



OFFICE OF DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK

Daniel J. Loomis, County Clerk



1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room CH 124 ➔ Roseburg, Oregon 97470

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2020

A Message from the Douglas County Clerk Regarding the Upcoming November Election

(Douglas County, Ore.) Today, Tuesday, September 22, 2020 is [National Voter Registration Day](#) and our Douglas County Clerk and Douglas County Elections staff are preparing for the **November 3rd 2020 General Election**. We wanted to make sure our residents had the most current information available in order to be able to vote in the upcoming election. We have prepared a list of current and most commonly asked questions and answers below.

Will the November election proceed as usual?

According to the Oregon Secretary of State, Oregon will proceed with their November General Election as planned. Oregon has a long-established vote-by-mail system, which already complies by the guidelines for no gatherings and physical distancing issued by the State for the current COVID-19 pandemic. Oregon became the first state in the country to go to an exclusively vote-by-mail system more than two decades ago. We also continue to work with our partners at the U.S. Postal Service to do everything within our power to guarantee the security and integrity of our vote-by-mail system. We recommend mailing your ballots back early. However, if you prefer, ballots can still be hand delivered to any of the [13 Douglas County Ballot Drop Box Locations](#).

When will the November ballots be mailed? When are they due back?

Douglas County citizens can expect to see their mail-in ballots for the November General Election in their mailboxes after October 15, 2020. **Ballots are due no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020.** As a reminder, **postmarks do not count**, so be sure to return your ballot early to ensure it will be counted.

How do I make changes to my voter registration? What if I have moved?

In order to receive an official ballot for the November Election, you must be registered to vote and your voter registration must be up-to-date. You should update your voter registration if you move, change your name or mailing address, or want to select or change your party affiliation. Registered voters can make changes by updating their registration online at www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote. If you are unable to complete the online form, you can go to the Douglas County Clerk's Office located at the Douglas County Courthouse, 1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Room 124 in Roseburg, fill out a new paper [Voter Registration form](#). Please note that name changes should be done using the paper registration form, so we have record of your new signature. If you are not registered to vote, and you are a U.S. citizen, a resident of Oregon and at least 16 years old, you can register to vote at <http://www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote> or visit the Douglas County Clerk's Office in person. If you are not yet 18 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday. **New voters have until 11:59 pm on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 to register.** As a reminder, *ballots cannot be forwarded, as that is one of the security features of our voting system.*

How do I receive my ballot or vote if I am currently displaced due to the wildfires?

We want to assure all of our **fire-displaced voters** that there are means to get them a ballot. If you know the address where you will be able to receive mail then, you can add a temporary mailing address at www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote this year. You will be able to keep your address prior to fire displacement on file for future use. Paper registration cards and Absentee Ballot Request forms are available for voters uncomfortable with registering/updating online, or who do not have access to a computer. In rare cases, voters may not have a temporary address or may become displaced after ballots are sent. They may also visit any Oregon county elections office to be issued a ballot. Changing your address with the post office does not update your voter registration card. Again, a reminder that ballots are unable to be forwarded. You



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must inform election officials of your temporary address using one of the methods above in order to have your ballot sent there. If mail cannot be delivered to your home or mailbox, it will be held at your local post office and you can pick it up there.

Why do I have to sign my ballot?

Voter's signatures are verified on returned ballot envelopes. Ballots cannot be counted unless the voter's signature can be verified. If the Douglas County Elections Office has any questions about your signature, they will contact you. If your signature has changed, please fill out new Oregon Voter Registration Card. If you are no longer able to sign your ballot, please contact the Douglas County Elections Office for instructions, prior to returning your ballot. *In Oregon, a power of attorney does not qualify as a voter's signature.*

Is it true that I can mail my ballot back for free?

Yes, thanks to 2019 legislation, ballots in Oregon can be returned without a stamp since the state has provided prepaid return postage. **We recommend mailing your ballots early and suggest that you place them in the mail no later than, October 27, 2020, as postmarks do not count.** Voters returning their ballots through the mail need to allow enough time for the ballot to be received in the Douglas County Elections Office by the 8:00 pm election night deadline. If you prefer to drop off your ballot personally, county ballot drop boxes will be open and available starting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. [Click here for a list of the 13 Douglas County Ballot Drop Box Locations.](#)

If you have questions or would like more information about the General Election and other election processes, please visit the Oregon Secretary of State's website at www.oregonvotes.gov or call 1.866.673.VOTE. For Voter Education and Outreach support please contact Douglas County Elections Division* at (541) 440-4252 or email us at elections@co.douglas.or.us or log onto our website at <https://www.co.douglas.or.us/clerk/default.asp>.

**Our Voter Education and Outreach Program does not provide support at political events and is entirely nonpartisan. Douglas County Elections does not endorse or discuss any particular candidates or measures.*

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Contact Dan Loomis, County Clerk, Douglas County Clerk's Office (541) 440-4324 - djloomis@co.douglas.or.us