

League of Women Voters – talking points about voting

When you're asked about vote by mail

With the increased popularity of vote-by-mail in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you can use the following talking points.

- Don't say "voter fraud" because it has a negative impact on voter confidence.
- Remind people that all states administer elections by mail through the absentee voting process.
- Vote-by-mail does not favor one party over another.
- There is no record of massive or serious election manipulation via mail-in voting ([even Fox News anchor Chris Wallace has attested to this](#)).
- With an expected increase in vote-by-mail in 2020, now is the time for election officials to make the investments in ballot access and protect the integrity of our elections.
- Like all voting systems, vote-by-mail benefits from risk-limiting audits, which allow election officials to double-check the vote count, identify irregularities that need to be resolved, and issue strict penalties for tampering with the process.
- With slowdown in U.S. Mail delivery, LWVMI recommends mailing your ballot at least 2 weeks before the election. If that's not possible, you can deliver it to your local clerk's office or to drop it in the ballot drop box outside the local clerk's office.

If you're asked about Public Expectations for Immediate Election Results

With the increase in absentee ballots expected in 2020, tallying votes will take more time, and it is highly likely ballots will be counted late into the night all over the country. Use these talking points when helping the public and voters feel comfortable in the likely delayed election results.

- We can't expect all election results to be called or announced on Election Day as in previous elections, and that's okay.
- A delayed result with an increased number of mailed ballots means the system is working as it should to ensure the integrity of our election process.
- A surge in mailed ballots requires our election officials to adapt their ballot counting practices, and it is important for voters to be patient. A complete and accurate ballot count is more important than a fast ballot count.
- With the increase of absentee voting in 2020, it is essential that every vote is counted and every voter's voice is heard. We should all prepare for many election results to be announced after Election Day.

If you're asked about why people should vote during COVID-19

- Your vote is still important during the pandemic, and there are options for you to participate in elections safely.
- Request your absentee ballot or mail-ballot early! Find your state's deadline and process for doing so at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

- For voters who need to vote in-person, you can limit your exposure by avoiding peak hours at polling places. Peak times are traditionally before and after work hours as well lunchtime.
- Vote early if you can! Early voting days are less likely to be busy at the polls. And voting early reduces crowds on Election Day.
- Check VOTE411 for the most up-to-date information about where you can vote or where you can drop your ballot.
- If you do choose to vote at an in-person polling place, consider a few of these tips to reduce your own exposure:
 - Maintain 3 to 6 feet of distance from other people
 - Bring along your own hand sanitizer
 - Avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily – wear gloves if possible
- Watch for our special edition newsletter on October 26th for information on how to report problems, and more election information.