

## **May Primary 2020**

### **Request your ballot to vote in the May Primary Election**

The coronavirus pandemic is changing the way Idahoans will vote in the May Primary Election. If you want to vote in this election, **you will need to request your ballot** at IdahoVotes.gov and vote from home.

The changes to voting are in direct response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases throughout Idaho. Governor Brad Little, Secretary of State Lawrence Denney and County Clerks from across Idaho determined it simply was not safe for voters, election workers or our communities to hold in-person voting at this time.

Here are the three steps you need to take to vote in the May Primary Election:

1. **Request Your Ballot.**

You must request your ballot by May 19, 2020 in order to vote. You can request your ballot online through the Secretary of State's Office at [IdahoVotes.gov](https://IdahoVotes.gov). You can also contact our office for help by calling (208)945-2212 ex 5. Registered voters who do not request their ballot by late April will be mailed a ballot application.

*Please note, you will need to be registered to vote to participate in the upcoming election. If you are not already registered, you can register online at [IdahoVotes.gov](https://IdahoVotes.gov).*

2. **Wait for Your Ballot.**

Once you've requested your ballot, give our team some time to process your request and drop your ballot in the mail. It may take up to 10 days for you to receive your ballot once you've submitted your request.

You can track your ballot, and confirm your ballot request has been received, at IdahoVotes.gov.

3. **Vote and Return Your Ballot.**

As soon as you receive your ballot, vote and use the pre-addressed envelope to mail it back to us.

All ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on June 2, 2020 to be counted. Voters are encouraged to send their ballots back to us as soon as possible.

We understand these are big changes to the way we all vote. Your support and participation in the election process from home, will help protect the health of all Idahoans and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Our team is here to help you vote in the May Primary Election. Contact us at any time.  
at (208)945-2212 ex 5

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What if my mom/grandpa/sweet next-door neighbor doesn't use the internet? How will they request a ballot?**

Thanks for looking out for your neighbor and helping them with this process.

We want every qualified resident to be able to vote. While online is the fastest way to request a ballot, it is not the only way.

The state will mail a paper ballot request form to every registered voter who has not already requested on during the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>. You can simply complete this form and mail it to our office.

If you do not receive a form, simply call our office and we will assist you. Call 208-945-2212 extension 5.

**Uuuhh, what are we voting for again? It seems like we just did this.**

This is a primary election for your state and local officials. Click here to view a sample ballot for Bear Lake County. (Note: Precinct committee people vary according to where you live in the county, and are not displayed on this sample. If you would like to know who is running for precinct committeeman in your precinct, you may call 208-945-2212 extension 5.)

**I tried to register online, but my address is wrong. I haven't updated the address on my drivers license since before I moved in 1995. Now what?**

Contact the local Drivers License office at 208-945-2121 and update your address. Then, try again to register. You can also call our office for assistance with a mail-in registration.

**When do I need to request my ballot?**

If you want to vote in the May primary, you must request your ballot by May 19. There will be no in-person polling locations for the May primary.

**Do I need to declare my political affiliation to vote in the May primary?**

The last day voters could change their political affiliation for the May primary was on March 13, 2020. Unaffiliated voters can change their party affiliation up to May 19, 2020.

Your political affiliation will impact your ballot choices for the May primary. Idaho is a closed primary system. This means voters are only allowed to vote in the primary election of their designated political party, unless a political party allows unaffiliated voters or voters registered with a different party to participate in their primary. Democrats have chosen to open up their primary to any registered voter. *To put it simply, for this election, the Democratic and non-partisan ballots are available to all registered voters; the Republican ballot is only available to registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters who choose to affiliate as a Republican.* Please note, non-partisan ballots only contain bonds, levies, measures and non-partisan positions like Judges. They do not contain candidates from all parties.

**Is it legal to conduct the May primary this way? What protects my privacy? What safeguards are in place?**

After consulting with the Secretary of State and Attorney General, Governor Little issued a proclamation authorizing the Secretary of State to conduct the election by mail using absentee ballots.

You will receive two envelopes for returning your ballot. The outside envelope contains a barcode that enables us to track that we only receive one ballot per voter. It also has a place for your signature which is verified against your voter registration card to confirm your identity. The inside envelope is unmarked. After the ballot is checked in, the inside envelope is removed from the outside envelope and placed in a ballot box for counting after the ballot receipt deadline. In this way, poll workers are not able to see your ballot choices associated with your name.

You can verify that the county has received your ballot by going to [Idahovotes.gov](http://Idahovotes.gov) then to “[check absentee ballot status](#).”