

TOP 10 FACTS AND TIPS FOR MAKING ABSENTEE VOTING EASY & SUCCESSFUL

- 10** For persons who are blind or visually impaired, New Mexico has an absentee ballot designed so you can use your own non-visual or low-vision technology to mark it. To request one, go to the [Voter Information Portal](#) and click "request an absentee ballot online."
- 9** New Mexico does not use a signature match system where absentee ballots are only counted if election officials determine that the voter's signature on their ballot "matches" the signature on their absentee ballot application or voter registration.
- 8** New Mexico does require ballots to be signed by the applicant and requires the applicant's printed name, registration address and year of birth to be supplied by the applicant, which constitutes the required form of identification. The absentee ballot envelope contains a form that must be executed by the voter. If the signature is missing, the ballot is rejected.
- 7** For people with PD, this means you don't have to be concerned if your signature is inconsistent or not legible. Take your time voting and completing the required information. Do it when your meds are working. Sometimes 10 reps of flicking your fingers (Make a fist with both hands and using quick, forceful movements, open your hands with **fingers straight and spread wide apart**. Repeat 10 times. Do another set if your writing worsens.) This can help activate your hand muscles.
- 6** You must follow all instructions for preparing and sealing your ballot. It will be rejected if these instructions are not followed. This is a good time to ask a friend or family member for help or to check your ballot and envelope.
- 5** The envelope for returning your ballot is postage-free. Use a secure mailbox or drop with frequent pickups, especially if it's near the deadline for arriving by election day. A mailbox at the post office is a good choice.
- 4** You can return your own absentee ballot at an early voting location. At the location, it will be placed in a secured container that has signage and is monitored by video surveillance.
- 3** In person delivery of an absentee ballot can be done at the county clerk's office by the voter, the voter's caregiver, or a member of the voter's immediate family (spouse, children, parents or siblings). Taking it to the county clerk's office lessens the appeal of this option in Bernalillo county but it might be useful to some people in other counties. We could find no information about what kind of ID might be needed. So it's best to contact county clerk.
- 2** The [Portal](#) allows you to track your absentee ballot online from the application stage to when it's counted by the county clerk. This is done using Intelligent Mail Barcodes

1 Absentee dates to remember

- **Monday, September 14** Applications for an absentee ballot will automatically be sent to all registered voters in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties. Valencia and Torrance county registered voters must request an application from their county clerk. County clerks in all counties must receive absentee applications by **Tuesday October 20**.
- **Tuesday, October 6** County clerks begin sending ballots to all those who have requested them. Absentee voting by mail also begins on this day.
- **October 17-31** A voter can take his/her own absentee ballot to an early in-person voting location during operating hours. In Valencia and Torrance counties this can vary. Check the [Portal](#) or your county clerk.
- **Tuesday, October 27** Last day absentee ballots should be mailed to assure timely delivery and that your vote will be counted. Best to mail early.
- **Tuesday, November 3** Be sure to vote if you haven't already. Be prepared to wait.

PLAN AHEAD AND VOTE EARLY. BE AN INFORMED VOTER. EDUCATE YOURSELF.

NOTE—In 2019 the NM legislature passed a “50-year tuneup” of the election code. The 2020 General Election will be its first major test. We’ll soon see how the changes impact a large absentee turnout. For example, having a caregiver or family member deliver a voter’s absentee ballot to the county clerk is a new option.

If you’re interested in seeing the election code changes, go to www.nmlegis.gov and search: 2019, HB407.