

State of Nevada

**A Citizen's Guide to Voting  
in the  
November 3, 2020 General Election**



How to Vote

Developing the capability, knowledge, and habits to be an informed, competent voter - a civic skill.

Specific to: The State of Nevada

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David Brehe, Paso Robles CA

## Introduction.

The purpose of this guide is to provide knowledge, methods, and tools to enable citizens to become more effective voters.

U.S. citizens, with a few exceptions, have the right and privilege to vote. Historically this right has been hard-fought and retaining it will be subject to continuous pressures. However, [U.S. Voting and Election Laws](#) and the [Nevada Voter's Bill of Rights](#) offer a wide range of rights and protections.

Nevada is committed to raising the voter registration and voting rate. And partly due to the Nevada DMV automatic voter registration program that began January 1, 2020, nearly 76% of eligible voters are registered.<sup>1,2</sup> However:

- In the 2018 Nevada General Election, only 46.5% of the eligible voters cast a ballot.<sup>3</sup>
- In the 2018 Nevada General Election, 45.4% of eligible University of Nevada, Reno students cast a ballot. That is a significant increase over the 2014 General Election when only 17.6% of the eligible UNR students voted.<sup>4</sup>
- In the 2018 Nevada General Election, 45.3% of eligible Nevada State College students cast a ballot. That is a significant increase over the 2014 General Election when only 17.8% of the eligible NSC students voted.<sup>5</sup>
- In the 2020 Nevada Primary Election, only 26% of the registered voters voted. Assuming 76% of eligible voters are registered, then about 19.8% of the eligible voters cast a ballot.<sup>6</sup>

Most of the information related to voting focuses on registering to vote and encouraging people to vote. Very little material exists to help people understand how to vote, i.e. register; gather and organize issue and candidate information; evaluate the information; make voting decisions; determine where, when, and how to vote; vote; track your vote and make sure it was counted; and monitor the election processes and outcome.

If this looks a little bit like a project, well it is. The supposition is that voting skills and habits can be improved over time if voting is treated as an important project, rather than an event.

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<sup>15</sup> Nevada SOS Voter Registration Statistics, August 2020. Updated 9/1/2020. (20 September 2020). <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=8874>

<sup>16</sup> Nevada AB4, Sections 25, 26, & 27. (20 September 2020). <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/32nd2020Special/Bill/7150/Text>

<sup>17</sup> *Nevada's June 9 Primary in the Wake of the Coronavirus*. By Thomas Hopkins, Sean Kang, Kenneth Kuwayti, Zahavah Levine, Max Levy. Thursday, August 27, 2020, 8:01 AM. (20 September 2020). <https://www.lawfareblog.com/nevadas-june-9-primary-wake-coronavirus>

### What's new this election.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the voting options and processes for the Nevada November 3, 2020 election will be somewhat different from the past in that the state has designated it an "affected election." The net effect of recent legislation, including [AB4](#), will be that:

- Every Active registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail – a Mail-in-Ballot. Inactive registered voters won't receive a Mail-in-Ballot, but they can vote, if they meet all the legal requirements for voting. See the Glossary for definitions of Active and Inactive registered voters.
- Early Voting will take place at in-person polling places, during the 14-day period, beginning 10/17 through 10/30/2020. All counties will have a minimum of 1 in-person Early Voting site. Washoe County will have a minimum of 15, and Clark County will have a minimum of 35. Early Voting sites and times of operation can be found here <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-day-information>
- Election Day is Tuesday, 11/3/2020. All counties will have a minimum of 1 in-person voting site. Washoe County will have a minimum of 25, and Clark County will have a minimum of 100. Election Day voting sites and times of operation can be found here <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-day-information>
- Voters can return their completed ballot, using the provided envelope by: mail, deposit it in a secure drop-off box, or take it to an in-person voting site. Additionally, voters can authorize another person to turn in their ballot ("ballot collection"); however, failure of the person to deliver the ballot can be a felony.
- All counties will have a minimum of 1 secure ballot drop-off box. Find county locations, and dates/hours of availability here <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-information/2020-election/2020-general-election>
- Voters that are physically disabled, over 65, or unable to read or write may have another person mark and sign their ballot. The assisting person must include their name, address, and signature on the ballot envelope.
- Counties can begin processing ballots 15 days before Election Day, and count ballots they receive up to 7 days after the polls close — as long they are postmarked by Election Day, 11/3/2020. If the postmark on a Mail-in-Ballot "can't be determined," (e.g. missing or illegible) the ballot will be counted if it is received by 5pm on 11/6/2020.

