

Frequently Asked Questions: Elections

Empowering Women to be Involved and Informed

Updated Fall 2020



This guide was developed to provide information and resources to Junior League of Phoenix Members regarding upcoming elections. The Public Affairs Committee (PAC) hopes that all your voting needs and questions can be answered in this document.

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A. 2020 Election Dates

ELECTION DATE	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
March 10, 2020	February 10, 2020
Presidential Preference Election (Democrats) March 17, 2020	February 18, 2020
May 19, 2020	April 20, 2020
Primary Election August 4, 2020	July 6, 2020
General Election November 3, 2020	October 5, 2020

KEY DATES

November 2020 General Election

SEP 14
Military and Overseas Ballots Mailed

OCT 5
Voter Registration Deadline

OCT 7
Ballots mailed, in-person voting available

OCT 23
Last Day to Request a Ballot in the Mail

OCT 24
Weekend Voting Available

OCT 27
Last Day to Mail Back Your Ballot

NOV 3
Election Day!

I VOTED

Maricopa County Elections Department | 602-506-1511 | Maricopa.Vote

B. Registering to Vote in Arizona

How do I register to vote?

You can register online [HERE](#) or by completing and mailing a paper [Voter Registration Form](#) to:

111 South 3rd Avenue Ste. 102
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2212

You will be asked to provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number (SSN) or your Arizona driver's license or identification card number.

What are the requirements to vote?

Individuals must be:

- √ Registered 29 days prior to the election
- √ A U.S. Citizen
- √ An Arizona resident at least 29 days prior to the election
- √ At least 18 years of age by the General Election.
- √ Not have been convicted of a felony or treason (unless civil rights have been restored)

When do I need to register for the 2020 Election?

To participate in the 2020 Arizona Primary on August 4, 2020, you must be registered by July 6, 2020. To participate in the General Election, you must be registered by October 5, 2020.

If I am already registered, when do I need to update my registration?

Make sure to update your registration if any of the following apply to you:

- √ You recently moved to a new address
- √ Your name has been legally changed
- √ You would like to change your political party affiliation

How do I update my registration?

You can update your registration online [HERE](#) or by completing and mailing a [Voter Registration Form](#) to:

111 South 3rd Avenue Ste. 102
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2212

Where can I check to see if I am registered or if my voter registration is up to date?

You can easily check to see if you are ballot ready by visiting the [Maricopa County Recorder Office Website](#).

C. Mail-in and Absentee Ballots

How can I request a mail-in ballot in Maricopa County?

You can either request a one-time mail-in ballot be sent to your home, or submit a temporary mailing address for an absentee ballot [HERE](#). You can also register for the permanent early voting list [HERE](#), in which a ballot is automatically sent to the mailing address on file for every election in which you are eligible.

How can I track the status of my mail-in ballot?

Every ballot is tracked upon delivery and receipt is available. To track the status of your ballot, text "JOIN" to 628-683 or go [HERE](#).

What happens if my mail is being forwarded?

The law does not allow election materials, such as ballots, to be forwarded by the post office. If you would like your ballot mailed to a temporary mailing address, make your change at [Request Maricopa Vote](#) or by calling 602-506-1511 or by emailing Evreg@risc.maricopa.gov.

If you are in the military or a military family member, or live overseas, please find more information [HERE](#) or email milos@risc.maricopa.gov.

What are the mail-in ballot deadlines?

The last day to request a mail-in ballot for the 2020 General Election is October 23, 2020. The last day to mail back your ballot for the General Election is October 28, 2020. Mail-in ballots can also be dropped off on Election Day at a voter center.

D. Resources for Information on Candidates and Propositions

Resource	Description	Go to Resources
AZ Clean Elections	Contains a voter database that lists candidates in your area based on your address, and provides information on each candidate.	AZ Clean Elections
Maricopa County Recorder Website	Contains candidate statements of interest and provides websites to find additional information.	Maricopa County Recorder
Judicial Candidates	Can be utilized to learn which judge candidates are on the ballot and view the results of the judicial performance review.	AZ Courts
Secretary of State	Lists the candidates up for election, candidate information, nomination papers and financial disclosure statements.	Secretary of State
League of Women Voters	Contains a voter guide that is non-partisan and provides information as stated by the candidates. Voters can use this guide, as well as print it to take with them to the polls. It also allows individuals to compare candidates' positions side-by-side.	League of Women Voters

***If you have additional non-partisan resources, please send them to the PAC Chair for consideration to be added to the list above.*

E. Difference between the Primary and General Elections

How do the Democratic and Republican parties select their presidential nominees?

