

# VOTING IN BATTLEGROUND STATES

*Key information on when and how to vote*

This memo provides up-to-date information on voter registration deadlines, early and absentee voting practices, potential changes in voting laws, and the status of COVID-19 in key Senate and presidential battleground states. The introduction highlights the newest and most important changes in voting laws as well as defines important voting rules that will be referenced throughout the document. Some legislation and court cases are ongoing and the timing subject to change, so their expected timelines are reflected. This information is updated as of September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

# INTRODUCTION

---

## Recent changes in voting laws and practices

- A judge in Wisconsin issued an order extending the mail-in ballot receipt deadline in the state to November 9<sup>th</sup> for ballots postmarked on or before Election Day
- A judge in Michigan issued a ruling extending the state's mail-in ballot receipt deadline to November 17<sup>th</sup> for ballots postmarked on or before November 2<sup>nd</sup> and also authorized voters to allow any third party to return their ballots from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued rulings that extended the mail-in ballot receipt deadline and authorized the use of drop boxes for returning mail-in ballots
- Pennsylvania election officials issued guidance stating that counties cannot reject a mail-in ballot due solely to a perceived mismatch between the signature on the return envelope and the signature on the voter's registration record, thus striking down signature matching

## Definitions of voting rules

(**positive for voting rights** / **negative for voting rights** / **mixed**)

- **No excuse absentee voting** – voters need not provide a specific reason to vote absentee; without this rule, voters can only qualify for an absentee ballot under certain conditions
- **Early voting** – casting a vote in person ahead of election day
- **In-person absentee voting** – dropping off an absentee ballot at a designated location
- **Same day voter registration** – voters can register on the day of the election
- **Permanent absentee list** – once a voter is added to the list, they will automatically receive an absentee ballot for all future elections

- **Automatic voter registration** – eligible voters are automatically registered to vote and have the option to opt out instead of having to opt in to the voter registry
- **Curbside voting** – a poll worker brings a ballot out to a voter’s car, where the voter fills it out, and then the poll worker collects the ballot
- **Voter assistance** – a third party helping voters get to the polls or fill out ballots
- **Ballot collection** – volunteers gathering and submitting absentee ballots
- **Postmark deadline** – counting all ballots that were sent after a certain day (usually Election Day) instead of rejecting those received after Election Day
- **Signature matching** – requiring the signature on a ballot to exactly match the signature on voter registration documents; if the signature does not perfectly match, as signatures often do not, the ballot is rejected
- **Voter ID laws** – requiring a form of identification to verify a voter’s identity in order to vote, sometimes only allowing specific government-issued forms of photo ID
- **Witness requirement** – when a witness must sign an absentee ballot in order for it to be counted
- **Postage requirement** – requiring voters to pay for postage on their absentee ballot
- **Transportation ban** – making it illegal for volunteers to take voters to the polls
- **Voter purge** – removing voters names from the voter roll, making them unable to vote in the election because they are no longer registered
- **Absentee ballot return deadline** – requiring absentee ballots to be received at the election office by the date of the election, rejecting votes mailed before election day but received after the deadline

# ALABAMA: SENATE

---

## Registration Deadlines

- October 19<sup>th</sup>: Voter registration deadline online or by mail (mail must be received)
- October 29<sup>th</sup>: Deadline to request an absentee ballot
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00pm: Deadline to return an absentee ballot in-person or postmark a mail-in ballot
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00pm: Mail-in ballot must be received
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm

## Early and Absentee Voting Rules

- Excuse required for an absentee ballot, but COVID-19 will be accepted as an excuse
- No early voting
- No in-person absentee voting
- Absentee ballot return deadline
- Witness requirement
- Photo ID requirement
- Ban on curbside voting

## Legal Challenges to Voting Rules

- The secretary of state extended an emergency rule to allow people to vote absentee due to COVID-19 through the general election
- The Supreme Court ruled that for now Alabama does not have to abide with lower-court decisions that allowed curbside voting and made it easier to cast a mail-in ballot, allowing Alabama's strict mail-in ballot rules to remain in place
- Bill introduced to enact no excuse absentee voting (Alabama Legislature not scheduled to meet until the spring of 2021)
- Bill introduced to expand early in-person voting

- A federal appeals court ruled that Alabama's photo ID law can remain in force, but the ACLU is petitioning for a rehearing of the case

## **COVID-19**

- Just experienced a severe spike in cases and deaths, but cases are slowly decreasing
- Retail stores, restaurants, bars, hair salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues, and gyms are all open, but further reopenings have paused
- Governor has issued a mask requirement until October 2<sup>nd</sup>