- Health and safety protocols and PPE will be utilized to safeguard voters and poll workers at the in-person voting sites.

### Important dates.

Date	Description
October 6, 2020*	Close of registration for the <b>General Election</b> : October 6, 2020, if you register to vote by mail; October 6, 2020, if you register to vote in person; or October 29, 2020, if you register online. *Same-day registration is available at any in-person polling site during Early Voting and on Election Day, although you may have to cast a provisional ballot.
October 14, 2020	Vote-by-Mail ballots, sent to every Active registered voter, in the mail probably by late September or early October. NV law: begin mailing ballots no later than 10/14. See table for mailing dates of Sample ballot and Ballot by county. <a href="https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/2020-election">https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/2020-election</a>
October 17, 2020	Early Voting polling sites open 10/17/2020 through 11/30/2020. Days and time of operation vary by county.
November 3, 2020	Election Day! Nevada General Election. Polling sites open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
November 10, 2020	Last day for County Clerk to receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot postmarked no later than 11/3/2020. However, if the postmark can't be "determined" (e.g. missing or illegible) the ballot must be received by 5pm on 11/6/2020.

### Elements of voting.

#### 1 - Register

**Have you already registered to vote?** Check your voter registration status online at [www.registertovotenv.gov](http://www.registertovotenv.gov) or contact your County Clerk/Registrar at <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/county-clerk-contact-information> . If you've moved, changed your name, changed party affiliation, or haven't voted recently you should check your status and update your information or re-register. Also, check your phone number and e-mail address since election officials can use those (plus your mailing address) to contact you to cure ballot issues.

**Register to vote.** Register online at [www.registertovotenv.gov](http://www.registertovotenv.gov) or via a paper voter registration form available at a library or DMV. The form is also available as a PDF at <https://www.nvsos.gov/SOSVoterRegForm/home.aspx>

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<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/2020-statistics> (voter registration data)  
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/election-turnout-statistics> (election results turnout statistics)

<sup>7</sup> National Council of State Legislatures. State Primary Election Types. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/primary-types.aspx> (20 September 2020). "... A closed Primary Election in Nevada means if you chose Democrat or Republican as your party on your Voter Registration Application, you may vote only for candidates from your own party and you may also vote in nonpartisan contests. If you chose a party affiliation that was anything other than Democrat or Republican, you may vote only in nonpartisan contests. Note that ballot questions will not appear in the Primary Election. ..."  
[https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/elections/services/how\\_party\\_affiliation\\_affects\\_you\\_in\\_elections/index.php](https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/elections/services/how_party_affiliation_affects_you_in_elections/index.php)

<sup>8</sup> News Literacy Toolkit is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, and in partnership with the Pacific Library Partnership.

<sup>9</sup> *What is Design Thinking and Why Is It So Popular?* By Rikke Dam and Teo Siang. <https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/what-is-design-thinking-and-why-is-it-so-popular>

<sup>10</sup> *Wicked problems, workable solutions: lessons from a public life.* By Daniel Yankelovich. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

<sup>11</sup> Values-based Decision Making and Value-based Decision Making are different, but somewhat related. Value-based decision making assumes that choices are made via the maximization of some objective function, e.g. a computed expected value.

<sup>12</sup> Kahneman, Daniel. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011.

<sup>13</sup> *Indy Analysis: What led to thousands of uncounted ballots in Nevada's 2020 primary election?* By Kristyn Leonard. June 29, 2020. <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/analysis-what-led-to-thousands-of-uncounted-ballots-in-nevadas-2020-primary-election> (20 September 2020).

<sup>14</sup> Nevada SOS 2020 Primary Election statistics. Of the 1,886,928 total registered voters, a total of 491,654 voted in the Primary = 26.06%.  
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/2020-statistics> (voter registration data)  
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/election-turnout-statistics> (election results turnout statistics) <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=8686> (spreadsheet)

Benson, Buster. *Why Are We Yelling?: The Art of Productive Disagreement*. New York: Portfolio/Penguin, 2019.

