JumboVote
Absentee Voting Guide
2020 General Elections
What does it mean to vote absentee or vote-by-mail?
You cast your ballot by mail. Some states require a reason or excuse, while others permit any registered voter to cast a by-mail ballot. Many states’ absentee/mail-in voting guidelines for eligibility are evolving and expanding in response to the pandemic; consult your state’s election office website for the most updated information. College students are permitted to vote either in their home county or where they attend school; if they will be absent from their home state/county but wish to vote there on Election Day, they are eligible to vote absentee. Ensure that you’re registered at the address at which you want to vote, whether that be in your home state/county or at school.

Remember that absentee/mail-in voting is a two-step process:
1. Requesting your ballot
2. Returning your completed ballot
A few states require additional steps, such as sending a copy of photo ID or getting your forms notarized; take a look at our online guide for more information.
Allow ample time (JumboVote suggests at least 7 days in advance) to mail your application and ballot so that it reaches your county’s election office by the deadline.

We recommend filling out the attached voting plan to keep track of these dates!

How do I decide whether to vote absentee?
Absentee voting may be right for you if:
You’re invested in issues in your home community
You’re from an area with competitive elections
AZ, CO, ME, and NC have competitive Senate elections
GA, IA, IL, ME, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OK, PA, SC, TX, and UT have competitive House races
AZ, FL, PA, NC, and WI will be key to the Presidential election
You’re from a state where the youth vote will be of particular significance. According to CIRCLE’s Youth Electoral Significance Index, the youth vote will have an especially high impact in the following states for the following races:
In the presidential race: WI, PA, NC, FL, IA, AZ, MI, NH, MN, and ME
In senate races: CO, NC, ME, AZ, MT, IA, MI, GA, KS, and AL
In house races: IA 1st, ME 2nd, IA 2nd, IA 3rd, GA 7th, SC 1st, UT 4th, NJ 3rd, OK 5th, MN 7th
You’re from MA but are unable to return to your home city or town to vote at your polling place on election day.

Planning on voting in person instead?
If you intend to vote in person, feel free to visit some of the resources we’ve included in our voting guide or directly visit your state’s election website. Take note of your polling location, polling hours, and any voter ID laws. Feel free to use the list we’ve attached to keep track of your voting plan!
State by State
Absentee Voting Deadlines

Our online guide contains more details and includes several links for each state to allow you to easily access the online and by mail applications for voter registration and absentee ballots. We have excluded some of the in-person voter deadlines; please visit your state’s election office website or the additional resources we’ve included in the guide for more comprehensive information on deadlines, voter ID laws, polling locations/hours, and more. [https://bit.ly/JV2020voting](https://bit.ly/JV2020voting)

General Election Date: November 3, 2020

Unless otherwise noted, your voted absentee ballot is due (received by your election official’s office) on November 3.

ALABAMA

Voter registration deadline: Oct 19
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 29 (JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Copy of valid photo ID required with request for absentee ballot
- Return of absentee ballot requires an affidavit that must be notarized or signed by two witnesses

ALASKA

Voter registration deadline: Oct 4
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by mail-received by Oct 24 or by electronic transmission (email/fax) by Nov 2
- Returned ballot includes affidavit that must be signed in presence of witness or notary

ARIZONA

Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 23

ARKANSAS

Voter registration deadline: Oct 4
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 27
- Must include copy of acceptable form of ID with returned ballot

California will conduct an all vote-by-mail election; all registered voters will automatically be mailed ballots

Voter registration deadline: Oct 19 or conditionally register beginning Oct 20
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by mail-received by Oct 27
- If you want your ballot mailed to you at Tufts, you will likely need to fill out the request application to update your mailing address
COLORADO
Voter registration deadline: Oct 26; in-person registration available through Nov 3
Absentee/mail-in voting: all voters automatically receive mail-in ballot. Ensure that the mailing address on record reflects where you want to receive your ballot
- If you’re recently registered and voting for the first time, you may need to provide a copy of ID with returned ballot; observe instructions about ID requirements that will arrive with ballot

CONNECTICUT
Voter registration deadline: Oct 27; in person election day registration available
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Nov 2 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

DELWARE
Voter registration deadline: Oct 10
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 30 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

FLORIDA
Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 24

GEORGIA
Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 30 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

HAWAI
Hawaii votes by mail; all eligible voters will automatically receive a mail ballot packet approximately 18 days before the election
Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 27
- Only fill out the request form to indicate an alternate delivery address for your mail ballot (i.e., if you want your ballot to be delivered to a different location than where you are registered)

IDIO
Voter registration deadline: Oct 9
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 23

ILLINOIS
Voter registration deadline: online by Oct 18, by mail—postmarked by Oct 6, in person through Nov 3
Absentee/mail-in voting: request by mail—received by Oct 29 (JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Voted ballot must be received by Nov 17

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Voter registration deadline: Oct 13; can also register during early voting or on Election Day
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 27

INDIANA
Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 22 by mail—received, in person by Nov 2
IOWA

Voter registration deadline: **Oct 24**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by mail Oct 24, in person Nov 2**
- Voted ballot must be postmarked by Nov 2 and received by Nov 9

KENTUCKY

Voter registration deadline: **Oct 5**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Oct 27**

MAINE

Voter registration deadline: **by mail by Oct 13, in person through Election Day**
No online registration
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Oct 31 (JV recommends by Oct 27)**

MASSACHUSETTS

Voter registration deadline: **Oct 14**
- As a Tufts student, you are eligible to vote in MA. You must re-register each time your address changes (i.e., whenever you move dorms or apartments).
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Nov 2 (JV recommends by Oct 27)**
- If you’re a MA resident registered at your home address, you’re eligible to vote absentee if you won’t be able to make it to your polling place on Election Day

KANSAS

Voter registration deadline: **Oct 13**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Oct 27**
- Voted ballot must be postmarked Nov 3, received by Nov 6

LOUISIANA

Voter registration deadline: **by mail by Oct 5, online by Oct 14**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Oct 30 (JV recommends by Oct 27)**
- Voted ballot due by 4:30 pm on Nov 2

MARYLAND

Voter registration deadline: **Oct 13**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Oct 27 (if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax) or Oct 30 (if you want to download ballot from the State’s website)**
- Voted ballot due by 4:30 pm on Nov 2

MICHIGAN

Voter registration deadline: **Oct 20**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Oct 30 (JV recommends by Oct 27)**

MINNESOTA

Voter registration deadline: **by mail—received or online by Oct 13. In person by Nov 3**
Absence/mail-in voting: **request ballot by Nov 2 (JV recommends by Oct 27)**
- Voted ballot due by mail—received by 5 pm on Nov 2

Reminder! Our online guide has state-specific links to direct you to where you can check your registration, request your ballot, and find more information. We encourage you to visit it at https://bit.ly/JV2020voting
MISSISSIPPI

- Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
- No online registration
- Absentee/mail-in voting: No deadline for request (JV recommends by Oct 27)
  - Voted ballot must be signed by a notary
  - Voted ballot due by 5 pm CST on Nov 2

MISSOURI

- Voter registration deadline: Oct 7
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by mail—received by Oct 21 or in person by Nov 2
  - Witness/notary required for absentee voting

MONTANA

- Voter registration deadline: by mail—postmarked by Oct 4 and received by Oct 7
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Nov 2 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

NEBRASKA

- Voter registration deadline: online or by mail—postmarked by Oct 16, or in person by Oct 23
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 23
  - Voted ballot due by 4:30 pm on Nov 2

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Voter registration deadline: by mail—received by Oct 28 or Oct 21 (depends on town). In-person by Nov 3
- Absentee/mail-in voting: no specific request deadline (JV recommends by Oct 27)

NEW JERSEY

- Voter registration deadline: Oct 13
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by mail—received by Oct 27 or in person by Nov 2
  - Voted ballot must be postmarked by Nov 3 and received within 48 hours of polls closing

NEW MEXICO

- Voter registration deadline: Oct 6
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 29 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

NEW YORK

- Voter registration deadline: online or in person by Oct 9. By mail—postmarked by Oct 9 and received by Oct 14
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request by mail—postmarked by Oct 27 or in person by Nov 2
  - Voted ballot must be postmarked by Nov 3 and received by Nov 10

NORTH CAROLINA

- Voter registration deadline: Oct 9; can also register in-person during early voting until Nov 1
- Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 27
  - Voted ballot must be postmarked by Nov 2 and received no later than Nov 8
NORTH DAKOTA

Voter registration deadline: no voter registration necessary
Absentee/mail-in voting: Request deadline n/a (JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Voted ballot must be postmarked by Nov 2 and received before Nov 8

OHIO

Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: Request ballot by Oct 31 (**JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Voted ballot must be postmarked by Nov 2 and received no later than Nov 13

OREGON

Elections are held by vote-by-mail. If you’re a registered voter, your ballot will automatically be mailed to you 2-3 weeks before election day.

Voter registration deadline: Oct 13
Absentee/mail-in voting: complete absentee ballot request or update mailing information online

OKLAHOMA

Voter registration deadline: Oct 9
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 27
- State law requires absentee voters to sign an absentee ballot affidavit, which must be notarized.

RHODE ISLAND

Voter registration deadline: Oct 4
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 13

SOUTH CAROLINA

Voter registration deadline: in person by Oct 2, online by Oct 4, or by mail by Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request due by mail-received by Oct 30 or Nov 2 in person (JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Absentee ballots usually need to be signed in the presence of a witness. This may change (as it did for the primaries).

SOUTH DAKOTA

Due to COVID 19, absentee ballot applications should be sent to all registered voters

Voter registration deadline: Oct 19
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by 5 pm on Nov 2 (**JV recommends by Oct 27)

TENNESSEE

Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 27

TEXAS

Voter registration deadline: Oct 5
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 23
**UTAH**

Voter registration deadline: by mail by Oct 4; in-person or online by Oct 27
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 28 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

**VERMONT**

Voter registration deadline: Nov 3
Absentee/mail-in voting: request by 5 pm on Nov 2 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

**VIRGINIA**

Voter registration deadline: Oct 13
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 28 (JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Return ballot requires signature of witness, though this requirement was waived for the primary due to pandemic-related concerns; check state elections website for updates

**WASHINGTON**

Washington conducts vote-by-mail elections; absentee ballots will automatically be sent to registered voters

Voter registration deadline: Oct 26
Absentee/mail-in voting: ballots will automatically be mailed out to registered voters by Oct 16
- Verify address of delivery and update if necessary

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Voter registration deadline: Oct 13
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 28 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

**WISCONSIN**

Voter registration deadline: Oct 14 (after this date, voters must register in the municipal clerk’s office or at the polls)
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Oct 29 (JV recommends by Oct 27)
- Copy of photo ID is required with application
- Must be voted in the presence of a witness, who signs the return envelope

**WYOMING**

Voter registration deadline: Oct 19
Absentee/mail-in voting: request ballot by Nov 2 (JV recommends by Oct 27)

Our online guide has state-specific links to direct you to where you can check your registration, request your ballot, and find more information. We encourage you to visit it at https://bit.ly/JV2020voting
We recommend filling out the attached voting plan to keep track of these dates!

Check out our website at jumbovote.org or find us @Jumbovote on all platforms

evmail us at jumbovote@tufts.edu or

text ‘jumbovote’ to 555-888 for election reminders!