

# THE VOTER

*A newsletter for* **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF IDAHO

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*Spring, 2020*

## *Inside this issue*

	<i>Page</i>
President's note	1-2
LWV Kootenai County	3
LWV Pocatello	4
LWV Greater Boise Area MAL Unit	5
LWV Moscow	6
LWV Lewis Clark Valley	7
Nominating Committee	7
Memorials	8-10
Volunteer—Your help is needed	10
Debates	10
Advocacy Report	11
Primary Voting	11-12

## **LWVID Board of Directors**

*Susan Ripley, President*  
*Betsy McBride, Vice President*  
*Jamar Brown, Secretary*  
*Laura Hartwig, Treasurer*  
*Judy Edwards, Director*  
*Elinor Chehey, Director*  
*Vacant, Director*

## *From the President:*

This is certainly a strange time we are experiencing. I hope everyone is healthy and safe. The League has had an interesting year as well.

**Council:** I will begin with the canceling of the LWVID 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Council, which was to be held in Boise in April. The Greater Boise Area MAL Unit was planning an incredible weekend. We hope the disappointment is temporary.

When the decision was made to cancel Council, it was decided we would have a gathering when the coronavirus is under control. At this point, it is a very loose plan to invite all members throughout the state to gather in Boise to say hello to old acquaintances and meet new members. When the time comes that we can gather, a plan will be made. There are so many whose names I know but have never met. In other words, when we get to the other side of this, let's have a party.

So, what about the business we need to attend to at Council? That business consists of passing a budget, election of a treasurer and two board members. A phone meeting with the LWVID board and local League leaders decided we would just stick with the budget we passed for the previous year. There were minor changes in the budget proposed for Council, so that didn't seem to be a huge issue. As for elections, our bylaws state that the positions "shall serve a two-year term until the close of the next convention or council or until their successors have been qualified and elected." So, our treasurer is staying in place as well as directors. Currently, one of the director positions is vacant as that director has decided to run for the Legislature in District 5.

**Primary Election:** The upcoming primary election has certainly been on the front burner. The May 19 primary is going to be done with absentee ballots. You can request an absentee ballot at

[Idahovotes.gov](http://Idahovotes.gov) or contact your local county clerk. The secretary of state's news release said: "To vote in the May 19 primary, Idahoans MUST REQUEST their ballot from their county clerk or online through the Secretary of State's website by May 19. Once their ballot arrives to their home, voters simply fill it out and mail it back using the pre-addressed envelope.

"We will be sending an absentee ballot request to every registered voter that has NOT already requested a ballot for May, so if you can't access [Idahovotes.gov](http://Idahovotes.gov), you don't need to worry," says Secretary Lawrence Denney. "We will send you a request form to your registered address by mail in the next roughly 10-14 days.

"Voters should not wait until May 19 to request their ballot or to vote. You can start today, and as soon as you receive your requested ballot, fill it out and mail it back in." You can read the complete press release at <https://sos.idaho.gov/2020/04/01/secretary-lawrence-denney-announces-may-primary-changes/>

The League is a supporter of vote by mail, where an election is done with ballots sent to registered voters and voters return the ballots by mail. This election would be much smoother if that system were in place. More on that at a later date. For now, let's get through this election. Spread the word to everyone you know about the election. We don't want the change in how things are done to make the turnout lower than a typical primary.

**VOTE411:** Many members throughout the state are working on getting candidates to participate in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). The first efforts are getting the seats that are contested in the primary. That is 51 seats statewide. The League has posed questions for our congressional candidates and state legislative candidates to answer. It takes time to complete this task and our volunteers are doing a fantastic job. We plan to go live with the site April 27. This is the first year we are working on including all districts. Two years ago, we had the candidates for statewide positions. Then a few district legislative races were included.