Nisbett, Richard E. *Mindware: Tools for Smart Thinking*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015.

*Fair Elections During a Crisis: Urgent Recommendations in Law, Media, Politics, and Tech to Advance the Legitimacy of, and the Public's Confidence in, the November 2020 U.S. Elections*. April 2020.

<https://www.law.uci.edu/faculty/full-time/hasen/2020ElectionReport.pdf> (report)

<https://www.law.uci.edu/faculty/full-time/hasen/election-recommendations/> (presentation)

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## End Notes.

<sup>1</sup> Secretary Cegavske Announces a Significant Increase in Active Registered Voters in January. Post Date: 02/04/2020.

<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/Home/Components/News/News/2713/23?arch=1> Secretary Cegavske Announces an Increase in Active Registered Voters in August. Post Date: 09/01/2020. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/Home/Components/News/News/2861/309?backlist=%2fsos>

<sup>2</sup> McDonald, Michael P. 2020. *United States Elections Project*. (9/18/2020).

<http://www.electproject.org/2020p> and <https://silverstateelection.nv.gov/vote-turnout/> (1,630,379 Registered Voters) ÷ (2,137,552 Voter Eligible Population) = 76% of Eligible Voters were Registered.

<sup>3</sup> McDonald, Michael P. 2018. *2018 November General Election Turnout Rates*.

*United States Elections Project*. (9/18/2020). <http://www.electproject.org/2018g> (975,980 Actual Ballots Counted) ÷ (2,099,842 Voter Eligible Population) = 46.48% of eligible voters cast a ballot. Note: the Nevada Secretary of State shows 976,320 Actual Ballots counted, a difference of 340 Actual Ballots. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=6050>

<sup>4</sup> The September 2019 University of Nevada, Reno Report from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Accessed 9/16/2020 on the All In Challenge website.

<https://www.allinchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/University-of-Nevada-Reno-NSLVE-2018.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> The September 2019 Nevada State College Report from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Received from Nevada State College 10/13/2020.

<sup>6</sup> Nevada SOS 2020 Primary Election statistics. Of the 1,886,928 total registered voters, a total of 491,654 voted in the Primary = 26.06%.

- Make sure to understand the difference between registering with or without a party affiliation, and the effect on voting in a primary election. Nevada is 1 of 9 states that have closed primary elections, meaning that you must be a registered member of a party to participate in their primary election.<sup>7</sup> Note also that American Independent, Other, and Nonpartisan are not equivalent.
- \* You can “conditionally” register to vote at your county elections office or in-person polling place after the voter registration deadline. Same-Day Voter Registration in Nevada permits one to register to vote during Early Voting or on Election Day. Nevada voters can register to vote or update existing voter registration information in person at the polling place either during Early Voting or on Election Day. Same-Day-Registrants are required to present a valid Nevada Driver's License or Nevada Identification Card and proof of residency to register. You may be required to vote a Provisional Ballot. A Provisional Ballot is utilized when a voter's eligibility can't be determined, such as when their name doesn't appear in the voter roster. The voter is allowed to vote a ballot, which is placed into an envelope (instead of the ballot box). These ballots are evaluated during the canvass period. Once the voter's eligibility is determined to be valid, the voter's ballot is then counted during subsequent ballot counting. See “Can I register to vote on Election Day?” <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-resources/faqs>

**Youth can pre-register.** If you're 17, pre-register and your registration will be activated automatically when you turn 18. [www.registertovotenv.gov](http://www.registertovotenv.gov)

## 2 - Gather information

Acquire election and voter information from county and state election officials, as well as independent nonpartisan sources.