Presidential primary elections or caucuses are held in each U.S. state and territory as part of the nominating process for U.S. presidential elections. Some states only hold primary elections, some only hold caucuses, and others use a combination of both.

The primaries and caucuses are staggered through January and June of election year.

What is the difference between a primary and a caucus?

The primary elections are run by state and local governments, while caucuses are private events that are directly run by the political parties themselves. State governments fund and run primary elections in much the same way they do the General Election (i.e. voters go to a polling place, vote and leave).

At a caucus, individuals who are viewed favorably within the party are identified as potential delegates. After a comprehensive discussion and debate, an informal vote is held to determine which individuals will serve as delegates at the national party convention.

Please explain the General Election process.

The General Election is the final election for a political office with a limited list of candidates. Voters either attend their polling place or mail in their ballot for President.

However, the tally of these votes (also known as the popular vote) does not determine the winner; instead, the Electoral College is used. To win the election, a candidate must receive a majority of the electoral votes.

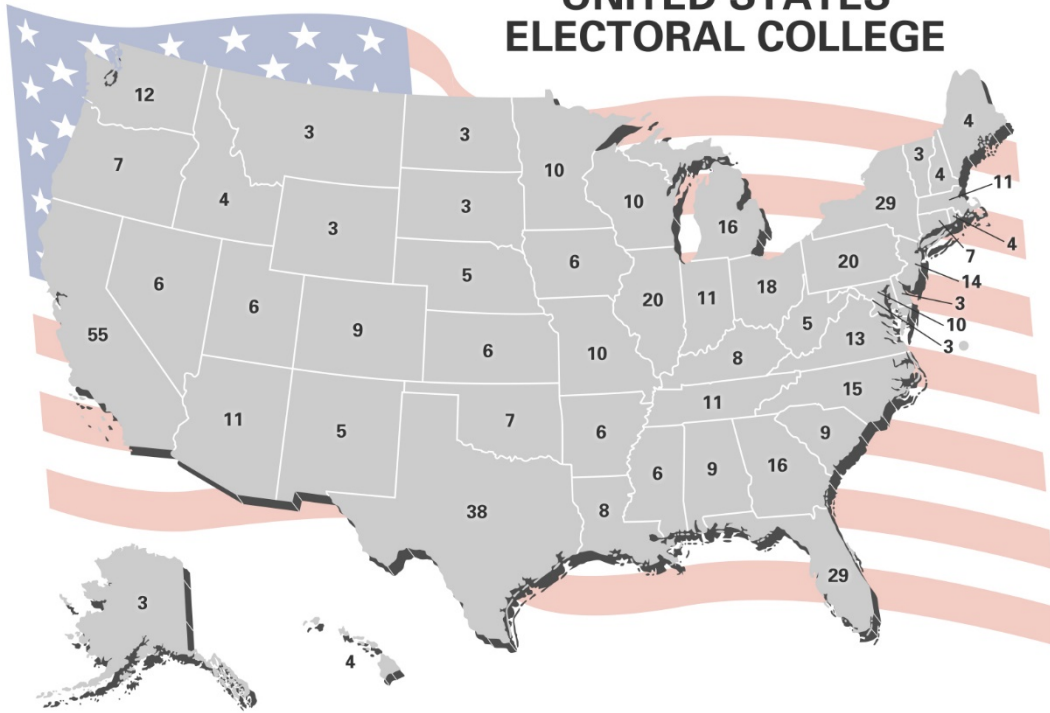
How does the Electoral College determine the President?

After an individual casts his/her ballot for President, the vote goes toward the statewide tally. In 48 states and Washington, D.C., the winner gets all the electoral votes for that state. However, Maine and Nebraska assign their electors using a proportional system.

A candidate needs the vote of at least 270 electors—more than half of all electors—to win the presidential election.

Please see the image below to see the number of electoral votes allocated to each state.

UNITED STATES ELECTORAL COLLEGE



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Fun Fact: In most cases, a projected winner is announced on election night in November after you vote. But the actual Electoral College vote takes place in mid-December when the electors meet in their states.

What happens if no candidate wins the majority of electoral votes?

If no candidate receives the majority of electoral votes, the vote goes to the House of Representatives. House members choose the new President from among the top three candidates. The Senate elects the vice president from the remaining top two candidates. This has only happened once. In 1824, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as President.