# **ARIZONA: SENATE AND PRESIDENTIAL**

---

## **Registration Deadlines**

- October 5<sup>th</sup>: Registration deadline
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: Deadline to request an absentee ballot
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm: Deadline to return completed absentee ballot  
→ the state has agreed to review ballots achieved after election day
- Election Day Hours: 6:00am to 7:00pm

## **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- Can request ballots by mail with or without joining the permanent absentee list
- No witness requirement
- Early voting
- No absentee ballot return deadline
- No in-person absentee voting
- Signature matching

- **No ballot collection except for by family members and caregivers**

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- The Secretary of State agreed to expand voting opportunities for minorities throughout the state in a settlement agreement
- DNC suing the Secretary of State to allow voters five business days after federal elections to correct ballots that may be rejected for lacking a signature
- Bill introduced to implement automatic voter registration (Arizona State Legislature adjourned for the year, but may return for special sessions)
- Bill introduced to expand early in-person voting
- Bill introduced to prohibit the use of school IDs for voter verification and eliminate the ability to use other identity verification documents
- Arizona Republicans, backed by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and several Republican Senators, asked the Supreme Court for permission to revive a policy that allows administrators to throw away miscast ballots and another that bans ballot collection. These rules were struck down by a lower court as racially discriminatory, and if the Supreme Court agrees to take up the appeal, then Arizona will likely be able to carry out its restrictions in November (decision likely to arrive in fall)

### **COVID-19**

- Cases and hospitalizations have drastically declined since their peak in early summer, although they've seen a slight uptick recently
- Retail stores, restaurants, barbershops and salons, houses of worship, casinos, and pools and spas are all open, but the Governor has reversed the opening of certain businesses, closing bars, movie theaters, gyms, and waterparks

# COLORADO: SENATE

---

## Registration Deadlines

- October 26<sup>th</sup>: Last day to register for a mail-in ballot, early voting begins
- Same-day voter registration
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm: Deadline to return completed absentee ballot
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm

## Early and Absentee Voting Rules

- All registered voters automatically receive a ballot in the mail, no application needed
- Early voting available
- No witness requirement
- Signature matching
- Absentee ballot return deadline

## Legal Challenges to Voting Rules

- None

## COVID-19

- Cases are moderately increasing
- Retail stores, restaurants, salons and personal services, houses of worship, entertainment venues like museums, fairs, and rodeos, outdoor recreation, gyms, offices, and manufacturing are all open, but the Governor reversed some reopenings, closing some bars but allowing others to remain open

# FLORIDA: PRESIDENTIAL

---

## Registration Deadlines

- October 5<sup>th</sup>: Registration deadline
- October 24<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballot request must be received by mail, start of early voting
- October 31<sup>st</sup>: In-person absentee ballot request deadline, end of early voting
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Deadline to return completed absentee ballot
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm

## Early and Absentee Voting Rules

- No excuse absentee voting
- Early voting available
- No witness requirement
- Signature matching
- Absentee ballot return deadline
- Voter assistance ban

## Legal Challenges to Voting Rules

- A federal appellate court stayed a lower court ruling that removed Florida's requirement that former felons pay their legal fees before their voting rights are reinstated, giving no timeline as to when the court would hear the case
- Progressive groups suing Governor DeSantis and state election officials over mail-in voting rules (scheduled to be heard in late July)
  - Postage requirement
  - Election Day receipt deadline
  - Voter assistance ban – makes it a misdemeanor for any individual paid by an organization to assist with returning more than two mail-in ballots each election
- Suit to expand early voting from two weeks to three



- Bill introduced to institute same-day voter registration (Florida Legislature does not meet until 2021)
- Bill introduced to impose further restrictions on voter assistance
- Bill introduced to make it a felony to register or attempt to register to vote if the applicant is not a US citizen
- Progressive groups agreed to drop a lawsuit challenging Florida's mail-in voting laws in exchange for assurances that the state will educate voters on mail-in voting options
- The Supreme Court ruled against waiving the requirement that convicted felons in Florida pay their court fines before regaining the ability to vote

### **COVID-19**

- Cases continue to decrease since an intense spike over the summer
- Retail stores, restaurants, bars, salons and tattoo parlors, houses of worship, entertainment venues like sporting events without spectators, movie theaters, and concert halls, beaches, and gyms are open
- Schools are reopening

## **GEORGIA: SENATE AND PRESIDENTIAL**

---

### **Registration Deadlines**

- October 5<sup>th</sup>: Voter registration deadline
- October 12<sup>th</sup>: Early voting begins
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballot request must be received, last day of early voting
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballots must be postmarked
- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00pm

- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm
  - In all cities with a population of 300,000 or more, polling places stay open until 8:00pm

### **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- Early voting available
- No witness requirement
- Drop boxes for absentee ballot collection
- Signature matching
- Absentee ballot return deadline

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- Significant issues with long wait times in primary election
- Fair Fight is suing the state over voting practices like voter purges, registration applications put on hold, and signature matching (lawsuit has been ongoing since 2018)
- The State Election Board agreed to extend two emergency rules allowing local election offices to continue offering drop boxes for absentee ballots and to again start processing ballots early
- Lawsuit to require the state to cover the cost of postage for mail-in ballots
- A judge in Georgia issued an order extending the return deadlines for absentee ballots, so the state must count any ballots postmarked by Election Day and received by 7:00pm on November 6<sup>th</sup>

### **COVID-19**

- Cases have been steadily decreasing since their peak in late summer, although they remain somewhat high
- Retail stores, restaurants, hair salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues, bars, nightclubs, and gyms are all open
- Schools are reopening

# IOWA: SENATE AND PRESIDENTIAL

---

## Registration Deadlines

- October 24<sup>th</sup>: Voter registration deadline
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballot request deadline
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballot return deadline
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 9:00pm

## Early and Absentee Voting Rules

- No excuse absentee voting
- No witness requirement
- In-person absentee voting available
- No signature matching
- No early voting
- Voter ID laws
- Absentee ballot return deadline

## Legal Challenges to Voting Rules

- Challenges to voter ID laws (a judge upheld Iowa's voter ID law in late 2019)
- Bill introduced to implement automatic voter registration (Iowa Legislature currently in session)
- The Governor of Iowa signed an executive order granting convicted felons the right to vote
- A voting rights group sued Iowa over a law that bars election officials from using existing voter registration data to fill out incomplete absentee ballot requests
  - The Trump campaign, the Republican Party of Iowa, and other groups filed a motion asking the court to dismiss the lawsuit

- Iowa lawmakers approved of the secretary of state's proposal to send applications for mail-in ballots to all active registered voters

## **COVID-19**

- Just experienced a sharp spike in cases, and after a modest recovery, cases are again increasing
- Retail stores, malls, restaurants, spas, salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues like movie theaters, casinos, and amusement parks, outdoor recreation, and gyms are all open, and the Governor has allowed bars in all but two counties to open
- Schools are open

# **MAINE: SENATE**

---

## **Registration Deadlines**

- Voter registration deadline varies by locality
- October 12<sup>th</sup>: Start of in-person absentee voting
- October 19<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for postmark of in-person voter registration request or postmark of mail-in voter registration deadline
- October 29<sup>th</sup>: End of in-person absentee voting
- October 31<sup>st</sup>: Absentee ballot return deadline
- Election Day Hours: 6:00am to 8:00pm
  - Polling places in municipalities with a population of less than 500 open between 6:00am and 10:00am
  - Those with a population of 500 or more open between 6:00am and 8:00am

## **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- In-person absentee voting
- Early voting
- Same day voter registration

- Voters can only request ballots starting 90 days before the election
- Signature matching
- Absentee ballot return deadline

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- Challenge to rank choice voting
- Governor signed an automatic voter registration bill into law, scheduled to be implemented in 2022
- A lawsuit is challenging several voting laws and practices that restrict absentee voting, including failure to accept online voter registration applications, a photo ID law, a postage requirement, criminalization of ballot collection, witness requirements, ballot return deadline, and signature matching (filed 6/25)
- Maine's governor signed an executive order extending the mail-in voter registration deadline from October 13<sup>th</sup> to October 19<sup>th</sup>

### **COVID-19**

- Few cases and deaths overall, and cases have been fairly level
- Retail stores, restaurants, bars for outdoor service, hair salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues like movie theaters and casinos, outdoor recreation, and gyms are all open, but some reopenings have been delayed, including indoor service at bars

## **MICHIGAN: SENATE AND PRESIDENTIAL**

---

### **Registration Deadlines**

- October 20<sup>th</sup>: Mail-in voter registration must be received
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot, start of third party ballot return period

- November 2<sup>nd</sup>: In-person absentee voting, absentee ballots must be postmarked
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Third party ballot return deadline
- November 17<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballot return deadline
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 8:00pm

### **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- In-person absentee voting
- Same day voter registration
- Can apply for a single absentee ballot and/or join the permanent absentee list
- Absentee ballot applications automatically sent to all registered voters
- Signature matching
- Absentee ballot return deadline
- Voter assistance and transportation ban