- Nevada Secretary of State – Elections. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections>
- Your county Voter Information Guide and a Ballot. This will probably be mailed to you in late September or early October, but no later than 10/14/2020. See County Clerks & Voter Registrars, Contact Information -- <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/county-clerk-contact-information> For example, Elko County has General Voter Information

including Sample Ballots at

<https://www.elkocountynv.net/departments/clerk/elections.php>

- The League of Women Voters. <https://www.lwv.org>
- Ballotpedia is the digital encyclopedia of American politics and elections. [https://www.ballotpedia.org/Main\\_Page](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Main_Page)
- BallotReady. <https://www.ballotready.org/>
- The Nevada Independent is a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom. <https://thenevadaindependent.com/about>

### 3 - Evaluate the information

- Web Literacy for Student Fact-checkers by Michael A. Caulfield. <https://webliteracy.pressbooks.com>
- News Literacy Toolkit (Pacific Library Partnership).<sup>8</sup> <http://plpinfo.org/news-literacy-toolkit>
- Is This Source or Information Good (American Library Association)? <https://library.csuchico.edu/help/source-or-information-good>
- FactCheck.org (A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center). <https://www.factcheck.org/hot-topics/>
- Fake News, Propaganda, and Misinformation: Learning to Critically Evaluate Media Sources (Cornell University Library). [http://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate\\_news](http://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate_news)
- Pros & Cons of Current Issues. <https://2020election.procon.org/>
- Facts vs. Myths, 2020 Nevada General Election <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=8842>

### 4 - Use an appropriate decision-making method

The League of Women Voters has outlined an evaluation process for candidates: *How to Judge a Candidate*. <https://www.lwv.org/blog/how-judge-candidate>

However, more and more of the items we're voting on in Nevada are considered "wicked problems," meaning complex and tangled (not evil). A wicked problem is a social or cultural problem that is difficult or impossible to solve for as many as four reasons: 1) incomplete or contradictory knowledge 2) the number of people and opinions involved 3) the large economic burden and 4) the interconnected nature of these problems with other problems.

- Same-day registration. Nevada (AB 345) enacted same-day voter registration in 2019. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/same-day-registration.aspx> After the voter registration deadline, a voter can "conditionally" register to vote at the county elections office or at an in-person polling place during Early Voting or on Election Day, and then cast a Provisional ballot.
- U.S. Elections Assistance Commission, Glossary of election terminology. <https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/glossaries-of-election-terminology>
- Ballotpedia, Glossary of election policy terms. [https://ballotpedia.org/Glossary\\_of\\_election\\_policy\\_terms](https://ballotpedia.org/Glossary_of_election_policy_terms)

### Reference Information.

U.S. Government. U.S. Voting and Election Laws. N.d. <https://www.usa.gov/voting-laws> (4 August 2020)

Nevada Secretary of State. *Elections and Voter Information*. N.d. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections> (16 September 2020).

Nevada Secretary of State. *Election Results Turnout Statistics*. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/election-turnout-statistics> And *2020 Registration Statistics*. N.d. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/2020-statistics> (16 September 2020).

*The Indy Explains: Everything to know about Nevada's expanded mail-in election*. By Riley Snyder. August 25th, 2020. (16 September 2020). <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/the-indy-explains-everything-to-know-about-nevadas-expanded-mail-in-election>

Vote411.org. Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. <https://www.vote411.org/> (4 August 2020)

California AB-1913 Voter education: high school pupils. (2019-2020). Pending. California Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez reintroduced the bill (AB-773) this session as AB-1913. [http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB1913](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1913)

Lehrer, Jonah. *How We Decide*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.

Rubin, Theodore Isaac. *Overcoming indecisiveness: the eight stages of effective decision making*. New York: Harper & Row, c1985.

provisions governing election procedures for absent ballots, mailing ballots and other mail ballots; making various other changes relating to elections; prohibiting certain unlawful acts relating to elections; providing for the transfer, disbursement and use of certain funds to pay certain expenses relating to elections; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. ..." [AB4](#)