**100 years of voting:** This year was going to be so much fun recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. All plans came to a screeching halt, however there were plenty of events that squeezed in prior to the restrictions resulting from the coronavirus. On Nov. 2 there was a statewide Get Out the Vote event. The League partnered with AAUW, DAR and in Boise Columbia Club. Tabling was done at grocery stores, libraries and other venues. We recognized the 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Idaho women granted the vote. On Mar. 13, Leagues around the state participated in the "Ring the Bell" event marking the first Idaho Women's Day.

I have been busy, among other things, writing op-ed pieces, I presented for LWVID at the Women's Leadership Conference in Lewiston in March, and a few other advocacy items that you can read about in the advocacy report.

And please read the volunteer opportunities on page 10. I need your help.

In League,

Susan Ripley, President LWVID



# News from the Local Leagues



## Hear My Voice Sponsorship

LWV KC was proud to sponsor and attend the Living Voices traveling educational theater show "Hear my Voice" about the suffrage movement. The [Human Rights Education Institute](#) hosted the program and coordinated this amazing show teaching history through art at local high schools and at the [Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center](#).

Member Lisa Schaff was there to volunteer and spread the word about the minimum wage petition.

## Day of Action

League of Women Voters had a rewarding Day of ACTION providing voter registration services at both Coeur d'Alene and Lake City High schools. This was organized to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday anniversary of League of Women Voters and GOTV for the Idaho presidential primary March 10. We thank all the amazing volunteers who helped generate enthusiasm to vote and the high schools for hosting us.

## "Suppressed" Documentary Screening & Community Discussion

We had a fantastic turnout on Martin Luther King Jr. Day for the [Suppressed Film Screening & Community Discussion](#). Nearly 50 people joined us in our voting rights discussion and volunteer organizing for future voter registration drives. "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote" is available online to watch at [www.fighttovote.org](http://www.fighttovote.org).

Jessica Mahuron



Hear my Voice presentation.



Day of Action.



"Suppressed" Documentary Audience



FILM SCREENING & COMMUNITY DISCUSSION  
VOLUNTEER ORGANIZING  
FOR VOTER REGISTRATION & VOTE411





# News from the Local Leagues



Greetings from Pocatello where we are recovering from a very busy year in our current state of isolation. Our crew has been hard at work with both voter services and advocacy. We had many tabling events over the past several months. These include the Portneuf Valley Farmers Market, SEI Cinco de Mayo, Idaho Commission of Hispanic Affairs Town Hall meeting and all of the Naturalization Ceremonies throughout the year.

The LWVP has a strong presence on Idaho State University's campus participating on National Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day. Our lovely ladies marched in the Homecoming Parade as suffragists carrying our banner. It was great to see the positive reaction we received from the crowd. The Gender Resource Center includes us in many events. The Bengal Theater showed the movie "On the Basis of Sex" after a dinner and presentation, which was well attended by members of the League. The LWVP is a contributor to the Pocatello Film Society. We participated in the Martin Luther King March and Celebration. I am astonished as to our success in registering students at our local high schools. This is no small task.

The LWVP is the host for candidate forms for both the city of Pocatello and the city of Chubbuck. There is always a large volunteer turnout from the LWVP to assist with the elections. I was so impressed with the donations for 2019 "Idaho Gives" that came from our members and friends of the League.

The LWVP and the Portneuf Resource Council held a public forum on "Our Energy Future: Strategies to Reduce the Municipal Carbon Footprint".

"Idaho Women 100" was kicked off with a tabling event at Marshall Public Library where we passed out recipe cards and provided information. Muriel Roberts even baked the apple crisp. On Feb. 6, we attended a City Council meeting where the mayor read a proclamation declaring Feb. 14 as League of Women Voters Day in Pocatello. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LWV was celebrated at Main Steam Coffee and Desserts in Old Town. This was also the venue for our Day of Action where our members filled out Valentine's Day cards to send to our lawmakers. The members that we lost, Marge Slotten, Ann McDougall and Kay Merriam, were honored in our presentation.

A "Ring the Bell" ceremony hosted by the LWVP, AAUW and the city of Pocatello took place at City Council chambers where a proclamation was read. This was followed by a program. There were tables set up by all of the various women's organizations in the community and light desserts were served. In the lobby we had displays honoring our local women who have been actively engaged in Pocatello. This did include local League members. It was well attended despite the weather and the health scare.

We were honored to have the LWVID Board attend our Back to League event this year. I want them to know just how appreciative I am of their leadership and support. I would thank all of the great individuals who bring everything together here in the Gate City, but you would be reading for hours. I would like to recognize their excellence and am pleased to be benefitting from their example.

# News from the Local Leagues



Since our last Voter edition, the GBA unit has continued to attend new citizenship ceremonies, usually on a weekly basis. We see about a 50% registration rate among these freshly naturalized U.S. citizens. This results in an estimated 100 new registrations every month.

We were excited to host the LWV-Idaho Biennial Council and are just as committed to hosting a gathering once we are all safe to do so.

We continued to work with Idaho Women 100. In November we participated in a special GOTV event dressed in suffrage attire. You can read about that event here: [https://www.idahopress.com/kuna/news/women-s-groups-to-celebrate-idaho-suffrage-with-voter-information/article\\_c2e0a6bb-3218-5173-9292-853c5497f28c.html](https://www.idahopress.com/kuna/news/women-s-groups-to-celebrate-idaho-suffrage-with-voter-information/article_c2e0a6bb-3218-5173-9292-853c5497f28c.html)

We were also pleased to be a part of one of the final gatherings in March on the Capitol steps to commemorate the creation of a designated Idaho Women's Day in perpetuity. You can see a full video of the event on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVIDBoiseMAL/>

We continue to work with Boise State's Andrus Center, offering voter registration at their events, including one in early March at the Young Women in Leadership Conference, and the upcoming September Women in Leadership conference.

Our 2019 mayoral election campaign ended up being a long one and we were able to partner with City Club of Boise to co-host the only run-off forum for the final mayoral debate. We also partnered with the local NBC affiliate for a City Council forum for the 2019 elections, which garnered some great feedback. Our LWV candidate forums are becoming more appreciated by candidates and voters alike.

The GBA group is hard at work with Vote411 for 2020 and have dedicated volunteers to help cover races in Idaho. We are part of the whole Vote411 volunteer committee, hard at work contacting candidates for all of Idaho, as we promised.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and twitter to receive the early alerts of what the GBA MAL unit is planning. We intend to reschedule our "Spill the Tea" event around a future 2020 gathering in Boise. We will see you all soon.

Crystal Callahan



Ring the Bell, Boise Idaho Mar. 13, 2020



Get Out The Voter-Partner with AAUW Nov 2, 2019



GBAM Unit – Get Out the Vote 5

# News from the Local Leagues



## Advocacy Activities

### Promoting the Census:

Although our April 1 (Census Day) scheduled events at the University of Idaho and Moscow Library to help people access and complete their census forms online had to be cancelled, there were many other actions that our League members were able to accomplish. Several members wrote letters to the editor for our local papers, while others arranged for advertising on a large read-board at Tri-State, ordering and distributing 100 children's books about the census to families, delivering flyers to all food banks and pantries throughout Latah County, and working with UI personnel to encourage a complete count of students living on and off campus. One can follow the progress in response rates in Latah County and other counties using this link: <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.

We are pleased the Latah County response rate is higher than the state average at this time. Also, some counties around the state have indicated an interest in having a friendly competition with Latah County to see who can get the highest response rates by a specific date. We are waiting to hear more about whether this is a possibility.

If other League members around the state would like to submit letters to the editor about the census in their local papers, I've included list of newspapers and contact information.

### Promoting Raising Idaho's Minimum Wage:

For the past several months, League members collected signatures on the "Idahoans for a Fair Wage" petition to gradually raise the Idaho minimum wage to \$12/hr. Most recently, we collected more than 600 signatures at the Latah County Fairgrounds all day during the March 10 election. Unfortunately, shortly after that, the petition effort had to be terminated for the safety of all, due to concerns about the coronavirus and the governor's stay-home order.

~Kathy Dawes, advocacy

### Idaho Newspapers for Letters to Editor

**Bonner County Daily Bee** in Sandpoint, ID:

Submit a letter here: <https://form.jotform.com/63485081842157/>

1,500 character limit, including spaces

**The Owyhee Avalanche** in Homedale, ID (SW ID):

Submit a letter here: <http://www.owyheepublishing.com/Contact.php>

**Coeur d'Alene Press** Submit a letter here:

<https://form.jotform.com/63567976899183>

Elections info: <https://cdapress.com/news/elections/>

**Idaho Press Tribune** in Nampa, ID Opinion/ Letters to the Editor:

Call (208) 465-8115

Email: [op-ed@idahopress.com](mailto:op-ed@idahopress.com)

**Idaho Statesman** in Boise, ID

Website form: <https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>

200 words or less; Limit of one letter per writer every 30 days

**Idaho State Journal** in Pocatello, ID Letters to the Editor: [ifennell@journalnet.com](mailto:ifennell@journalnet.com)

**Post Register** in Idaho Falls, ID

Submit form here: [https://www.postregister.com/site/forms/postregister/pr\\_letter/](https://www.postregister.com/site/forms/postregister/pr_letter/) 250 words or less

**Moscow Pullman Daily News** in Moscow, ID

300 words or less, at least 75% of which are your own; Limit of one letter every two weeks

Website form: [dnews.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](https://dnews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)

Email: [letters@dnews.com](mailto:letters@dnews.com) in the body of the email; no attachments

**Lewiston Tribune** in Lewiston, ID

250 words or less

Website form: [lmtribune.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](https://lmtribune.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)

Email: [letters@lmtribune.com](mailto:letters@lmtribune.com)

**The Spokesman-Review** in Spokane, WA

200 words or less Website form:

[www.spokesman.com/letters/submit/](https://www.spokesman.com/letters/submit/)

Email: [editor@spokesman.com](mailto:editor@spokesman.com)

**Boise Weekly** in Boise, ID Submit a letter here:

[https://www.idahopress.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](https://www.idahopress.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)

**The Herald Journal** (3 x per week) covers Franklin County, ID (MUST HAVE ACCOUNT)

**Shoshone News Press** in Shoshone County, ID

(NO INFO ABOUT HOW TO SUBMIT LETTER)

620 E. MULLAN AVE. OSBURN, ID 83849

Call: 208-752-1120

**Times-News** in Twin Falls, ID (Need membership)



# News from the Local Leagues



## 2020 Year in the making 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote 1920-2020

The 2020 Directory of Elected Officials for Nez Perce County Idaho was updated and distributed in late January with a “new” vintage look commemorating 100 years of women’s right to vote.

The LCValley League and the Lewiston City Library collaborated to present “Fake News: Media & Biases” on Feb. 27. Dr. Leif Hoffmann’s interactive presentation was well received by the audience of 50.

The League is collaborating with the library on an update on community mental health during May. Carol Moehrle, director of North Central Health Department, will present along with others. Hopefully by May the COVID-19 pandemic will have run its course.

Voter Registration. League members passed out sample ballots and voter information prior to the presidential primary at the YWCA's big fundraising event "Soup-Port" on Feb. 28.

The LWVLCValley 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting in March is postponed until we can have a face-to-face meeting.

We hope this year is back to normal soon and lessons learned will make us stronger League members and citizens.

Best Regards Maxine Miller, Spokesperson



## Nominating Committee

The cancellation of Council has resulted in the current board remaining in place, which includes an open seat. The Nominating Committee was not having a lot of success in recruiting volunteers for the board of directors. Currently we have one each from LWVM, LWVP and LWVKC. The other three are from the GBA MAL Unit. It would be great to have more representation from our local Leagues.

