

**General Election 2020 Vote By Mail**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many sectors of life to be upended. Much of what is being experienced is unprecedented and the ‘new normal’ of the future is unknown. Voting is a right that should not come at the cost of being exposed to this virus.

Based on the California Elections Code (EC 4007), which requires Los Angeles County to move to a voting model where every eligible voter is mailed a ballot prior to each election no later than 2024, it is conceivable that all voters receive a ballot in the mail this year, to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Given the recent Executive Orders by the Governor of California, we know that the local elections held in April, May and June 2020 will be conducted by mailing ballots to all eligible voters and providing in-person voting options at vote centers in a manner consistent with public health orders to restrict public gatherings by requiring physical distancing and personal protective equipment for voters and election workers. Recently, the California Secretary of State has convened a working group of voter advocacy organizations, legislative staff and county election officials to make statewide recommendations for a similar Executive Order regarding the

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conduct of the November 3, 2020 General Election and it would be both prudent and wise to plan accordingly.

Our local Public Health Officials have indicated the success of physical distancing in flattening the curve of COVID-19 spread and have warned us of the implications of lifting the health order too soon. Knowing that the health of all residents is at stake and that the current physical distancing requirements set to expire on May 15, 2020 may be extended, it is imperative to anticipate what extra challenges could arise in the General Election. The recruitment of community election workers for the General Election will likely be hampered by public health concerns related to COVID-19. The ability to ensure adequate number of accessible in-person voting locations to meet capacity demands and provide for physical distancing and reduced congestion necessitate an expanded vote by mail model to ensure every voter has access to a ballot.

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the provisions of the Voter's Choice Act (Elections Code sections 4005 and 4007(c)) applicable statewide, thereby accelerating provisions for mailing a ballot to every eligible voter in all elections starting with the November 3, 2020 General Election in response to ongoing public health concerns related to COVID-19;
2. Send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation urging support for emergency federal funds allocated to support the accelerated implementation of an expanded vote by mail voting model for the November 3, 2020 General Election aligned to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and in support of recovery efforts that support the limitation of

available in-person voting locations and the recruitment of election workers;

3. Send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation urging support for emergency state funds allocated to support the accelerated implementation of an expanded vote by mail voting model for the November 3, 2020 General Election aligned to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and in support of recovery efforts that support the limitation of available in-person voting locations and the recruitment of election workers;

**WE, FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to take appropriate measures to align in-person voting options for the November 3, 2020 General Election with guidance from the Department of Public Health to ensure the safety of voters and election workers; and
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to identify the resources needed to support the successful implementation of the expanded vote by mail model for the November 3, 2020 General Election including any required budget adjustments or supplemental funding authorization.

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