "online voting" system?

No. OmniBallot is not an online voting system. Voting systems create ballots, tabulates ballots and reports ballot totals. OmniBallot does none of these. Similar to DocuSign℠ and other document transmission tools, OmniBallot simply hosts and transmits a markable document (the ballot). At the end of the voting process, a paper ballot is downloaded by either the voter, or the elections administrator and printed. Tabulation is done on an entirely separate system. A voter verified paper ballot is always available for a hand recount if necessary.

Did you know?

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 even fax machines. (Perhaps the least secure method of transmitting sensitive data.) OmniBallot has been designed and deployed as a *security upgrade over email and fax balloting.*

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, U.S. State Department and deployed in 29 states to deliver secure, accessible electronic balloting to nearly 20 million voters. Democracy Live was awarded the 2019 Accessibility in Voting Award presented at the United Nations, winner of the AWS Civic Tech Innovation 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 (King County Elections) for signature review. If the signature is approved, the ballot is printed and tabulated in the same conventional manner as current tabulation.
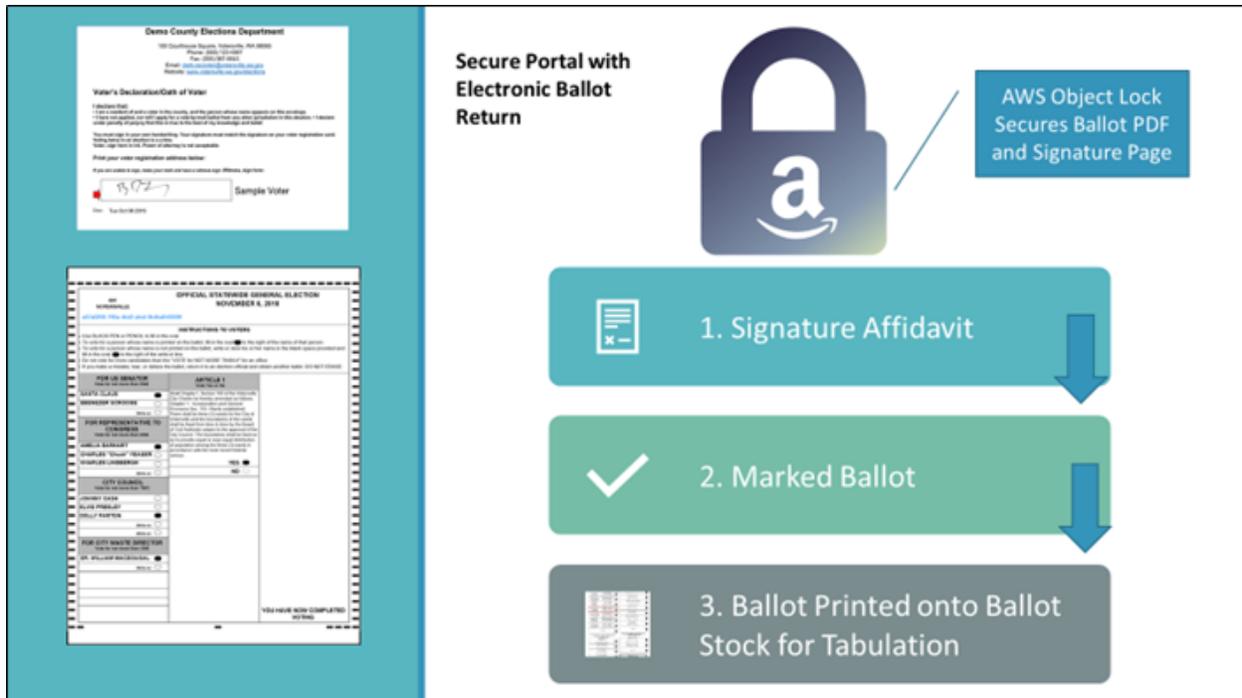

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High Level Ballot Flow

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 (King County Elections).

Independent Security Review

OmniBallot is the only electronic ballot delivery solution to be reviewed and funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. State Department, penetration tested by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, reviewed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), multiple state cybersecurity reviews and tested by over 100 leading cybersecurity researchers.

OmniBallot was tested by the CISA-sponsored Test Laboratory, Idaho National Labs, to work with Apple and Android devices and Window-based machines.

Unparalleled in the elections industry, over 1,000 independent cybersecurity researchers have access to OmniBallot to test the integrity and security of the OmniBallot platform. Additionally, OmniBallot is independently monitored 24/7 by an independent cybersecurity firm, Critical Insight, to monitor all digital traffic, network activity and application integrity. All monitoring logs, reports and activity are available to Democracy Live customers. This level of independent testing of a voting technology is unprecedented in U.S. elections.

"Working with cybersecurity researchers from around the world, Synack conducts ongoing tests of the Democracy Live OmniBallot system. In the independent testing from a pool of over 1,500 cybersecurity researchers, OmniBallot and the integrity of the system has never been compromised." – Synack Cybersecurity