Know Your Options

Since March, COVID-19 has transformed every aspect of our daily lives, including the way in which we may vote. As we near the election, ADL will promote efforts that make voting accessible for all citizens so that all are able to take part in this critical aspect of our democracy. Below you will find information on registration and voting options:

Registration
- Many states allow you to register online using this link. If you do not register in person, you must bring your ID with you. Many states only accept photo ID’s, find out what your state requires here.
- Citizens over the age of 18 have the constitutional right to vote, unless stripped as the result of a crime or mental incapacitation. Not sure if you can vote? Check here.

Where to Vote?
- Depending on the address from which you register to vote, you may have a different polling center. Check your polling center here.

What to Bring
- If you did not register in person, you must bring your ID with you. Many states only accept photo ID’s, find out what your state requires here.
- To protect yourself from COVID-19:
  - Cloth face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, protect yourself and others.
  - Hand sanitizer.
  - Remember to practice social distancing within polling centers.
  - Bring your own personal black ink pen, or stylus/similar object for use with touchscreen voting machines.

Early Voting
- Allows citizens to vote on their own time, usually spread out over a 14-day period plus election day. This helps to reduce the amount of people in the building, which helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Early voting is a great option if you are educated on the issues and candidates – one should be aware that there could be a late breaking development in a campaign that voters would not get to consider if they had already voted.
- Forty states, including Washington, D.C., allow early voting. A full early voting schedule by state is available here.
Mail in Voting
- Each state has an option to vote by mail, but you may have to meet certain criteria (i.e. absentee ballots)
- Some states require an excuse for voting by mail. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain states are allowing all residents to vote by mail; your state may automatically send you an absentee ballot or a form to fill out to request one.
- Five states conduct all elections by mail: Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington

Absentee Ballots
- If you cannot make it to the polls during election day or early voting, you have the right to request an absentee ballot, which allows you to cast your vote by mail.
- States that require an excuse to vote absentee: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia