



ADMINISTERING AN ELECTION DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

JUNE 2020



GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Ben Hovland**, Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
- **Don Palmer**, Vice Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
- **Wendy Underhill**, Director of Elections and Redistricting Program, National Conference of State Legislatures
- **Marge Bostelmann**, Commissioner, Wisconsin Election Commission
- **Ricky Hatch**, County Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, Utah



Don Palmer, Commissioner, U.S. Election
Assistance Commission



Ben Hovland, Chairman, U.S. Election
Assistance Commission



The U.S. Election Assistance Commission and COVID-19 Response

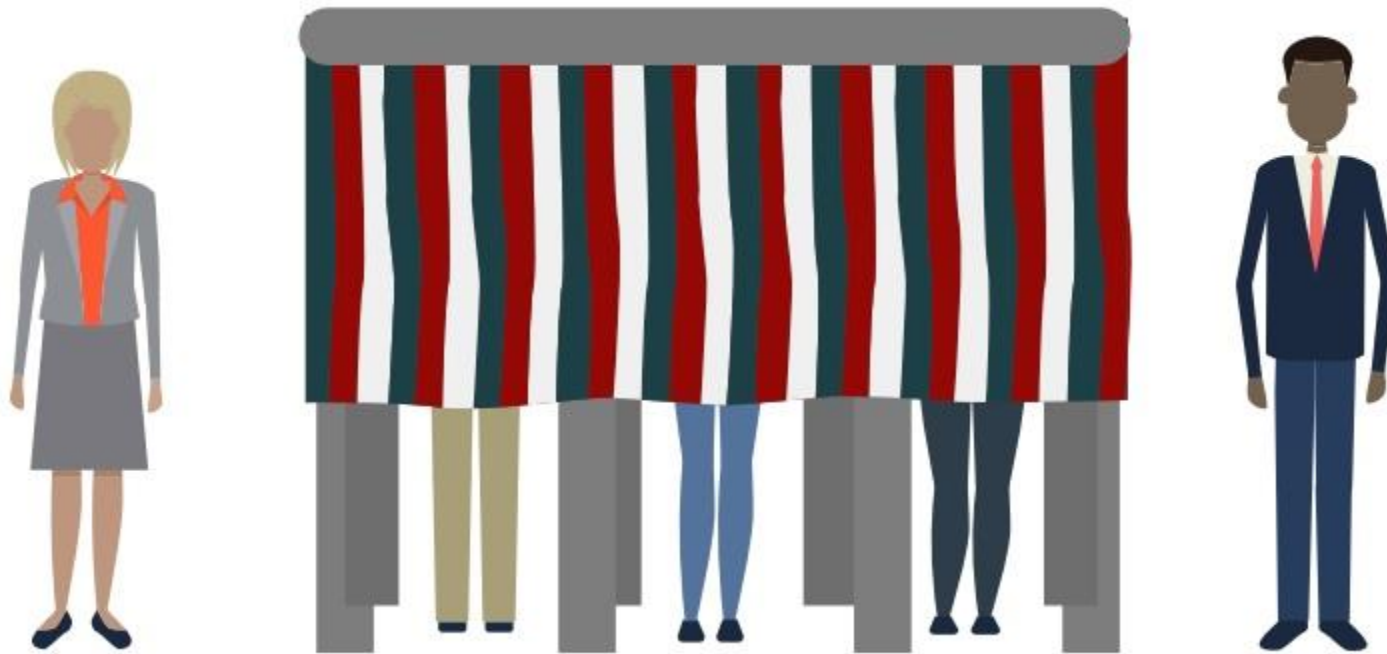
Ben Hovland, Chairman
Don Palmer, Vice Chairman

NACo Webinar
Administering an Election during the COVID-19 Crisis
June 3, 2020

Our Mission



The U.S. Election Assistance Commission helps election officials improve the administration of elections and helps Americans participate in the voting process.



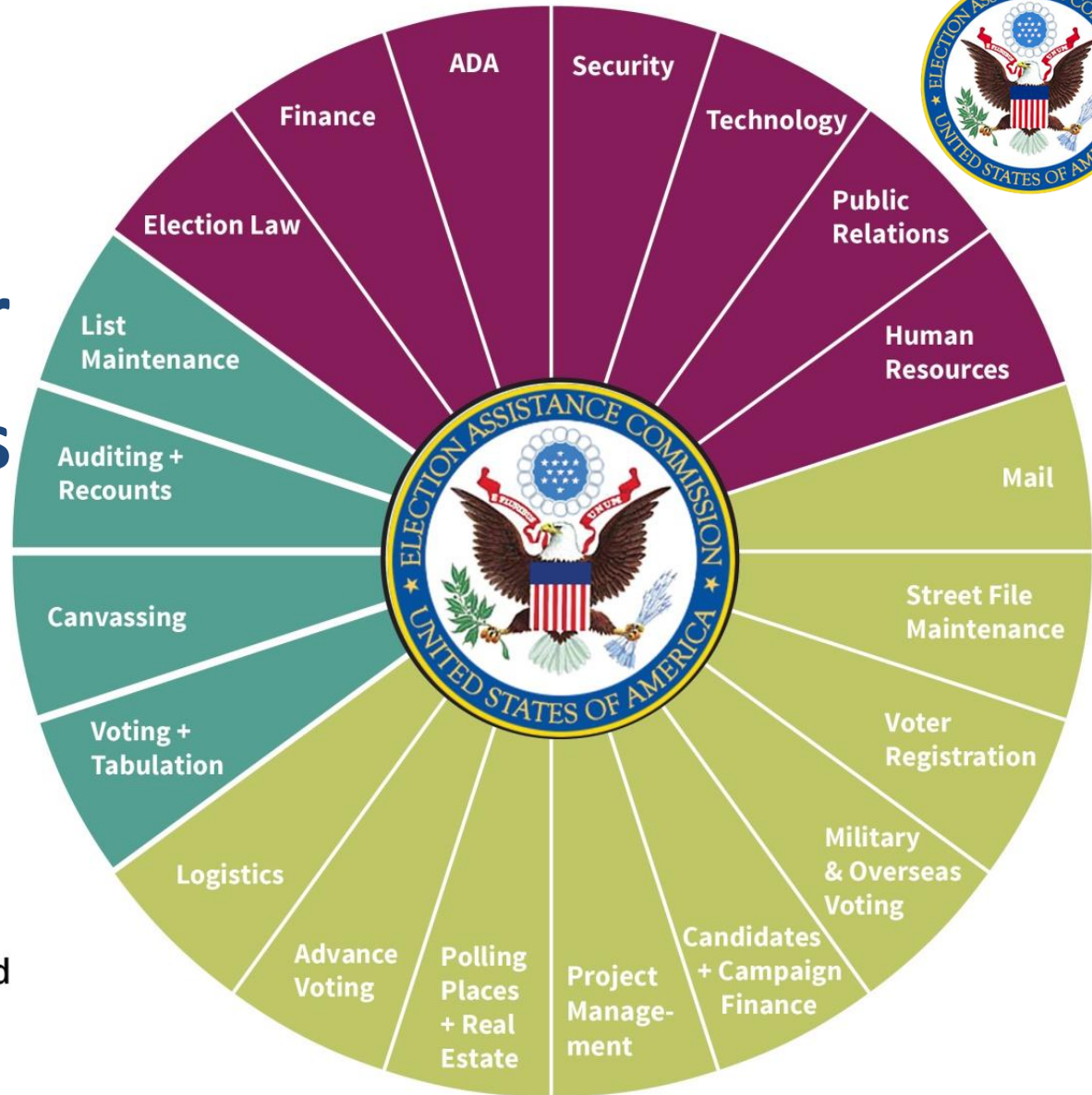
About the EAC



- Independent, bipartisan Commission established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
- Develop guidance to meet HAVA requirements
- Adopt voluntary voting system guidelines, certify voting systems and accredit testing laboratories
- Serve as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration
- Administer and Audit the use of HAVA grant funds – Security, COVID

Election Administrator Competencies

- Ongoing
- Election Preparation
- Election Night & Beyond



COVID-19 Working Group Resources



Elections Infrastructure

GCC/SCC Joint COVID Working Group

- Documents provide guidance for state, local, tribal, and territorial election officials on how to administer and secure election infrastructure in light of the COVID-19 epidemic
- All products were developed in coordination with election officials, non-profits, and the private sector, and were approved by the executive committees of the GCC and SCC.

COVID-19 Working Group Resources



Documents include:

Absentee and Vote by Mail

- Vote By Mail/Absentee Voting Timeline
- The Importance of Accurate Voter Data When Expanding Absentee or Mail Ballot Voting
- Helping Voters to Request a Mail-in Ballot
- Managing an Increase in Outbound Ballots
- The Inbound Ballot Process
- Election Education and Outreach for Increased Absentee or Mail Voting
- Electronic Ballot Delivery and Marking
- Ballot Drop Boxes
- Signature Verification and Cure Process

In-Person Voting

- Finding Voting Locations and Poll Workers
- Considerations for Modifying the Scale of In-Person Voting
- Health and Safety at the Polling Place
- Safeguarding Staff and Work Environment from COVID-19

EAC Resources



Virtual Public Hearing - Election Response to COVID-19: Administering Elections During the Coronavirus Crisis

- Addressed expanded absentee/by mail voting and considerations for in-person voting

[EAC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.eac.gov/coronavirus)

- Absentee and mail voting resources
- Manufacturer cleaning guidance for election equipment
- 2020 CARES Act grant funding
- using HAVA funds for COVID-19 response
- poll worker resources



EAC Video Series



- Features interviews with state and local election officials, representatives from federal agencies, and other experts.

Topics include:

- Planning For Increased Vote By Mail Capacity
- Improving Communications for Increased Voting by Mail/Absentee Voting
- Handling Increased Absentee and Mail Voting at the County Level
- Handling Absentee Ballot Requests for Increased Voting by Mail
- Emergency Election Laws and COVID-19
- Considerations for CARES Act Grant Funding Use at the State and Local Levels

Introductions: Speakers



Hon. Kim Wyman,
Secretary of State,
Washington



Neal Kelley,
Registrar of Voters,
Orange County,
California



Ricky Hatch,
County Clerk Auditor,
Weber County, Utah

U.S. Election Assistance Commission | www.eac.gov

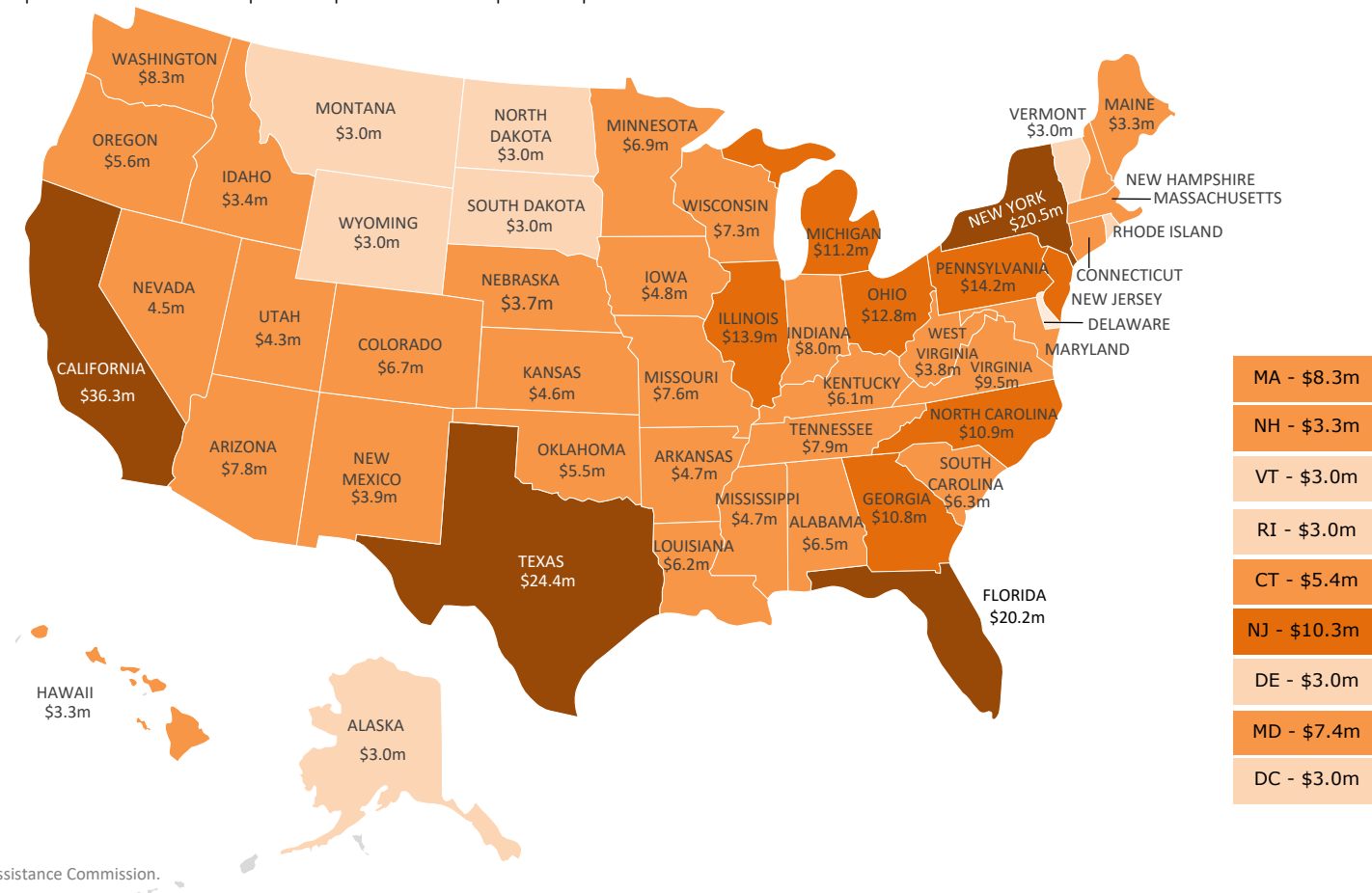


2020 CARES Act Election Funds

The CARES Act allocates \$400 million in new HAVA funds, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 for the 2020 federal election cycle.

Supplemental federal share of HAVA funding in the CARES Act, by state

■ \$3.0m ■ \$3.1m-9.9m ■ \$10m-\$19.9m ■ \$20m-\$36.3m



Sources: US Election Assistance Commission.

2020 CARES Act Grants



How are states planning for CARES Act funding?

- Increased costs associated with expanding absentee/mail voting
 - Postage
 - Printing
 - Equipment
- Increased costs associated with in-person voting
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Materials to sanitize voting equipment and surfaces at voting locations
 - Moving polling locations

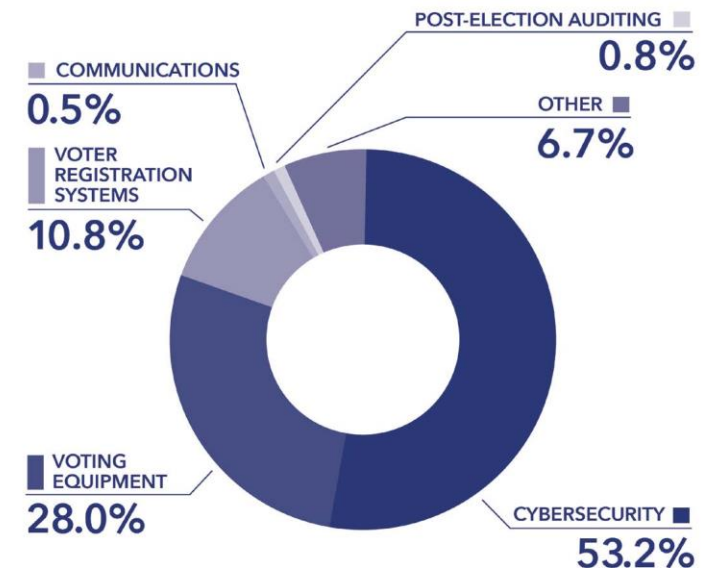
All 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories have received their requested funds.

HAVA Security Grants



- FY20 - \$425 million in Election Security grants to states
 - Required 20% state match to the federal funds
-
- FY18 - As of September 30, 2019, states spent **\$92,056,065 (24.2%)**, of the \$380 million allocated
 - 91.2% of funds will be used to improve cybersecurity, purchase new voting equipment or upgrade voter registration systems

2018 HAVA Funds: State Spending Through FY19



Partnerships and Engagement



EAC commissioners traveled to 56 cities in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in 2019.

Stakeholder Engagement: EAC Commissioners



Contact Us



Chairman

Ben Hovland

(202) 744-0265

bhovland@eac.gov



@BenHovland

Vice Chairman

Don Palmer

(202)744-1862

dpalmer@eac.gov



@VotingGuy



Wendy Underhill, Director of
Elections and Redistricting
Program, NCSL



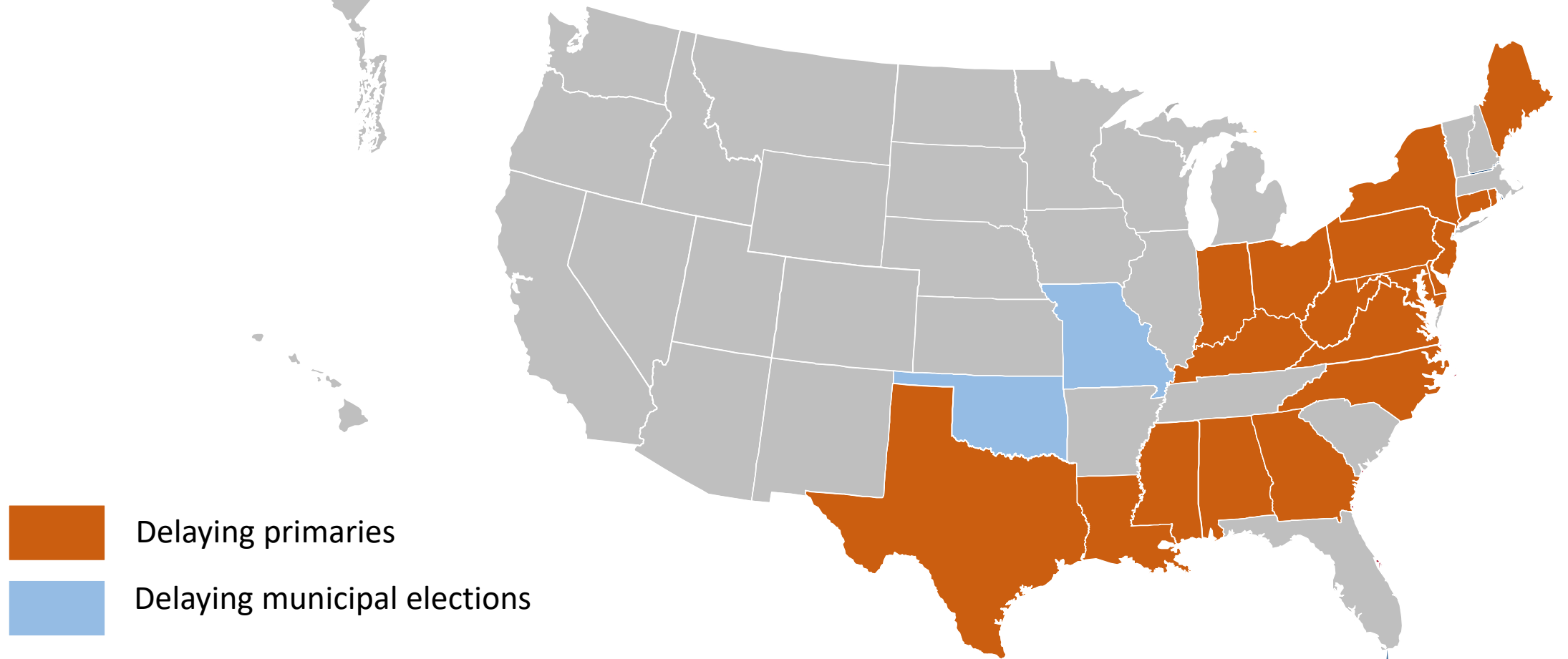
COVID-19 CHANGES EVERYTHING (ABOUT ELECTIONS)

JUNE 3, 2020

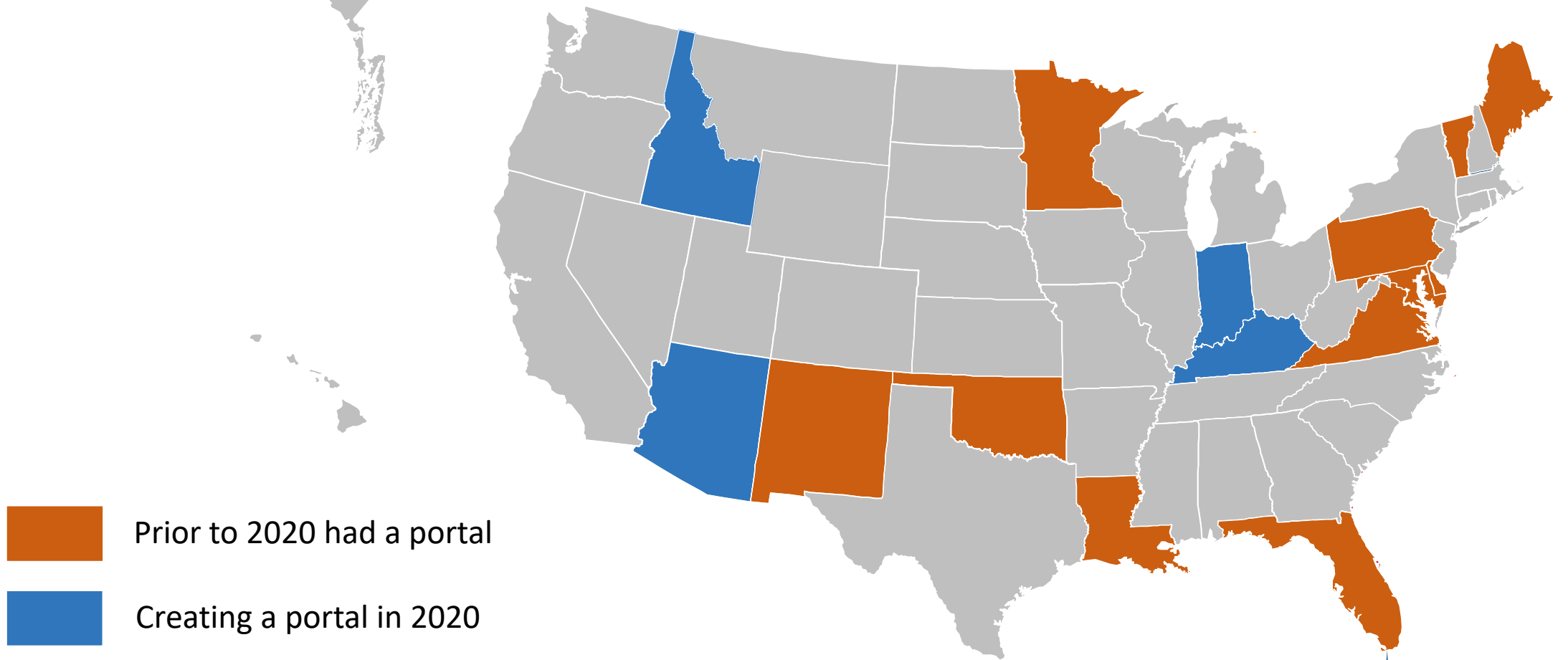
WENDY UNDERHILL



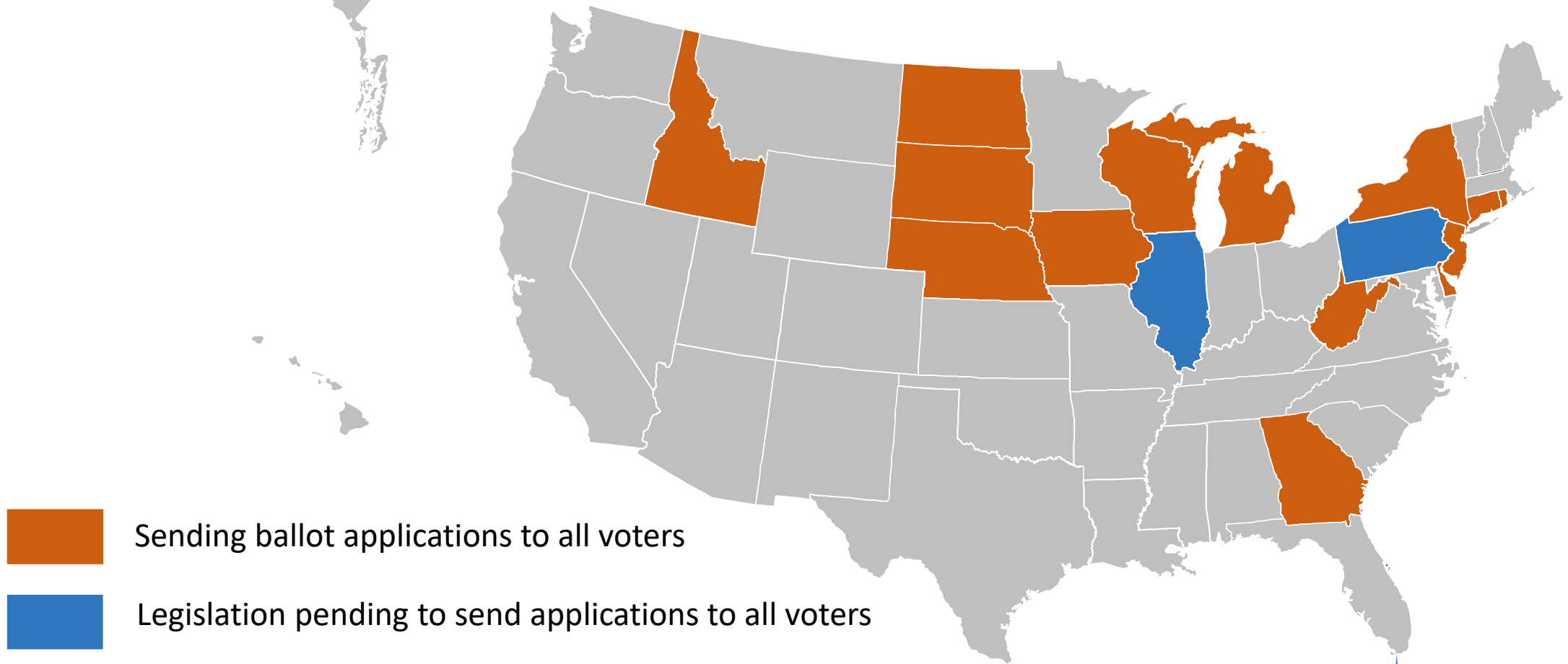
Election Delays Due to COVID-19



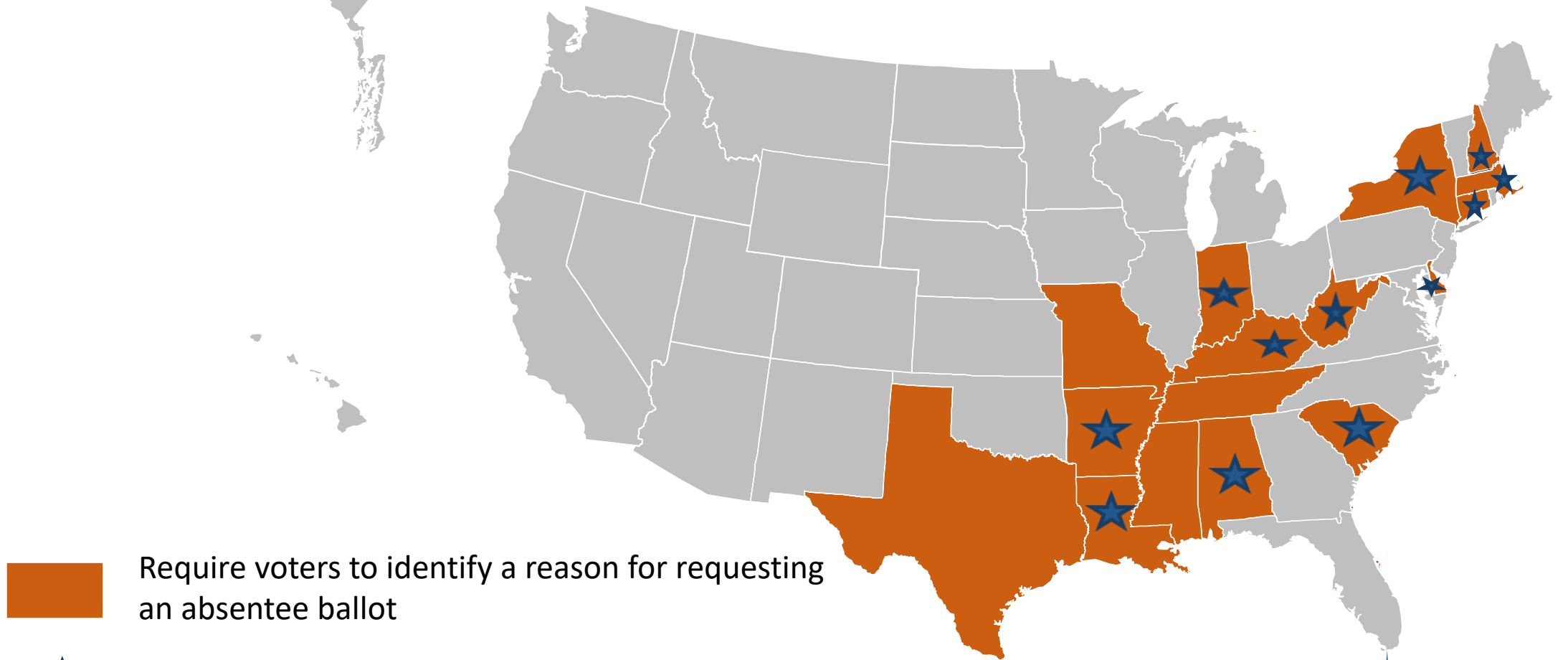
States Offering Online Portal to Request an Absentee Ballot



States Sending Absentee Ballot Applications to All Voters

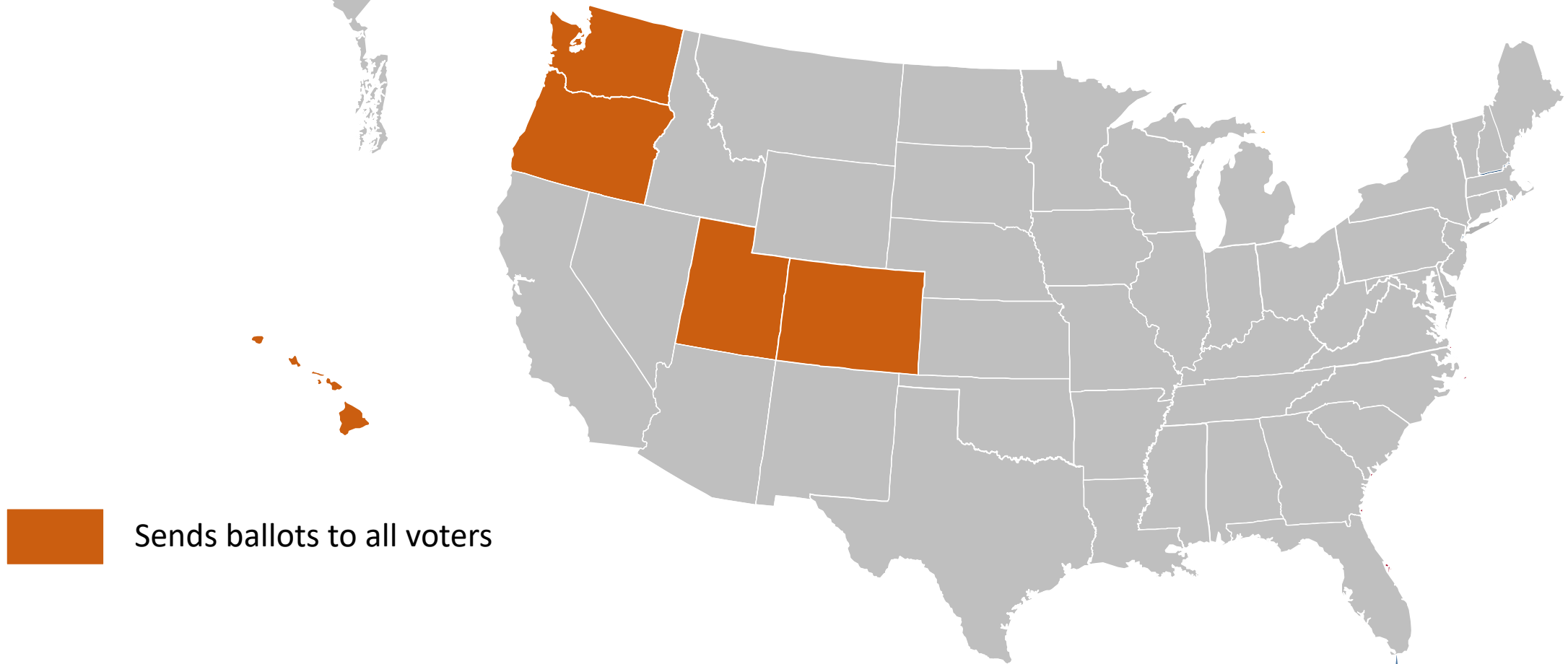


Covid-19 and States That Require an Excuse to Vote Absentee



- Require voters to identify a reason for requesting an absentee ballot
- Have explicitly said Covid-19 is a permissible excuse

States and All-Mail Elections



Age Group	Percentage
18-24	35%
25-34	25%
35-44	40%



PROTECTING IN-PERSON VOTING

- Poll workers
- Polling places
- PPE, sanitizer, six feet apart



THE CENSUS DELAYS

2020 Census



- 3-month operational delay
- 4-month delay on congressional seats data
- 4-month delay on state-specific data (for redistricting and money distribution)

Thanks to NACo!

