Cities Vote Resource Library for COVID-19 Voter Engagement Resources

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many communities across the country--economically, emotionally, and electorally. As the most trusted level of government, city leaders have a unique ability to understand the challenges their residents face to safely and fairly participate in this year's elections, including but not limited to the presidential election in November.

The Cities Vote team has gathered resources we hope will benefit you as you think through voter engagement, turnout, and protection strategies in the face of COVID-19. Below you will find resources from various partners and organizations whose work centers around voting.

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Vote-By-Mail

Many states are quickly pivoting to vote by mail or utilizing no excuse/universal absentee voting options in light of COVID-19. These efforts to expand voting from home may cause some challenging logistics at scale. Here are a few resources specific to Vote by Mail, including USPS mail kits and resources for digital signatures as well as some creative solutions to mail drops and other create ways to leverage voting by mail for fair and safe elections.

1. **Mail voting expected to explode during COVID-19:** https://rb.gy/zwd5c0
2. **Brennan Center for Justice: Why A Vote by Mail Option Is Necessary:** https://rb.gy/vlypyt
3. **Minnesota Post: Yes, Minnesota Could Move to Vote by Mail for the 2020 Election. No, it won't be easy:** https://rb.gy/szghyk
4. **US Post Office Election Mail Kits and Information:** https://rb.gy/pjetsp
5. **Maplight Resource: Free software for Govts for Digital Signature Gathering on Absentee Ballots:** https://rb.gy/yifntv
6. **Using Library Book Drops for Vote By Mail:** https://rb.gy/i3c0kh
7. **Vote At Home Scale Plan:** https://rb.gy/wyggkz
8. **Scaling Up Vote By Mail:** https://rb.gy/xjksbg
9. **Expanding Vote By Mail during COVID-19:** https://www.nased.org/covid19

In-Person Voting

During the age of Social Distancing, many communities are concerned about the health risks and hazards of voting in person. As you think about the health and safety of your community members in upcoming elections, use these resources as a guide for your planning and other strategic efforts in the weeks ahead.

1. **Relocating Polling Places in Vulnerable Communities:** https://rb.gy/y43edc
2. **Communities Trying To Protect Voters, Poll Workers:** https://rb.gy/db9v9s
3. **Social Distancing At Polling Places:** https://rb.gy/rjzinl
4. **CDC's Recommendations for Polling Places during COVID-19:** https://rb.gy/rarhht

Board of Elections

We know city and municipal leaders—often working in concert with county and state leaders and their Board of Elections—often find themselves serving as frontline communicators and implementers of elections. Local Elections officials also have the unique responsibility of directly managing poll workers, ensuring voter safety, and administering ballots. These resources will provide you with ways to continue keeping your elections safe during COVID-19.

1. **Meet with your local election officials**: https://rb.gy/jg8vs7
2. **33 Ways Election Offices are Responding to COVID-19:** https://rb.gy/a8srhq
3. **Center for Tech and Civic Life: Free Vote at Home Webinars for Election Officials:** https://rb.gy/yjs4l2
4. **Election Operations During COVID-19:** https://rb.gy/ehl26i

Voter Registration and Engagement

Voter registration has always been a critical piece of ensuring that elections remain safe, fair, and equitable access to the ballot box. COVID-19 makes these efforts even more important than ever before. These resources will provide you with ways to continue civic engagement and creating pathways to improving voter registration, voter turnout and voter education in your communities.

1. **Strategies to Raise Awareness of Upcoming Elections:** https://rb.gy/yj7rpf
2. **Campus Vote Project Student Voter Engagement Handbook:** https://rb.gy/ofqlme
3. **Conduct Election Outreach:** https://rb.gy/adoje2
4. **SLSV Digital Resource Tracker:** https://rb.gy/tl2toy
5. **iCivics Remote Voter Education Tools:** https://rb.gy/4glqh2
6. **National Voter Registration Day Communications Toolkit:** https://rb.gy/xrvuqa
7. **VotER Keeps Engagement Key During COVID Outbreak:** https://rb.gy/nqdofi
8. **A Voter Participation Starter Kit:** https://rb.gy/dsqyce

State by State/ COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness

Many states have existing plans governing elections in times of emergency and specifically for COVID-19. Organizations such as National Association of Secretaries of States, Election Assistance Commission, the National Conference of State Legislatures and Rock the Vote have compiled resources together about emergency management of elections, legislative actions and more, on state by state level.

1. **NASS: State Laws & Practices for the Emergency Management of Elections:** https://rb.gy/qjgilq
2. **NASS: Issue Briefing: Election Emergencies COVID-19:** https://rb.gy/xl4khb

3. **Election Assistance Commission Resource Page:** https://rb.gy/zvouzk
4. **NCSL State Action on COVID-19 and Elections:** https://rb.gy/psmfya
5. **NCSL Election Emergencies:** https://rb.gy/hfe9zb
6. **Rock the Vote State by State COVID-19 Election Information:** https://rb.gy/yz81kh

Election Security

Ensuring fair and safe elections this year will take increased vigilance to keep our elections safe from outside interference -whether that is online, by mail or in person. COVID-19 has amplified the existing need for attention to these issues, the resources below can help support you in building your election security infrastructure.

1. **Brennan Center for Justice: How to Protect the 2020 Vote from the Coronavirus**: https://rb.gy/vqd57o
2. **Free Online Election Security Courses:** https://rb.gy/cd6ect
3. **Transparent Elections:** https://rb.gy/gpnlgt
4. **CISA Election Infrastructure Security:** https://rb.gy/bexhxr
5. **CISA COVID-19 & Election Resources:** https://rb.gy/qklbya