

COVID-19 Update: Voting and Election Changes

National	Date Changes	Notes
Voting Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We are one week from Election Day. Early voting has begun in most states – in fact, the U.S. has already hit 47% of total 2016 voting.</i> • The Wall Street Journal report on mail-in ballots notes that the U.S. Postal Service has urged voters to mail in their presidential ballots at least a week before their state’s due date in order to be counted. But that might not be enough time. “Of the 29 states that require mail-in ballots to arrive on or before election day, 28 have since late July seen periods of average delivery times exceeding six days. Among them are battleground states like Florida, Arizona, Wisconsin and Georgia.” You can read more here. 	
Government Guidance: CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDC issued guidelines at the end of June that recommend offering alternative methods of voting, other than voting in-person on Election Day, along with extensive suggestions for how to better protect in-person voting. Read the CDC guidelines here. 	
Presidential Debates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On October 22, the second and final Presidential debate between President Trump and former Vice President Biden will take place in Nashville, Tenn. The debate will begin at 9 p.m. EST and is hosted by NBC News’ Kristen Welker and will run for 90 minutes. • An evenly divided Supreme Court said on October 19 that it is declining to block a Pennsylvania State Court ruling allowing mail-in ballots in the crucial battleground state to be counted as long as they are postmarked by Election Day, even if they arrive up to three days later. • The Commission on Presidential Debates announced on October 19 that the candidates’ microphones will be muted during the two-minute opening remarks at the start of each 15-minute segment of the debate. During the 	

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	<p>remainder of the debate, the microphones will be on to allow an open discussion. Time taken up by interruptions by an opponent will be given back to the candidate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The final Presidential debate is slated for October 22 at Nashville’s Belmont University. Belmont University said it will work to implement strict health and safety protocols for the event.• Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris has canceled all campaign travel through this weekend “out of an abundance of caution” after a flight crew member and her communications director tested positive for coronavirus.• Tonight, both President Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden will hold separate town halls at 8 p.m. EST. The competing town halls will be held in lieu of the second presidential debate. NBC News is hosting President Trump’s town hall and Vice President Biden’s town hall will be hosted by ABC News.• NBC will host on October 15 a live town hall in Miami with President Trump. The event will be moderated by Savannah Guthrie and will directly compete with former Vice President Joe Biden’s ABC town hall. Both events take place at 8 p.m. ET.• The Commission on Presidential Debates canceled on October 9 the second presidential candidate debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden.• The Commission on Presidential Debates announced on October 8 that the second presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden, originally scheduled for next week, will be conducted virtually. The upcoming debate will be a	
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	<p>Town Hall style event "in which the candidates would participate from separate remote locations," the commission said. The town hall participants and moderator Steve Scully of C-SPAN will be located as planned at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami. However, President Donald Trump said the same day that he would not participate in the second televised debate if conducted virtually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vice President Mike Pence and Senator Kamala Harris, D-Calif., will face off at 9:00 p.m. ET on Oct. 7 in Utah for the Vice Presidential debate.• Vice President Mike Pence and Senator Kamala Harris are set to face off at 9:00 p.m. ET on October 7 in Utah for the Vice Presidential debate.• The first presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden will take place beginning at 9 p.m. ET on September 29. The debate will be moderated by Fox News' Chris Wallace and is scheduled to take place at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland.• The first presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump will take place Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 9 p.m. ET. The debate will be moderated by Fox News' Chris Wallace and is scheduled to take place at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland.• The Commission on Presidential Debates announced on Sept. 2 the slate of moderators for all three presidential debates and the vice presidential debate. The first debate, set for Sept. 29 in Cleveland, will be hosted by "Fox News Sunday" Anchor Chris Wallace; Steve Scully, C-SPAN senior executive producer and political editor, will moderate the second debate on Oct. 15 in	
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	<p>Miami; and NBC News White House Correspondent and “TODAY” Weekend Co-anchor Kristen Welker will host the final debate scheduled for Oct. 22 in Nashville. Susan Page, USA Today Washington bureau chief, will moderate the vice presidential debate between Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., on Oct. 7 in Salt Lake City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission on Presidential Debates, the nonpartisan group that has been planning general election debates for decades, announced on July 27 that the University of Notre Dame was dropping out from hosting the first presidential debate, scheduled for September 29. Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic now will co-host the first debate. • The Commission on Presidential Debates announced on June 23 that it would move the second presidential debate scheduled for October 15 to Miami, Fla., after the University of Michigan canceled it, citing safety concerns. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez says he will welcome the presidential debate moving to his city, but he has doubts about whether it can be held with an audience because of coronavirus. 	
<p>DNCC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third night of the Democratic National Convention will take place on August 19 from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. EST. Speakers include: Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers; New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham; and Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Watch it here. • The second night of the DNC Convention will take place on the night of Aug. 18 from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. EST. Speakers include: Former Acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D- 	