Wendy.Underhill@NCSL.org

303-802-6673



Ricky Hatch, County Clerk/Auditor,
Weber County, Utah

Elections in Utah



- “Vote by mail” vs. “Voter’s Choice”
- Precinct-level option started 2011
- County-level option started 2012 (Duchesne, pop. 19,000)
- Weber County started 2013 (pop. 260,000)
- Final 2 counties converted in 2020
- 90% of voters vote by mail/drop box (97% in Weber in 2019)
- 2016 survey: 2/3 voters preferred VBM, 79% felt it made them “more informed”





Emergency COVID-19 Elections Legislation

Clerks Requested (Apr. 10)

- Let counties run Election Day (subject to health guidelines)
- Help us get PPE
- Provide National Guard
- Extend Canvass by 7 days
- Conduct statewide messaging

First Draft (Apr. 14)

- 100 % Vote by Mail
- No In-person Voting
- No Same-day Registration

Final Bill (Apr. 16)

- 100 % Vote by Mail
- County option – “mobile” voting (must accept liability)
- No Same-day Registration
- Postmark deadline - E. D.
- Extend Canvass by 7 days
- Conduct statewide messaging

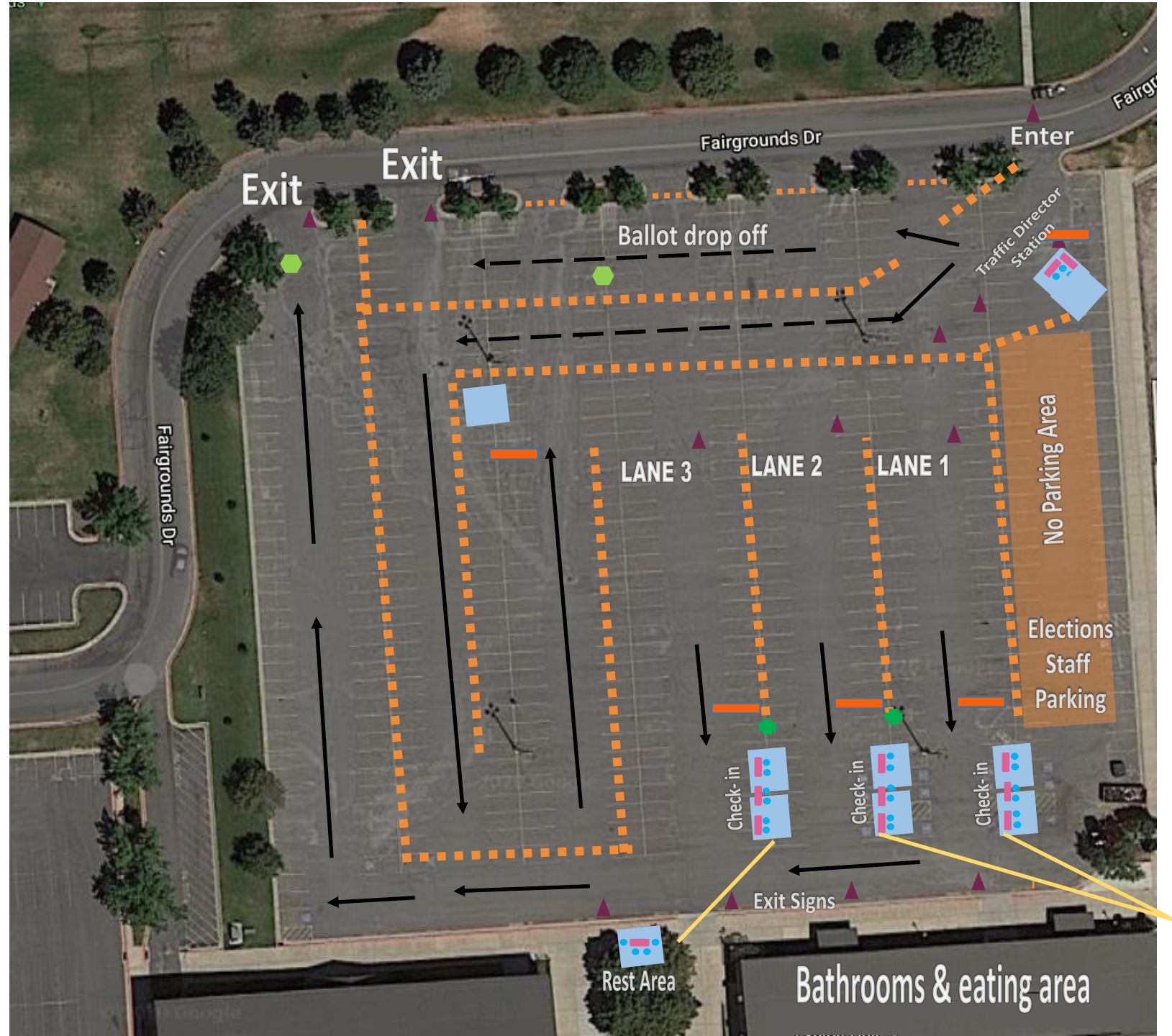
Key Points:

Local flexibility – let the local experts manage their local elections according to their unique local situations. Situations change.