- Canvass. Compilation of election returns and validation of the outcome that forms the basis of the official results by the County. [https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac\\_assets/1/6/EMG\\_chapt\\_13\\_august\\_26\\_2010.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/EMG_chapt_13_august_26_2010.pdf)
- Conditional registration. When a voter registers or re-registers within the 14-day period before an Election Day, they are conditionally registered and may cast a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot is not processed until their conditional registration is evaluated and becomes effective. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/conditional-voter-registration/>
- Curing or cure, or a notice to cure. A voter is notified of an issue with their ballot, such as an ambiguous signature, and given an opportunity to correct it.
- Inactive registered voter. "... Both active and inactive voters are registered voters and allowed to cast ballots during elections. A voter is [marked](#) as "inactive" once election mail sent to their on-file address is marked as undeliverable, and a separate forwardable postcard asking the voter to update the address has not been returned within 30 days. Inactive voters are still allowed to cast a ballot as long as they meet all other legal requirements for voting. Once placed on the "inactive" voter roll, the individual's voter registration is canceled if the voter does not vote in the next two federal elections or shows no other voter activity during that time. ..." <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/the-indy-explains-everything-to-know-about-nevadas-expanded-mail-in-election>
- Provisional ballot. Ballot provided to individuals who claim they are registered and eligible to vote but whose eligibility or registration status cannot be confirmed when they present themselves to vote. Once voted, such ballots must be kept separate from other ballots and are not included in the tabulation until after the voter's eligibility is confirmed. In some jurisdictions this is called an affidavit ballot.

Two methods that have proven to be effective on these types of problems are *design thinking* and *deliberative dialogue*. They may appear to be quite different, but are composed of the same basic elements (framing, trust, empathy, ideation, the exposure of assumptions, prototyping, action, etc.). And both utilize the perspective of others, gained through discussion.

Design Thinking revolves around an interest in gaining a deep understanding of the people for whom products or services are being designed - empathy. And it helps us in the process of questioning: questioning the problem, questioning the assumptions, and questioning the implications. It is useful in tackling problems that are ill-defined or for which there isn't a single, "correct" answer (e.g. weight of a cell phone), by re-framing the problem in human-centric ways, creating many ideas in brainstorming sessions, and adopting a hands-on approach in prototyping and testing. Design thinking also involves ongoing experimentation: sketching, prototyping, testing, and trying out concepts and ideas.<sup>9</sup>

Deliberative Dialogue is a mode of communication in which participants systematically consider the strengths and weaknesses of an issue in a climate of mutual respect:

- Deliberation may be defined as a process in which a wide range of competing arguments are given careful and systematic consideration in small-group discussions.
- Dialogue is a process of relationship building. It is an exchange of ideas characterized by 1) equality and the absence of coercive influences 2) listening with empathy 3) bringing assumptions into the open.<sup>10</sup>

### **5 - Name and Frame**

When issues are named and framed in public terms, we can identify the problem that we need to talk about (naming) and the critical options and drawbacks for deciding what to do about that problem (framing).

Three key questions drive the development of a framework for public deliberation: 1) What concerns you about this issue? 2) Given those concerns, what would you do about it? 3) If that worked to ease your concern, what are the downsides or trade-offs you might then have to accept? See - Framing Public Issues by the FrameWorks Institute.

<http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/assets/files/PDF/FramingPublicIssuesfinal.pdf>



## 6 - Examine Your Assumptions, Biases, and Emotions

We all have biases and make assumptions about the world around us. The key to making good voting decisions is to examine those in light of your self-interest as well as your responsibility to the community. Something as simple as who won the football game yesterday can affect our emotions and influence how we vote on a bond issue today.

- Identify and examine the assumptions that are the basis of your views. <https://fee.org/articles/the-mistake-you-make-in-every-political-argument/>
- Avoiding Psychological Bias in Decision Making, How to Make Objective Decisions. <https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/avoiding-psychological-bias.htm>
- Factfulness: Dramatic Instincts and Helpful Rules of Thumb. <https://www.gapminder.org/factfulness/>

## 7 - Discuss with others

We have a cultural habit of thought to view a discussion as a debate, where the goal is winning. Design thinking and deliberative dialogue both structure discussions to gather and examine various perspectives and their underlying assumptions.

- Sample Ground Rules for Deliberation & Dialogue Processes. <http://ncdd.org/rc/item/1505/>
- What is a Better Argument? <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/better-arguments-project-report-key-operating-principles/>
- The National Issues Forums offer a number of free issue guides at <https://www.nifi.org/en/issue-guides/issue-guides>
- Living Room Conversations. <https://www.livingroomconversations.org>
- Red Blue Dictionary. <https://redbluedictionary.org>
- Ask better questions with the Question Formulation Technique. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/oct14/vol72/num02/The-Right-Questions.aspx>

## 8 - Decide and take action to support candidates & issues

An acknowledged decision method is to carefully weigh the positive and negative attributes associated with each alternative, and find a balance between them. Values are often heart-felt, so decisions with a values component may be best made by including both objective reasoning and your feelings.