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	<p>N.Y.; Former Secretary of State John Kerry; Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.; Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, D-Del.; Former President Bill Clinton; and Dr. Jill Biden. Watch here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The virtual Democratic Convention begins on Aug.17 at 9 p.m. and running until 11 p.m. EST. Speakers include: Former First Lady Michelle Obama, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.), Former Ohio Governor John Kasich, Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.). You can watch here.• The virtual Democratic Convention will begin on August 17 with events taking place through August 20.• The Democratic National Convention Committee announced that the party's event will be completely virtual and that presumptive nominee Joe Biden will no longer travel to Milwaukee for his acceptance speech. The convention is planned to be entirely virtual with no one traveling to participate in events.• The Democratic Convention is scheduled for August 17 to 20, and will be live from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. each evening, with one or more speakers appearing nightly from a swing state, including Wisconsin. The planned themes for each day are as follows – MONDAY: A United America; TUESDAY: Steady Leadership; WEDNESDAY: A Future for All; THURSDAY: A New American Promise. Almost all facets of the convention will be virtual, with Vice President Joe Biden accepting the Democratic nomination in Milwaukee.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic officials are instructing House and Senate members and party delegates to skip attending their national convention this summer. “We have been working closely with state and local public health officials, as well epidemiologists, and have come to the hard decision that members of Congress should not plan to travel to Milwaukee,” Chasseny Lewis, a senior adviser to the convention committee, wrote in an email to congressional aides. “No delegates will travel to Milwaukee and Caucus and Council meetings will take place virtually.” • The Democratic National Committee (DNC) advanced on May 13 new rules to allow delegates to participate in the party’s nominating convention even if they do not attend the convention in person. The move is seen as the first step in creating a more limited in-person gathering or an entirely virtual event. The DNC’s full 447-person membership will vote by mail to adopt the resolution. The Democratic convention is currently scheduled for the week of August 17 in Milwaukee. • The Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee met on May 12 to consider a resolution giving the convention team "maximum flexibility to plan a safe event that guarantees every delegate can accomplish their official business without putting their own health at risk," per a DNC memo. The DNC is acknowledging that COVID-19 may make it impossible to conduct the August convention in-person and, via this memo, it is taking steps to allow virtual or socially distanced elements. • Moved to August 17 	
<p>DSCC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 8, The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) launched a new online hub aimed at 	