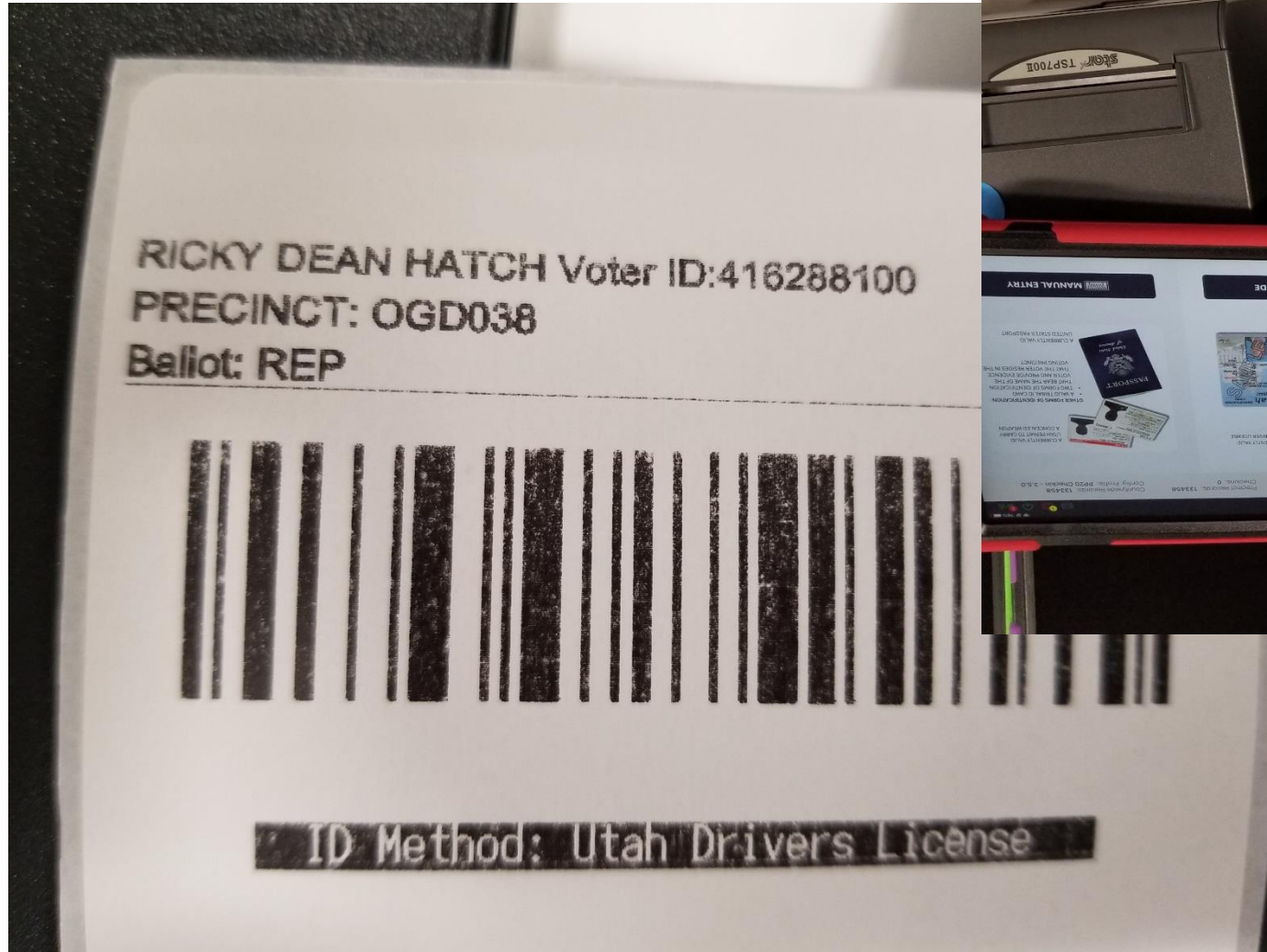
Statewide messaging & procurement – use the influence of the state to message and to obtain critical resources

LEGEND:

- Cones
- Signs (13)
- Shade Tents (10)
- Tables (15)
- Chairs (45)
- ↑ Direction of Traffic
- Power Cords
- Ballot Boxes
- Generators (If needed)
- Barricades

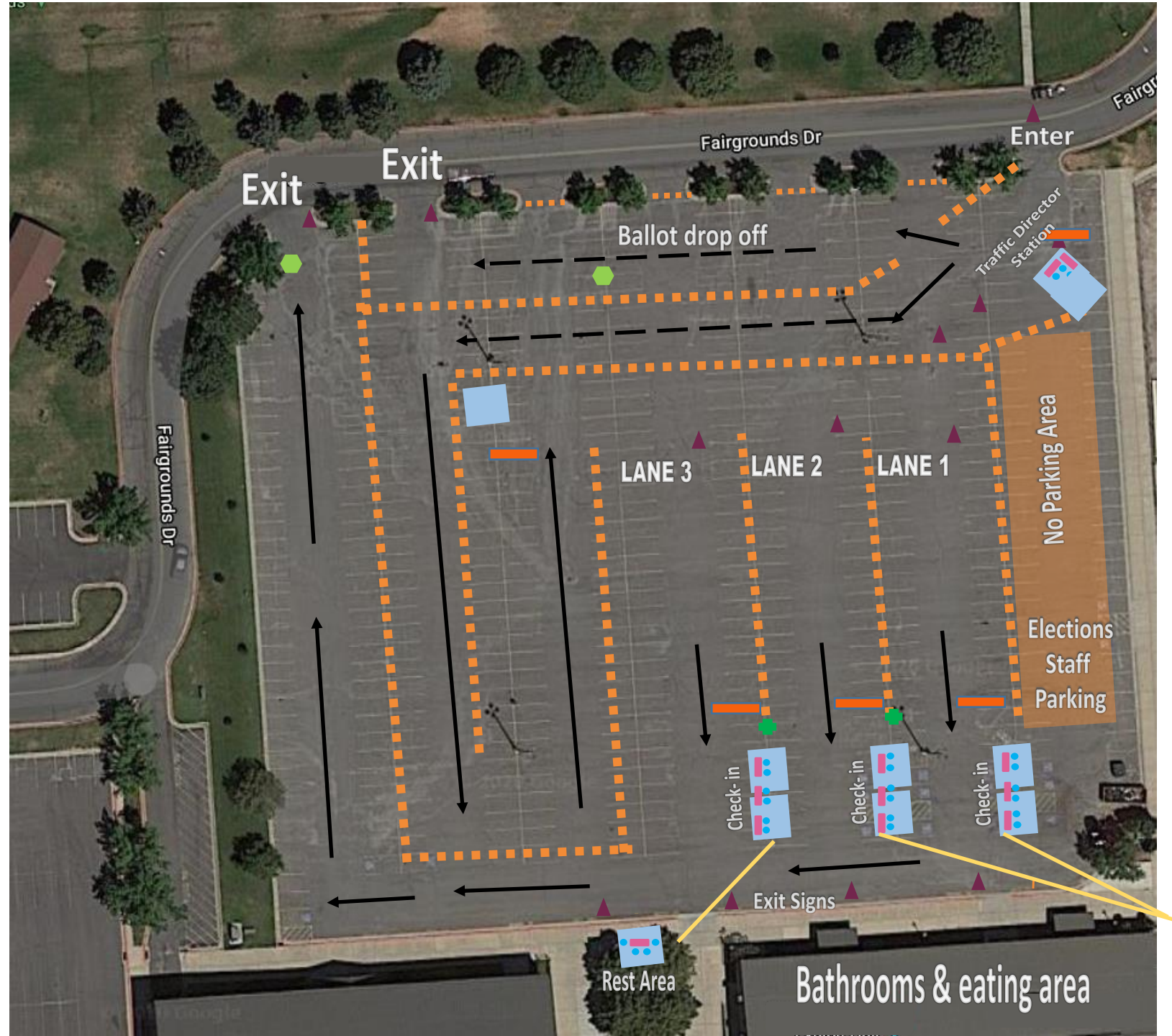


Label Printers



LEGEND:

- Cones
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COVID-19 and the 2020 Elections
Stay safe - Vote from home – Vote by mail



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Weber County Elections has changed how we administer in-person voting. Since 2015 Weber County has conducted its elections by mail. We are fully prepared to protect your right to vote while maintaining the health of our community and election workers. In order to accomplish this, we need all voters to follow the directions in this letter and **VOTE FROM HOME**.