Serving on the board is an incredible opportunity to get to know members from other parts of the state. League members are some of the brightest, most informed individuals I have met. I have been enjoying the experience of being your president and I think you would enjoy the experience of serving on the board.

Please consider a board position. And let Susan Ripley know if you'd like to learn more.

# *In passing*

The League has lost several of its long-time members. I had the opportunity to know two of them, Dick Fredericks and Mary McGowan. I worked with Dick often during LWVM events. He was a pleasure and fun to be around. I met Mary at Convention in 2017. She lamented that Boise really needed a League. I said Mary, meet Crystal and that began the MAL Unit. I wish I had the pleasure of knowing the others. They are all amazing people.



**Ann McDougall** passed away peacefully in her sleep after a 6 year battle with cancer on June 2, 2019. She had been living with her son, John, for the past five months in Bountiful, Utah.

On April 20, 1935, she was born to Alvin Henry Reading and Ruth Barron Reading at Wendell, Idaho Her father ran the local newspaper, The Wendell Irrigationist, and her mother taught grade school. They moved to Boise when Alvin became the budget director for the state of Idaho Ann graduated from Boise High in 1953 and then attended the University of Idaho where she studied History and English and received a degree in English in 1957. Ann met Isaac McDougall and they were married on April 27, 1958.

She loved politics and making the world around her a better place. She enjoyed history and had an extensive history book collection and many historical maps of Idaho. Ann was a kind caring person and often described as "sweet "and "nice" and never hurt anyone always believing in the best in people and building them up rather than disparaging them.



**Marjorie H. Slotten**, 85, longtime Twin Falls resident, passed away peacefully in Pocatello, Idaho, on Nov. 10, 2019.

Marge was born Feb. 11, 1934, in Manitowoc, Wis. She was the eldest of seven children born to Donald E. and Margaret F. Hacker. She met her future husband, Royal Christen Slotten, while they both worked at the Clintonville Tribune-Gazette in Wisconsin.

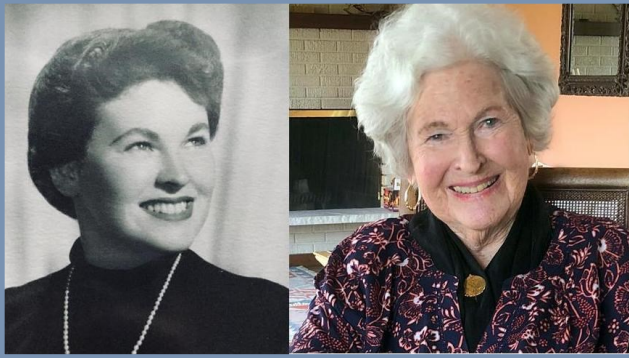
They moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, in August 1958 where they lived for more than 50 years. The couple moved to Pocatello in 2014.

Marge had a lifelong devotion to community and political service. She was a life member of LWVID and president in 1973, a particularly busy period for the League. Action to implement kindergartens was a top priority. The Equal Rights Amendment became an issue in the state and the Sunshine Initiative was placed on the ballot and passed overwhelmingly, due in large part to League efforts.

She put forth her efforts contributing to the election for three terms of U.S. Sen. Frank Church, who remained a friend to Marge until his death in 1984.



# *In passing continued*



**Kathryn Campbell Merriam (Kay)**, 87, of Pocatello, Idaho, died suddenly from a pulmonary embolism at Pocatello Regional Medical Center on Dec. 4, 2019. Kay was born to Lodema and Edgar Merton Campbell on May 5, 1932, in Los Angeles, Calif.