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	<p>engaging with voters and candidates ahead of November's general elections. FlipTheSenate.com will help voters sign up for volunteer opportunities with campaigns, donate to races and learn about Democrats running in races, as well as their GOP opponents.</p>	
<p>RNC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming for the fourth and final night of the Republican National Convention will begin Aug. 27 at 8:30 p.m. EST. Aside from President Trump’s headlining remarks, speakers will include: Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.; Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.; and Ivanka Trump, the president’s daughter and White House advisor. Stream the convention here. • Programming for the third night of the Republican National Convention will begin at 8:30 p.m. EST on August 26. Vice President Mike Pence is set to speak from Fort McHenry. Other scheduled speakers include: Second lady Karen Pence; Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn.; Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem; Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas; Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.; Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y.; Former Acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell; Kellyanne Conway, adviser to the president; Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, the Vice President’s national security adviser; Madison Cawthorn, the Republican nominee for North Carolina’s 11th congressional district; Clarence Henderson, a civil rights activist who participated in the 1960 Greensboro Woolworth’s sit-in; and Lara Trump, campaign adviser and wife of Eric Trump. Stream the convention here. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August 25 is the second night of the Republican National Convention, with programming beginning at 8:30 p.m. EST. Speakers include: First Lady Melania Trump; Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.; Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds; Eric Trump; and Tiffany Trump. Stream the convention here.• August 24 marks the beginning of the Republican Convention. Delegates will meet in person in the original host city of Charlotte, N.C., to formally nominate President Donald Trump for reelection. The rest of the of the convention is expected to emanate from Washington and be a mix of live and pre-taped programming. Monday’s speakers include Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina; House Minority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana; Reps. Matt Gaetz of Florida and Jim Jordan of Ohio; former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley; Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel; Donald Trump Jr.; Kimberly Guilfoyle, chair of the Trump Victory Committee’s finance committee; Georgia state Rep. Vernon Jones; Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk; Andrew Pollack, whose daughter was killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.; and Mark and Patricia McCloskey. Programming will begin at 8:30 p.m. EST and can be streamed here.• According to new reports from convention officials, Republican National Convention planners are considering the White House South Lawn as the site of President Trump’s nationally televised nomination acceptance speech later this month.• President Trump announced in a WRAL interview that he will accept the Republican nomination in Charlotte.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President Trump held a coronavirus briefing on July 23, during which he announced he would cancel the Republican National Committee’s convention plans in Jacksonville, Fla., in August. He said, “I told my team it’s time to cancel the Jacksonville component of the GOP convention. I’ll still do a convention speech in a different form, but we won’t do a big crowded convention.” Trump said the official nomination business will still take place in Charlotte, N.C.• Earlier in the week of July 13, Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel says Republicans will limit attendance to delegates during the first three nights of four-night convention. When President Trump delivers his nomination acceptance speech on the convention’s fourth night, Aug. 27, more people will be allowed to attend. Attendance that night will include delegates, a guest of their choosing and alternate delegates.• Sens. Mitt Romney, R-Utah; Susan Collins, R-Maine; Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa; and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., all have announced that they will not attend the Republican National Convention in Florida in August.• The City of Jacksonville, Fla., where the Republican National Convention is slated to be held in August, announced that it is instituting a city-wide mask order to stem the spread of coronavirus.• On June 11, the Republican National Committee (RNC) officially picked Jacksonville, Fla., for the RNC’s keynote events.• Jacksonville, Fla., has a “99 percent” chance of hosting the Republican National Convention's (RNC) keynote events after local and state officials made a case in	
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	<p>behind-the-scenes negotiations that the city had enough hotel rooms to accommodate such a large event. “While no final decision has been made by the RNC we understand Jacksonville is a front runner,” Republican Party of Florida Chair Joe Gruters tweeted on June 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RNC's Executive Committee voted on June 3 to allow most of the convention to move — with only a smaller, official portion remaining in Charlotte — after North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said the coronavirus pandemic would mean a scaled back event with social distancing and face coverings. The cities under consideration include Jacksonville, Phoenix, Dallas, Nashville, Atlanta and possibly New Orleans and Savannah.• According to Politico, RNC officials are considering Nashville, Tenn., and other locations as potential sites for the GOP convention. RNC staff is planning to make a trip to Nashville later during the week of June 1. Other locations RNC is investigating include: Las Vegas, Nev.; Orlando, Fla.; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Georgia. All of the prospective sites have directly expressed interest in hosting the convention, and party officials say it's likely they will visit several of them in the coming days. The GOP Convention is currently set to take place in Charlotte, N.C., August 24-27.• On May 29, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of Gov. Roy Cooper responded to the RNC's letter regarding logistics of the Republican National Convention scheduled to start in Charlotte on August 24. Read the letter here.• On May 28, RNC officials sent a letter to North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, detailing its safety guidelines for the convention. In the letter, the Host Committee outlines	
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	<p>protocols the RNC plans to follow during the convention, including thermal scans, widespread sanitizing measures and daily health checks delivered via an app. The letter also asks Gov. Cooper to let the Committee know “if there are any additional guidelines to what is outlined above that we will be expected to meet” by June 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 25, President Trump tweeted that he would move the 2020 Republican Convention if North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper doesn’t make a call on whether Charlotte can accommodate the Republican National Convention this summer: “Plans are being made by many thousands of enthusiastic Republicans, and others, to head to beautiful North Carolina in August... They must be immediately given an answer by the Governor as to whether or not the space will be allowed to be fully occupied. If not, we will be reluctantly forced to find, with all of the jobs and economic development it brings, another Republican National Convention site.” The GOP convention is currently scheduled for August 24-27. 	
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States	Date Changes	Local Changes	Notes
Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gov. Kay Ivey issued a proclamation allowing probate judges to make adjustments to the state’s postponed primary runoff election scheduled for July 14. For example, judges could reduce the number of poll workers and train those workers remotely, in order to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus. • Moved from March 31 to July 14. 		The primary run-off election was moved.
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			

