**May Primary 2020 Talking Points**:

* In order to keep Idahoans safe amid a growing global health pandemic and protect their right to vote, Idahoans will vote in the May primary from home. If you want to vote in the election, you will need to request a ballot online at IdahoVotes.gov or contact your local county clerk.
* Given the growing number of coronavirus cases in Idaho, it simply was not safe for voters, election workers or the larger community to hold in-person voting for the May primary. Having Idahoans request a ballot and vote at home will protect the health of Idahoans, slow the spread of COVID-19, allow the election to move forward as scheduled and ensure everyone can still exercise their right to vote.
* To vote in the May primary, Idahoans **must request** their ballot from their county clerk or online through the Secretary of State’s website by May 19. Once their ballot arrives to their home, voters simply fill it out and mail it back using the pre-addressed envelope.
* We will be sending a ballot request form to every registered voter that has **not** already requested a ballot for May. If you cannot access IdahoVotes.gov to request your ballot, you do not need to worry. Registered voters will be sent ballot request forms in late April.
* Idahoans should not wait to request their ballot or vote in the May primary. Request your ballot now. As soon as you receive your ballot, fill it out and mail it back to be counted.
* Voters who would normally request voting assistance or who have accessibility concerns should contact their county clerk’s office to discuss what accommodations may be available for the May primary.

**Key Dates**:

* Deadline to register to vote - May 19
* Deadline to request a ballot - May 19
* May primary - May 19
* Ballots counted & results released – June 2

**Frequently Asked Questions**:

* How can I vote in the May primary?

Given the growing health concerns related to the coronavirus, it simply is not safe to hold in-person voting. This means, there will be no physical polling locations for the May primary. If you want to vote in the primary, you must request a ballot either online through the Secretary of State’s website ([www.IdahoVotes.gov](http://www.IdahoVotes.gov)) or through your county clerk. Ballots must be received by the clerk by June 2, 2020 in order to be counted.

* How do I request my ballot?

Requesting a ballot is easy. Simply go online to the Secretary of State’s website ([www.IdahoVotes.gov](http://www.IdahoVotes.gov)) to request your ballot for the May primary or contact your county clerk. You must request your ballot by May 19. In order to request a ballot, you will need to be registered to vote in Idaho. As long as you have an Idaho’s driver’s license, you can register to vote online at IdahoVotes.gov. Otherwise, you can contact your county clerk and register to vote through the mail. Make sure you are a registered voter today, so you can participate in the election by May 19.

* When do I need to request my ballot?

If you want to vote in the May primary, you must request your ballot by May 19. In order to protect the health of Idaho’s communities and slow the spread of the coronavirus, there will be no in-person polling locations for the May primary. So, if you do not have a ballot sent to you, you will not be able to vote in this election.

* Do I need to declare my political affiliation to vote in the May primary?

Your political affiliation will impact your ballot choices for the May primary. Idaho is a closed primary system. This means voters are only allowed to vote in the primary election of their designated political party, unless a political party allows unaffiliated voters or voters registered with a different party to participate in their primary. Democrats have chosen to open up their primary to any registered voter. To put it simply, for this election, the Democratic and non-partisan ballots are available to all registered voters; the Republican ballot is only available to registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters who choose to affiliate as a Republican. Please note, non-partisan ballots only contain bonds, levies, measures and non-partisan positions like Judges. They do not contain candidates from all parties. The last day voters could change their political affiliation for the May primary was on March 13, 2020. Unaffiliated voters can change their party affiliation up to May 19, 2020.

* Why is voting changing for the May primary? Will there be any polling places?

Idaho’s Governor Brad Little, Secretary of State Lawerence Denney and Idaho’s 44 county clerks are concerned about the growing number of coronavirus cases in our state. They are taking strong action to preserve the health of Idahoans. In order to protect voters, election workers and our communities and to slow the spread of COVID-19, voters will need to request a ballot for the May primary and vote from home. Some counties may choose to have a physical drop-off location for ballots on May 19, so please check with your local county clerk to determine the specific plans for your county.

* Is it legal to conduct the May primary this way?

Given the extenuating circumstances around the coronavirus pandemic and Governor Brad Little’s state of emergency declaration, Governor Little has the authority under Section 46-1008(5)a of Idaho to “suspend the provisions of any regulations prescribing the procedures for conduct of public business that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.” As such, after consulting with the Secretary of State and Attorney General, Governor Little issued a proclamation authorizing the Secretary of State to conduct the election by mail using absentee ballots.