

# Mark's Journey

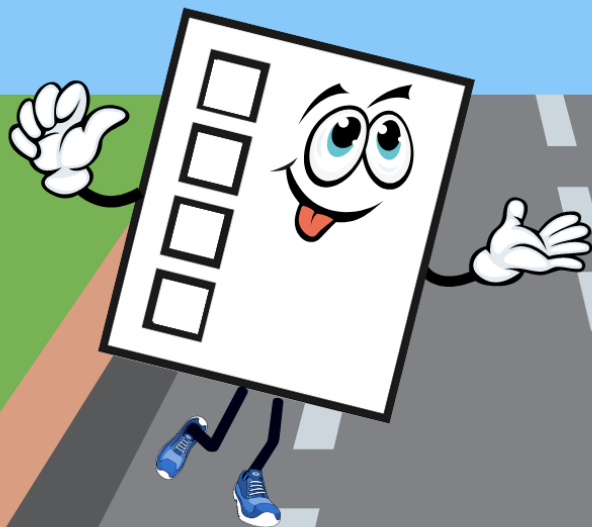
**NORTH  
CAROLINA**  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



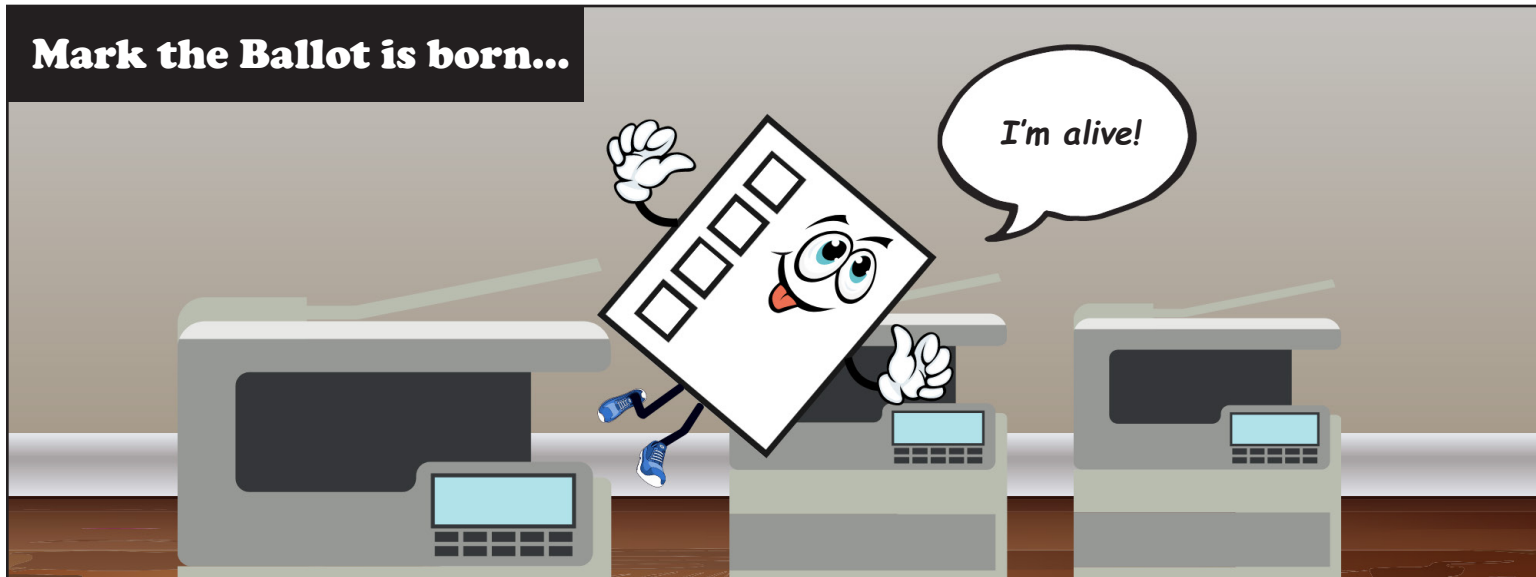
Printer



Tabulator

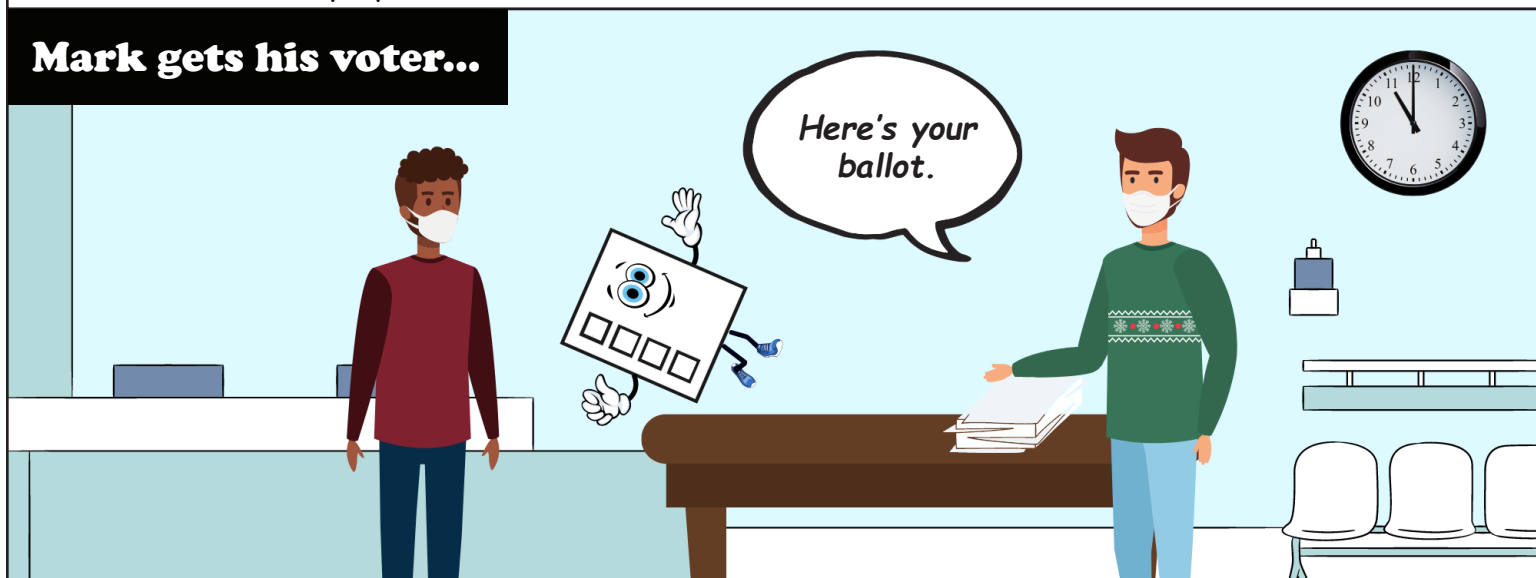