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- Challenges to mail-in voting rules including absentee ballot return deadline, postage requirement, voter assistance ban, and transportation ban (lawsuit currently being heard in court)
- Conservative group suing the Michigan Secretary of State over decision to automatically send absentee ballot applications to all registered voters
- A judge in Michigan issued a ruling extending the state's mail-in ballot receipt deadline to November 17<sup>th</sup> for ballots postmarked on or before November 2<sup>nd</sup> and also authorized voters to allow any third party to return their ballots from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **COVID-19**

- Cases have plateaued since an uptick in mid-summer, but they have not decreased to their low level prior to reopening

- Retail stores, restaurants, bars for outdoor service, hair salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues like theaters, nightclubs, and casinos, outdoor recreation, gyms, manufacturing, construction, and offices are open, but the Governor has reversed some reopenings, limiting indoor gatherings to 10 people and closing bars for indoor service
- Governor has issued a mask mandate

## **MONTANA: SENATE**

---

### **Registration Deadlines**

- October 5<sup>th</sup>: Regular in-person voter registration deadline, mail-in request postmarked
- October 8<sup>th</sup>: Post received for mail-in voter registration
- October 13<sup>th</sup>: Start of in-person absentee voting
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot, last day of in-person absentee voting
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballot return deadline, can same-day register in-person at county election office
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 8:00pm
  - Some locations open at noon and close once all registered voters have voted

### **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- Almost entirely mail-in voting
- No excuse absentee voting
- Can join the permanent absentee list
- In-person absentee voting available
- Same day voter registration for in-person voting
- Signature matching
- Absentee ballot return deadline

## **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- A Montana court temporarily blocked a law that restricted ballot collection efforts on Native American reservations, allowing expanded access to voting during the primary (pending further hearings for general election)
- Governor Steve Bullock of Montana issued a directive permitting counties to conduct the general election entirely by mail and expand early voting opportunities
- The RNC and the Trump campaign filed a lawsuit against Montana over its implementation of universal mail-in voting

## **COVID-19**

- Very few cases and deaths overall, but new cases and deaths are drastically increasing
- Retail stores, restaurants, bars, salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues like movie theaters, concert venues, and casinos, outdoor recreation, and gyms are all open
- Schools have reopened
- Governor has issued a mask mandate in certain counties and in schools

# **NORTH CAROLINA: SENATE AND PRESIDENTIAL**

---

## **Registration Deadlines**

- October 9<sup>th</sup>: Voter registration deadline
- October 15<sup>th</sup>: Start of early voting
- October 27<sup>th</sup>: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot
- October 31<sup>st</sup>: Last day of early voting



- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00pm: In-person absentee ballot return deadline, absentee ballot postmark deadline
- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Mail-in absentee ballot return deadline
- Election Day Hours: 6:30am to 7:30pm
  - The hours can be extended if polling times are delayed or interrupted by more than 15 minutes

### **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- Early voting
- In-person early voting
- Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received three days after election day
- Witness requirement
- Signature matching
- No ballot collection
- No permanent absentee list
- Voter ID law

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- Challenges to ballot receipt deadline, ballot collection rules, signature matching, witness requirement, and voter ID law, and seek to extend the 17 days of early voting to 21 days (being heard in court currently)
  - A federal judge refused to order these changes, but the judge told election officials that they cannot reject mail-in absentee ballots unless there's a way that voters can fix errors
- Lawsuit to restore voting rights to former felons (pending)
- The ACLU brought a new lawsuit that seeks to block the witness requirement for mail-in voting (pending)
- General Assembly lawmakers asked a North Carolina Superior Court to lift an injunction on the state's photo ID law after a new elections law

made the photo ID requirement less strict, removing the court's rationale for blocking the law in the first place (pending)

- Progressive groups filed a lawsuit to challenge North Carolina's signature matching law, asking the court to set a system that notifies voters of any issues and allows them to cure their ballots over email, fax, or in person (pending)

## **COVID-19**

- Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths all recently surged, but have begun to decrease from their peak
- Retail stores, restaurants, salons and barbershops, houses of worship, gyms, museums, and pools are open, but the Governor has paused the state's reopening so bars and movie theaters are closed
- Only hybrid or remote instruction allowed in schools

# **PENNSYLVANIA: PRESIDENTIAL**

---

## **Registration Deadlines**

- October 19<sup>th</sup>: Voter registration deadline
- October 27<sup>th</sup>: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballots must be postmarked
- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballot receipt deadline
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 8:00pm

## **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- In-person absentee voting
- No signature matching
- Ballot drop boxes
- No early voting
- Absentee ballot return deadline

