



NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

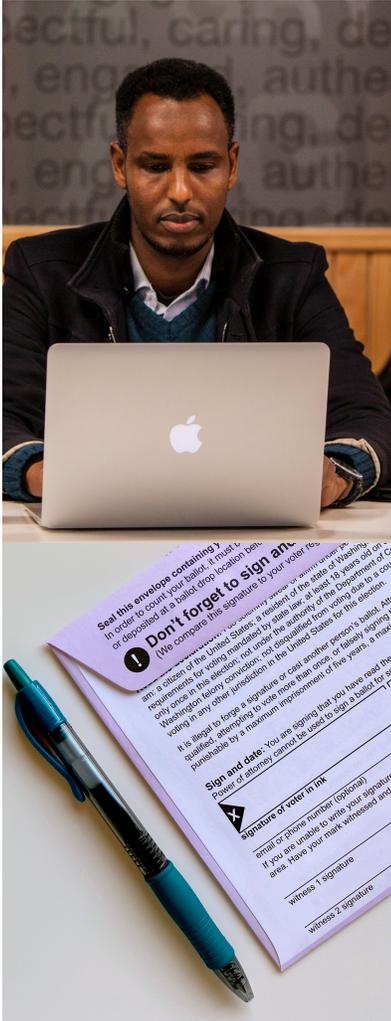
PREPARING TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

BY NATHALIE DANIEL | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

The General Election is set to happen on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. In the coming weeks, the OAAA will publish a few articles on voting during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this first article, we review a few to-do items that must be completed as we prepare to vote.

Voting during a pandemic is an uncommon experience. Our **health and continued safety** are of foremost importance. Everything we can do to make our community safer ahead of time will make voting safer. Regardless of the voting method that you choose (i.e.: in-person, mail), you can continue to protect yourself, your family, and your community through social distancing, regular hand washing, and donning a face mask in public spaces.

PREPARING TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION



REGISTER TO VOTE OR UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION

To vote in the General Election, you must be registered. To review the eligibility criteria ([click here](#)). **Voter registration closes at 5:00 PM on October 5, 2020** ([click here](#)). There are a couple options to register to vote that promote social distancing.

- **Online:** If you have either a current or expired New Mexico state I.D. (like a driver's license) you can register for the first time easily online ([click here](#))
- **By mail:** If you don't have a state-issued I.D., you can print the voter registration application form ([click here](#)). Fill out the form then mail it to the New Mexico Secretary of State's Office or your local County Clerk's Office. Those who are registering for the first time will need to provide identification by mail or at the polling place on election day.

If you are already registered, please check your voter registration ahead of the election to ensure that all the information is accurate and up-to-date. To verify your voter registration, visit this link ([click here](#)). You must update your registration if your name or address have changed. You can do so online at this link ([click here](#)).

GET MORE INFORMED

As we prepare for the General Election, it is important to become more informed about what will be on the ballot.

- To review a candidate list ([click here](#))
- New Mexicans will vote on two Proposed Constitutional Amendments & General Obligation Bonds in this year's General Election. To learn more about these ballot questions ([click here](#))

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

It is important to stay current on voting matters and to encourage those around us to exercise their voting rights. Here are some ways to do this:

- Forward this article to your family, friends, and loved ones
- Connect with the New Mexico Black Voter Collaborative. NMBVC is a non-partisan collective that aims to increase voter participation among Black voters in New Mexico. NMBVC regularly posts useful information on Facebook ([click here](#))
- If you are a college student, attend the UNM African American Student Services' Instagram Live Q&A on October 7 at 4 PM. This event will focus answering students' questions and concerns surrounding voting | via Instagram @unmafro



PREPARING TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

Securing the right to vote has been a long battle for women and African Americans in this country. Voter suppression continues to be a valid concern in 2020. For this reason, it is important to learn more about your rights as a registered voter in New Mexico. Notably, registered voters in New Mexico have the right to:

- **Vote free from intimidation by election officials or any other person.**
 - An example of intimidation is asking voters for documentation where none is required. Throughout the country, voter ID laws are being debated. Here are the facts for voters in New Mexico:
 - A physical form of identification is only required for first-time New Mexico voters who registered by mail and did not include identification with their voter registration application form.
 - Otherwise, you will be asked to provide a verbal or written statement of identification including your name, year of birth, and registered address ([click here](#)).
- **Be assisted by a person of your choice if you are disabled OR need help reading or marking the ballot.**
 - Any person of your choice may assist you, except your employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of your union, or a candidate whose name is on the ballot.
- **Cast a ballot if you are in line to vote when the polls close.**
 - Polling sites are required to operate at 25% maximum capacity to prevent the spread of COVID-19 ([click here](#)). It is difficult to predict *in-person* voter turnout in this year's election. However, the turnout and the maximum capacity limits have the potential to result in longer lines in this year's election.
 - Polling places are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Remember, if you are in line by 7 PM, it is your right to vote.
- **Vote by emergency paper ballot if the voting machine is broken.**

To read all the voting rights of registered voters in New Mexico ([click here](#))