## Mark the Ballot is born...



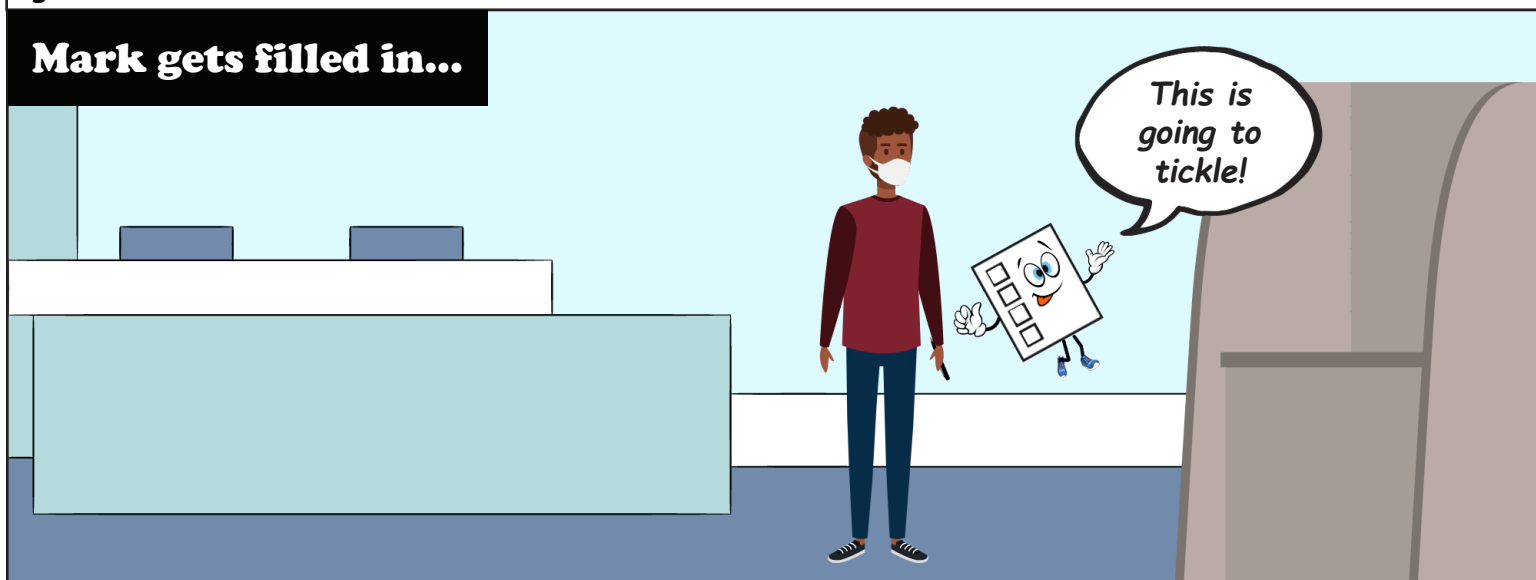
Ballots are printed after they are designed and proofread by election officials to ensure they will be counted correctly by a tabulator.

## Mark gets his voter...



When the voter checks in to their polling place, the election worker checks their eligibility and gives them the correct ballot.

## Mark gets filled in...



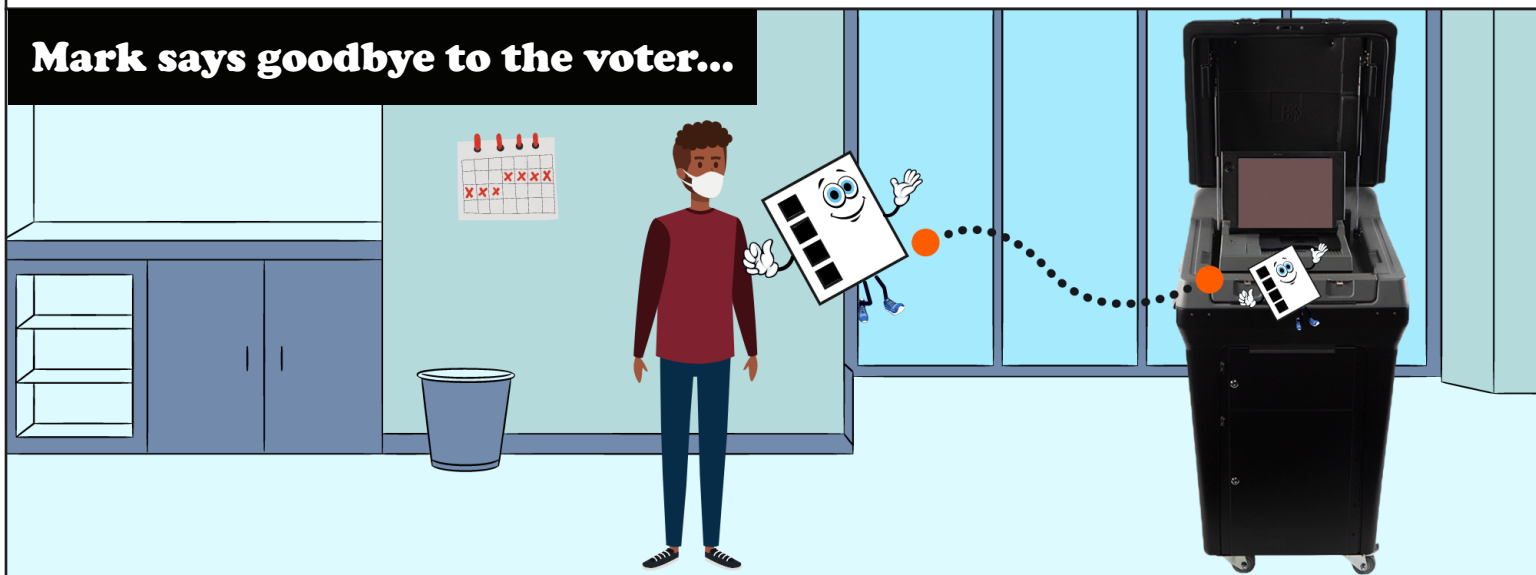
The voter marks their selections with a pen, completely filling in the bubbles or squares.

## In other counties...



The voter makes their selections on the touchscreen ExpressVote, which then prints a paper record of the voter's choices for tabulation.

## Mark says goodbye to the voter...



The voter inserts the ballot or paper record into a tabulator and receives confirmation that their ballot was accepted.

## Mark is counted and joins the other voted ballots as results...



The ballot is counted and ballot selections are added to the overall results tallies, which are recorded digitally and on paper inside the tabulator.

## Mark and his ballot friends are collected...



Bipartisan election officials pick up voted ballots at the end of the voting day and store them securely at the county elections office.

## Mark is audited...



After every election, in every county, a sample of ballots are randomly selected for hand-to-eye counts and compared to machine results.

## Mark gets stored...



As required by federal law, all ballots are kept in a secure location for at least 22 months in case they're needed for recounts or audits.