In-person voting will be limited (location to be determined). If you wait until Election Day to vote, you assume the risk that the voting location may close at any time without notice. There will be no early voting.

1. Verify/Update your information

Name: RICKY DEAN HATCH

Where you live: 123 NACO ST, Ogden, UT 84403

Your ballot will be mailed to: 123 NACO ST, Ogden, UT 84403

Party Affiliation: REPUBLICAN - You will receive a REPUBLICAN ballot for the Primary election

If the information above is correct then you do not need to do anything.

If the information above is not correct. update your information ASAP at

Update your registration online: www.vote.utah.gov or return the form below.

PLEASE IMMEDIATELY RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL OR EMAIL

To select which ballot you will receive, check only ONE box and sign this form:

☐ Democratic Ballot - to join the Democratic Party (optional), initial here _____

☐ Republican Ballot – This will affiliate you with the Republican Party

Voter ID 999999 Voter Name XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX

SIGN HERE

Email: register@weberelections.com

Mail: Weber County Elections
2380 Washington Blvd Ste 320,
Ogden, UT 84401

3. Important Dates

June 9-12: Ballots mailed

June 18: Contact our office if you have not received a by mail ballot

June 19: Last day to register/update voter registration or change party affiliation.

Updates will be posted on our website as well as social media



If you need assistance with voting or other accommodations call 801-399-8034 for more information

www.weberelections.com

♦ 801-399-8034 ♦

elections@weberelections.com

MEET YOUR BALLOT BOX

register online by
June 19

REGISTER NOW



ELECT **VIA** **ENVELOPE**

register online by
June 19

REGISTER NOW



GET REGISTERED TO GET A BALLOT

register online by **June 19**

REGISTER NOW



**YOUR
PORCH
IS YOUR
POLLING
PLACE**

register online
by **June 19**

REGISTER NOW



**IN THE
BOX
INSTEAD
OF IN
PERSON**

register online
by **June 19**

REGISTER NOW



**GET
PRIMED
FOR THE
PRIMARY**

register online by
June 19



REGISTER NOW

**TO VOTE
BY MAIL
REGISTER
ONLINE**

register online by
June 19



REGISTER NOW



Ricky



Ricky

Send Message

Liked



@ WWW.VOTE.UTAH.GOV



1

2 Comments 1 Share



Like



Comment



Share



Most Relevant



Write a comment...



it's stupid you can go stand in line at Costco or Sam's or Smith's or Lowe's or Home Depot or go to Wal-mart and you can't put up voting booths. Put the booths in anyone of these stores if you don't want to set them up anywhere else. Seems like alot of things could go wrong by having everyone vote by mail, isn't it like taking people's rights away by forcing people to only do it by mail. I hate when people uses the virus to benefits their own needs!!!

Like · Reply · 1w

Send Message

Liked



www.vote.utah.gov



2

2 Comments



Like



Comment



Share



Most Relevant



Write a comment...



Vote by mail increases the likelihood of voter fraud. Just say YES to IN-PERSON VOTING!!
If we can grocery shop and go to home depot, we can VOTE SAFELY IN-PERSON.

Like · Reply · 1d

Facts behind Vote by Mail.

Dead People do not Vote

Did you know that the office of vital statistics notifies election offices when someone dies?

Weber County Elections also monitors local obituaries.



Facts behind Vote by Mail.

Can anyone vote your by mail ballot?

Each by mail ballot is returned with a signature that is scrutinized and compared to other official signatures of the voter on file. If the signature does not match, the voter receives a cure letter allowing them to affirm that they sent in a ballot.



Facts behind Vote by Mail.

Can you photocopy a ballot?

Each by mail ballot is printed on secure paper that does not allow duplication.

Facts behind Vote by Mail.

Can a voter vote more than one ballot?

Each voter and each ballot have identifying information that is recognized if a voter returns more than one ballot. Only one vote will be counted per a voter, even if multiple ballots are submitted.





Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner,
Wisconsin Election Commission

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY WISCONSIN SPRING ELECTION

APRIL 7, 2020

Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner
Wisconsin Election Commission

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT WISCONSIN

- Wisconsin is the most decentralized state for election administration in the country with 1850 municipal election officials with over 2500 polling locations and 72 county election officials
- Over 5,990 municipal and county candidates and a State Supreme Court race were on the April 7th ballots. It was not just a Presidential Preference Primary in Wisconsin
- Per statute, ballots for the April 7th election were available for in-person absentee and voter registration within the municipal clerk's office began February 20th

UNPRECEDENTED CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHANGES

On March 12, the Governor issued his first order related to COVID-19, **twenty-five days** before the election. Immediately absentee voting was encouraged. Either by mail or in person at the local clerk's office

April 7, 2020

- 74.6% (1,159,800) absentee ballots
- 25.4% (395,463) in person ballots

April 5, 2016

- 10.5% (395,463) absentee ballots
- 89.8% (1,898,891) in person ballots

SUPPLIES

- Meagan Wolfe, WEC Administrator, worked with the State Emergency Operations Center and State Procurement Office to send supplies to polling places throughout the state. We provided:
 - 8,000 liter bottles of 70 percent ethyl alcohol solution (made at a local distillery due to exhausted national supply chain)
 - Disinfectant wipes, masks, latex gloves
 - 1.5 million ballpoint pens
 - 2000 rolls of painters tape
 - 10,000 social distancing and public health signs
- The National Guard helped with packaging and distribution to local clerks

ENVELOPES AND POSTAGE

- Municipal clerks planned and budgeted for about 200,000 absentee ballots, but over 1.2 million ballots were requested
- WEC with the help of the SEOC, secured:
 - 600,000 outer transmission envelopes
 - 600,000 return “certificate” envelopes
- Clerks also exceeded annual budgeted postage at the April 7th election with 2 more elections yet to come

NATIONAL GUARD AND POLL WORKERS

- In a large election there is between 20,000 and 30,000 poll workers and many are over the age of 60
- A survey revealed that municipalities were short more than 7000 poll workers
- Approximately 2500 National Guard members called up by Governor Evers were trained by WEC and served as poll worker in their communities on election day. State and municipal employees also volunteered to work at the polls.
- Curbside voting took place when needed along with drive through voting in some municipalities

GUIDANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Because of the unprecedented health crisis and continual changes resulting from court decisions, communication with WEC's local election partners was critical leading up to the April 7th election.
- Between March 12 and April 7 WEC staff sent more than 50 communications and guidance documents to municipal and county clerks
- WEC staff created more than 20 election specific public health documents to be posted at polling sites
- Information can be found at <https://elections.wi.gov/covid-19>



QUESTIONS?

NACo staff contact

Eryn Hurley, Associate Legislative Director, NACo
ehurley@naco.org | 202.942.4204