Kay was an active member of a number of community organizations, including the Idaho Native Plant Society, Portneuf Audubon Society, Bannock

County Democrats, Idaho Conservation League, the Sierra Club, and the Bannock Humane Society. She was a member of the Bannock County Planning and Zoning Commission beginning in 1984 and served as the chairperson from 1988-1999. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters between 1972-2003 and served as both the state and local president. She led a number of large initiatives to educate voters on important issues including judicial independence, nuclear waste disposal and land use planning.

She was often recognized for her contributions, including most recently on Nov. 1, 2019, by the NAACP, who awarded her the Medgars Evers Award for Distinguished Service for, "... your significant contributions to the community through your time, actions, talents, and your dedication to increasing the knowledge of our community on social justice, liberty and freedom."



**Mary Grunewald McGown**, Ph.D., died peacefully, after a short illness, on Feb. 29, 2020. She was a wonderful well-rounded person. Mary brought joy, intelligence, dedication, and love to her many roles as wife, mother, sibling, civic volunteer, and friend.

Mary was born June 19, 1949, in Oshkosh, Wis. Mary graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 1978 with a B.S. in biology. That same year she married John McGown.

Mary's civic engagement was extensive. She was a member of the League of Women Voters, serving as co-president of LWV Idaho and as president of the Boise LWV chapter; Idaho representative to the Northwest Energy Coalition; chair of the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission; chair of the Idaho Rivers United Board of Directors (John did not realize she was chair until he asked why they were seated at the head table at an IRU Annual Meeting). Her community activity and advocacy extended to the Audubon Society, Great Old Broads, Idaho Conservation League, Girl Scouts, Sierra Club, Idaho Master Naturalist Program, Idaho Native Plant Society, Sunday school teacher, and more.

From the GBA Mal Unit: We lost one of our most encouraging and fiery League members in February. Mary McGown died after a brief fight with cancer. We will all miss her very much. Her commitment to the work of the League was infectious and inspiring, and we all feel very honored to have known her.

# *In passing continued*



**Richard "Dick" Fredericks**, 88, passed away Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. With his family at his side, he went peacefully in the home he loved near Moscow Mountain, where he'd lived most of his life.

Dick was born March 11, 1931. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps after graduating from Helena High School. He then attended the University of Washington School Of Medicine, where he not only earned an M.D., but met the love of his life, Sally Fredericks. The two were married June 28, 1958, Both Dick and Sally were active in LWV of Moscow.

Dick was a respected doctor, a well-liked colleague and an active community member. His quick wit, sense of humor and kind heart were appreciated by all who knew him.

## **Looking for Volunteers**

Volunteers are need in many areas for LWVID. We need you!

**Advocacy:** Our Advocacy Chair, Mary Bostick, has moved to western Washington, so we no longer have her in our League. I'm sure you all know her name from the action emails she has sent out. I already miss her. That leaves an open position for an advocacy chair.

**Newsletter Editor:** Our newsletter editor has resigned as she is now running for the Legislature in district 5. Since I am acting editor for this newsletter, I already miss her, too.

The task of editor is to collect the content for publication. We have a copy editor who will edit all content and ready for publication. Then there is the putting the newsletter together. This can be done with any format you wish.

**NW Energy Coalition:** Our NW Energy Coalition representative was Mary McGown. LWVID is a member of the coalition and we need someone to represent League on the coalition. The position would basically include the participation in coalition meetings and events and be the main contact person for our organization.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas or would like to know more, please let me know. I do need your help.

~Susan Ripley

**LWVID and Debates** The LWVID will again partner with Idaho Public Television, BSU, UI and ISU in organizing The Idaho Debates for the congressional candidates.

The League effort is led by the Greater Boise Area MAL Unit. While the remote question and answer will be a different format this year, given the unprecedented circumstances, the broadcasts will be statewide in early May. More details will be forthcoming.

This partnership is a huge reason we need representation in Boise. Thank you GBAMU.

# LWVID Advocacy

As stated earlier, Advocacy Chair Mary Bostick moved to Washington, but before she left us, she did an update on the People Powered Fair Maps Campaign, a LWVUS national campaign which all states, including Idaho have signed on.