## Legal Challenges to Voting Rules

- Pennsylvania announced that the state will pay for return postage on all absentee ballots
- Pennsylvania's state elections agency is asking lawmakers to require counties to distribute mail-in ballots earlier in November and for future elections and to count ballots as long as they arrive by the Friday after the election as long as they were postmarked by Election Day
- Pennsylvania agreed to a change proposed in a lawsuit and asked a court to extend the ballot receipt deadline and count any ballot postmarked by Election Day and received by the third day following the election
- Pennsylvania election officials issued guidance stating that counties cannot reject a mail-in ballot due solely to a perceived mismatch between the signature on the return envelope and the signature on the voter's registration record, thus striking down signature matching
- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued rulings that extended the mail-in ballot receipt deadline and authorized the use of drop boxes for returning mail-in ballots

## COVID-19

- Cases have plateaued after a recent surge, but are not yet decreasing
- Retail stores, malls, restaurants, bars, hair salons and barbershops, houses of worship, casinos, theaters, outdoor recreation, and gyms are all open

# TEXAS: SENATE AND PRESIDENTIAL

---

## Registration Deadlines

- October 5<sup>th</sup>: Voter registration deadline
- October 13<sup>th</sup>: Early voting starts

- October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballot request post received deadline
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: Early voting ends
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballot postmark deadline
- November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm: Absentee ballot post received deadline
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm

### **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- **Early voting**
- **Absentee ballot must be postmarked by election day, but can be received the day after**
- **No in-person absentee voting**
- **Excuse necessary for absentee voting, except for voters 65 and older**
- **Photo ID requirement**
- **No ballot collection**
- **Signature matching**

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- Texas's governor issued a proclamation extending the early voting period by nearly a week and allowing mail-in ballots to be delivered in person through Election Day
- The Texas Supreme Court put on hold a proposed expansion of absentee voting that would make lacking immunity to coronavirus a valid excuse to obtain an absentee ballot (lawsuits challenging this decision are ongoing)
- The Supreme Court denied to hear on an expedited basis a case challenging the denial of no excuse absentee voting to voters under 65, essentially ensuring that the rule will stay in place through November
- A lawsuit in Texas claims that in-person voting rules will disenfranchise Black and Latino voters during the pandemic and asks a federal judge to require a month of early voting, a mask mandate at polling places, a suspension of rules that limit curbside voting, the opening of additional polling places, and a temporary reprieve from a

law that ended the practice of setting up temporary and mobile early voting sites

## **COVID-19**

- Cases have significantly decreased since a surge over the summer, but they are currently plateauing at a fairly high number of daily cases
- Retail stores, malls, restaurants, salons and barbershops, houses of worship, entertainment venues like movie theaters, museums, and rodeos, outdoor recreation, gyms, offices, and manufacturing are open, and businesses can operate at 75% capacity, but bars are closed
- Schools are open

# **WISCONSIN: PRESIDENTIAL**

---

## **Registration Deadlines**

- October 14<sup>th</sup>: Online voter registration deadline, mail-in registration must be postmarked
- October 29<sup>th</sup>: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: In-person voter registration deadline, mail-in registration must be received
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Absentee ballots must be postmarked
- November 9<sup>th</sup>: Absentee ballot receipt deadline
- Election Day Hours: 7:00am to 8:00pm

## **Early and Absentee Voting Rules**

- No excuse absentee voting
- In-person absentee voting
- Early voting (dates vary by municipality)
- Absentee ballot application automatically sent to registered voters
- Witness requirement
- Absentee ballot return deadline
- Photo ID requirement

- **Signature matching**

### **Legal Challenges to Voting Rules**

- The Wisconsin Elections Commission agreed to send 2.7 million registered voters forms to request an absentee ballot for the presidential election
- Disastrous primary election during pandemic showed serious flaws with absentee ballot system
- Lawsuits challenging voter purges, signature matching, and absentee ballot return deadline, and seeking to require the state to send every voter an absentee ballot request form, hire more poll workers, and expand voter education (decision expected by end of August)
- A court ruled that a person who has moved to Wisconsin must establish residency at least 28 days before voting, up from 10 days previously, and the ruling also determined that ballots can only be sent by mail and early voting cannot begin more than 14 days prior to Election Day
- A judge in Wisconsin issued an order extending the mail-in ballot receipt deadline in the state to November 9<sup>th</sup> for ballots postmarked on or before Election Day (appeals expected within a week)

### **COVID-19**

- New cases are steadily increasing and reaching all-time highs
- Retail stores, restaurants, bars, hair salons and barbershops, houses of worship, outdoor recreation, and gyms are all open
- Governor has issued a mask mandate