

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOTE BY MAIL TO MINIMIZE VIRUS RISKS

LAFAYETTE, IN, March 19th: The Tippecanoe County Board of Elections and Registration is committed to the integrity, security and efficiency of all elections in Tippecanoe County. With this Commitment comes a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all residents as they exercise their right to vote.

Currently, we are preparing to mail 2020 presidential primary ballots this Friday to voters who have requested absentee ballots. As we prepare for this election, we are also monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and making plans to prevent the spread of the virus during voting in the primary election.

We highly recommend that voters at higher risk from severe illness consider voting by mail instead of voting in-person. Until further notice, all nursing homes will not serve as a vote center for this presidential primary.

Voters 60 and older and those who have serious underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease, may find applications for mail ballots on our website at www.tippecanoe.in.gov/447/Absentee-Voting, by emailing us at electionboard@tippecanoe.in.gov or calling us at 423-9316.

The Absentee Ballot Application (ABS-MAIL) deadline is April 23 by 11.59 PM. The United States Post Office advises that first-class mail turnaround is at least three to five days.

Official ballots will be mailed to the voter once we receive their completed application. Ballots must be marked and returned to the Election Board **by noon on Election Day, May 5th**, either by mail or dropped off at our office by the voter or a member of the voter's household.

We encourage healthy voters to vote early at the Tippecanoe County Board of Elections Office, located at 20 N 3rd St., Lafayette, Indiana on the 3rd floor during regular business hours beginning Tuesday, April 7th through Monday, May 4th at noon. The Election Office will also be open on Saturday, April 25th from 9 AM to 3 PM.

The pandemic has proven to be an unprecedented challenge for election officials across the state. The Board of Elections and Registration will continue to work with the Tippecanoe County Department of Health, Indiana Secretary of State's office, and our vendor and vote center location partners as we prepare for early voting, beginning April 7th, and Election Day, May 5th.

As events unfold, we will modify and initiate contingency plans designed to mitigate risks to voters and poll workers while ensuring we provide fair and accurate election services. It is our goal to protect voters and poll workers by minimizing the risk of exposure to the virus.

Julie Roush is Clerk of the Circuit Court and Secretary of the Board of Elections and Registration for Tippecanoe County.