

March 31, 2020

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## COVID-19 –Elections Update

The last several weeks have brought unprecedented changes to our daily lives. Among the events and activities that have been cancelled, postponed, or otherwise disrupted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, several state primary, local, and special elections have been impacted. While elections might not be high on most people's priority list right now, the democratic process continues, albeit with some notable changes.

We are all sacrificing some of our liberties right now for the greater good – the health and safety of our families, friends, and communities. As Ronald Reagan once said, "The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished." That holds true even in these challenging times.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Election dates and procedures continue to be fluid in many jurisdictions. The information listed below was current at the time of writing this article. Please visit the Web site for your state's election authority (included below) for up-to-date information. Also, given the uncertainty of the duration of the ongoing public health emergency and related "Stay at Home" orders and social distancing recommendations, we strongly encourage you to Vote by Mail/Absentee if possible. Here are the notable changes on elections in ERIE's footprint:

### **Pennsylvania - 2020 primary election originally scheduled for April 28 rescheduled for June 2**

- Voters have the option to vote by mail-in ballot rather than going to their polling place on Election Day (Polls are open on Election Day from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.)
- Mail-in ballot applications will be accepted through Tuesday, May 26, 2020.
- Last day to [register to vote](#): May 18 (the deadline to register to vote is now 15 days prior to an election, rather than 30 days).
- For more information on Voting by Absentee or Mail-in Ballot go to [Votes PA](#).

### **Indiana – 2020 primary election previously scheduled for May 5 has been postponed to June 2**

- All registered voters eligible to vote in the upcoming election may request absentee ballots, following an order by the Indiana Election Commission.
- For more voting information and instructions on requesting an absentee ballot, please visit the Secretary of State's election Web site [here](#).

### **Kentucky – 2020 primary election originally scheduled for May 19 will be delayed until June 23**

- The registration deadline for the primary is May 26.
- For more information, please visit the [state's elections Web site](#).

### **Maryland – 2020 primary election originally scheduled for April 28 has been postponed to June 2**

- The 7th Congressional District Special Election has not been postponed but will be taking place exclusively by mail (must be postmarked on or before April 28)
- More information on how the June 2 election will be conducted to ensure the safety of voters and election officials is forthcoming.
- Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan issued a separate [Executive Order](#) "enabling municipalities to postpone elections."
- Please visit the [State Board of Elections Web site](#) for more information.

**New York – 2020 presidential primary/special elections originally scheduled for April 28 have been postponed to June 23**

- The early voting period for these elections will be June 13-21.
- For more information, visit the [Board of Elections Web site](#).

**North Carolina - 11th Congressional District Republican Primary Runoff previously scheduled for May 12 postponed to June 23**

- For more information, please visit the [State Board of Elections Web site](#).

**Ohio – 2020 primary election originally scheduled for March 17 has been postponed to April 28**

- Ohioans can continue voting by mail until April 28.
- In-person voting will only be available for individuals with disabilities who require in-person voting and those who do not have a home mailing address and will only occur on April 28 at boards of elections' early vote centers, not at precinct polling locations.
- For more information on voting and to request a mail-in ballot, please visit the Ohio Secretary of State's Web site– [VoteOhio.Gov](#).

**Virginia – May 5 local and special elections and June 9 primary elections are on as scheduled**

- The Department of Elections has clarified on their absentee voting page that concerns around COVID-19 count as a reason to request an absentee ballot for the May 2020 local elections (Request must be received by you Registrar by 5pm on April 28).
- Please visit the [Department of Elections Web site](#) for more information.

**West Virginia – 2020 primary scheduled for May 12 is still scheduled to occur at this time**

- Voters who do not wish to vote in person on the May 12 Primary Election due to the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to vote by mail.
- Early in-person voting and in-person voting on Election Day will still take place.
- Please visit the [Secretary of State's Election Web site](#) for more information and to request a mail-in ballot.

**Wisconsin - April 7 spring election and presidential preference primary is occurring as scheduled**

- The Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) strongly recommends that anyone planning to vote should request to have an absentee ballot mailed to them as soon as possible – **the deadline to request is Thursday, April 2.**

Please visit the [WEC's Web site](#) for more information and [My Vote Wisconsin](#) to request an absentee ballot.