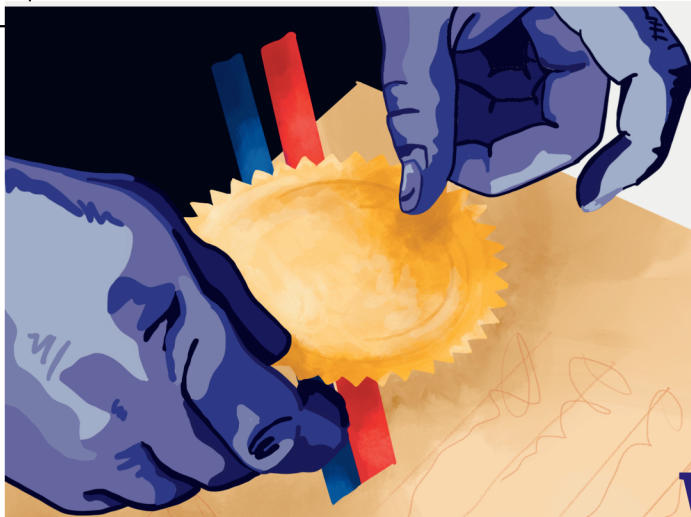




# WHAT IS ELECTION CERTIFICATION?

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# What is Election Certification?



Election certification is the official process of approving election results before they become final. This happens after every ballot has been counted. The role of election certification is not to confirm the final vote count, but to demonstrate that election officials have confirmed vote counts, resolved any outstanding issues, and conducted the election according to the law. Once this certification process has taken place, the results are considered the final outcome.

State laws require elections officials to complete this process. This means that election officials cannot refuse to participate or sign the verification papers, even if they don't like the outcome.

For presidential elections, each state certifies its popular vote results. Then there is a required final federal step to close out the process, where congress counts the electoral votes and declares who won the election.

**Discussion Question:** Do you think election certification is important? Why or why not?

Sources: [www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-results-canvass-and-certification](http://www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-results-canvass-and-certification)  
[www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48309](http://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48309)



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