*Thank you Mary for a job well done and we already miss you.*

## People Powered Fair Maps Activities

Submitted by Mary Bostick 2/24/20

### LWVID Redistricting Activities

- November 13, 2019: LWVM Presentation on Redistricting.
- December 19, 2019: LWVID Webinar on Redistricting for all statewide League Leaders, MALS, Advocacy Chairs, and membership.
- Follow along with LWVUS toolkit materials on PPFM, redistricting, and the Census.
- LWVID President Susan Ripley, submitted op-eds to major news outlets in Idaho.
- Tracking ID legislative session for potential challenges to current bipartisan commission for redistricting.
- Tracing LWVUS for new federal level actions/activities.
- Census activities linked to redistricting are considered part of our PPFM purview.

## New Voting Information for the Primary

### Voter Registration

If you are not already registered to vote, register by April 24 for the May primary because you will not be able to register at the polls, since there will be no polls. If your address has changed since you last registered, you must re-register. You can register online or with a mail-in form.

Go to [www.IdahoVotes.gov](http://www.IdahoVotes.gov) . Select one of the buttons (“New Voter Registration” or “Update Voter Registration”) to complete the online voter registration process.

**You must have an Idaho driver’s license or identification card to complete the online voter registration process.**

*If you don’t have a driver’s license or identification card issued by the Idaho Department of Motor Vehicles* you will need to register to vote **by mail**. You will need to fill out and sign a paper, **voter registration application** (Form ERM-1), and submit the completed card to your local county clerk’s office by mail. **Your registration application must be post-marked by the 25th day prior to election.**



# New Voting Information for the Primary continued

Given the growing health concerns related to the coronavirus, it simply is not safe to hold in-person voting. This means, there will be no physical polling locations for the May primary. If you want to vote in the primary, you must request a ballot either online through the secretary of state's website ([idahoVotes.gov/absentee-request/](https://idahoVotes.gov/absentee-request/)) or through your county clerk.

## How to Request an Absentee Ballot

If you want to vote in the May primary, **you must request your ballot by May 19 and return it by June 2 in order to be counted.** In order to protect the health of Idaho's communities and slow the spread of the coronavirus, there will be no in-person polling locations for the May primary. So, if you do not have a ballot sent to you, you will not be able to vote in this election.

Go online to the secretary of state's website ([www.IdahoVotes.gov](http://www.IdahoVotes.gov)) to request your ballot for the May primary or contact your county clerk. In order to request a ballot, you will need to be registered to vote in Idaho. As long as you have an Idaho's driver's license, you can register to vote online at [IdahoVotes.gov](https://IdahoVotes.gov). Otherwise, you can contact your county clerk and register to vote through the mail. Make sure you are a registered voter today, so you can participate in the election by May 19.

## About the May Primary Ballot Choices

Your political affiliation will impact your ballot choices for the May primary. Idaho is a closed primary system. This means voters are only allowed to vote in the primary election of their designated political party, unless a political party allows unaffiliated voters or voters registered with a different party to participate in their primary. Democrats have chosen to open their primary to any registered voter. To put it simply, for this election, the Democrat and nonpartisan ballots are available to all registered voters; the Republican ballot is only available to registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters who choose to affiliate as a Republican.

**Please note: Nonpartisan ballots only contain bonds, levies, measures and nonpartisan positions like judges. They do not contain candidates from all parties.**

The last day voters could change their political affiliation for the May primary was March 13, 2020. Unaffiliated voters can change their party affiliation up to May 19, 2020.

## About the August and November Elections

**If you want to request absentee ballots for these future elections, there is currently not a way to do that online.**

Voting information compiled by Kathy Dawes, LWVM

Follow Us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lwvidaho>

On the web at [lwvid.org](http://lwvid.org)

Email president at [lwvid1944@gmail.com](mailto:lwvid1944@gmail.com)