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California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 3, Gov. Newsom ordered ballots to be mailed to all registered voters, early voting 3 days prior to the election and at least 1 voting location per 10,000 registered votes. 		
Colorado			
Connecticut	Moved from April 28 to June 2		
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia	Moved to June 9		
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana	Moved from May 5 to June 2		
Iowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky	Moved from May 19 to June 23		
Louisiana	Moved from April 4 to June 20	Municipal elections moved from July 25 to August 15	
Maine			
Maryland	Moved from April 28 to June 2		
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			

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Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals voted 12-3 to deny an emergency stay sought by GOP leaders in North Carolina to reimpose the ordinary, three-day-after-Election-Day rule. North Carolina typically counts absentee ballots that arrive up to three days after the election, but last month the State Board of Elections agreed to extend that window to nine days due to the increased ballot requests related to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, as well concerns about mail delays due to recent U.S. Postal Service changes. • On June 2, Gov. Roy Cooper rejected the GOP's plans for a full-fledged convention in Charlotte, telling Republican officials the only way the convention would move forward is with proper health protocols in place. 		
North Dakota			
Ohio	Moved from March 17 to June 2		
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	Moved from April 28 to June 2		
Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puerto Rico had to continue its primary elections one week after the original election day encountered problems with ballots not being distributed. When the final votes were tallied for the elections of both August 9 and 16, incumbent Governor Wanda Vazquez had been defeated in her bid to be re-elected. Instead, the 		

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	<p>gubernatorial nominee for her New Progressive Party will be former congressional representative Pedro Pierluisi. He will face off against Carlos Delgado, the nominee for the Popular Democratic Party. The New Progressive Party is in favor of statehood for Puerto Rico, while the Popular Democratic Party supports the current commonwealth status. Governor Vazquez has had issues with a scandal related to her handling of emergency supplies after earthquakes earlier in the year. Also, many were dissatisfied with how she has handled the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A crisis has arisen surrounding the primary elections, as ballots were not distributed sufficiently for the election to be completed as planned on August 9. The Election Commission, in agreement with the heads of the two major political parties, then suspended to August 16 the vote in polling places where no ballots had arrived. There is major confusion as to what happens to the votes that were cast on August 9 and the Puerto Rican Supreme Court is weighing petitions filed by candidates for governor and other organizations about the election. Some blame budget cuts for the ballot problems, saying the head of the Election Commission cut back on commission vice presidents who had experience with elections. • The primary elections for Puerto Rico are in the process of being moved to August 9, a date agreed upon by the political parties. The Senate has approved a resolution adopting the move and it is currently pending in the House of Representatives. 		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			

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Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia	Moved from May 12 to June 9		
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Supreme Court has declined to reinstate a court-ordered extension of the deadline for the receipt of absentee ballots in Wisconsin. The ruling, split 5-3, rejected the six-day extension a U.S. District Court judge issued last month in the key presidential swing state.</i> 		
Wyoming			