## Tools.

- TurboVote helps subscribers register to vote, find polling places, and research candidates and measures. The app was launched by Democracy Works and is used by many colleges. <https://turbovote.org/>
- Mailin2020.org provides Vote-by-Mail information for every state. <https://mailin2020.org>
- The Google Civic Information API lets developers build applications that display civic information to their users. <https://developers.google.com/civic-information/> and <https://developers.google.com/civic-information/docs/v2/>
- Decide Better Together by Nobl. <https://thedecider.app/side-by-side-comparison> and <https://thedecider.app>
- Gapminder provides free data visualization tools to dismantle misconceptions and promote a fact-based worldview. [https://www.gapminder.org/tools/-\\_?chart-type=bubbles](https://www.gapminder.org/tools/-_?chart-type=bubbles)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Nevada Secretary of State. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-resources/faqs>
- Nevada Voting & Election Toolkit by GODORT. Librarians from the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), a Round Table of the American Library Association (ALA). <https://godort.libguides.com/votingtoolkit/nevada>
- Nevada Voting Guide on FindLaw. <https://www.findlaw.com/voting/nevada-voting-guide.html>
- State of Nevada, *Recount and Contest Guide 2018*. <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5410>
- Alternative voting systems (i.e. alternatives to the plurality or winner-take-all system we currently use). <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/alternative-voting-systems.aspx>

## Glossary.

- Active registered voter. “Active registration” means a current registration of a voter in the official register, entitling such voter to vote in the manner provided by this title. [NRS 293.017](https://nrs293.017) All active registered voters will be sent a ballot in the mail, but voters can choose to vote in person instead of casting a mail ballot if they want to.
- Affected election. An election “... enacting provisions for conducting elections adversely affected by certain emergencies or disasters; revising



<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/election-security-state-policies.aspx>

- A Vote-by-Mail ballot must be postmarked by November 3<sup>rd</sup> and received no later than 11/10/2020. Election officials will begin to process Vote-by-Mail ballots 15 days before election day. This processing includes verifying the signature on the envelope, opening Vote-by-Mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, and preparing the ballots to be machine read, or machine reading them, including processing write-in votes so that they can be tallied by the machine, but under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until all polling places are closed and all votes have been cast on the day of the election.<sup>16</sup>
- Nevada has made efforts to create a voting system that is secure, easy, flexible, safe, and trusted; however, a consequence is that it can take several days to complete the vote count. In the 2020 Primary Election, it took nearly 2 weeks after Election Day to complete the count. The main delays were in long lines due to too few in-person polling places, processing mail-in/absentee ballots, and curing ballot issues.<sup>17</sup>
- Individuals who wish to observe the counting of ballots can contact their county election official to find out when and where ballot counting will take place. All voting equipment used in Nevada elections, including mail ballot scanners, must meet or exceed federal voting system standards and be independently tested to determine the equipment functions correctly. In Nevada, the independent testing is performed by the Nevada Gaming Control Board. Additionally, all voting equipment used for an election is subject to rigorous testing and auditing, both before and after each election. Access to voting equipment is tightly controlled. Members of the public can observe all voting equipment testing and auditing that is performed by the county.  
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=8652>
- The canvass must be completed on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the election or, if applicable, the 13<sup>th</sup> day following an affected election. [NRS 293.387 amended by AB4, Section 50.](#)

- MeenyMo, a free online decision-making application using paired choices. <https://meenymo.com>
- Consider Values-based Decision Making.<sup>11</sup> Voting is a formal expression of decisions we make regarding candidates, propositions, bonds, etc. The decisions are based on what we value and the priority we place on each of those factors. When we vote, we express who we are because we make use of our own priorities and values.  
[https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk2741/files/inline-files/values-based-decision-making\\_1.pdf](https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk2741/files/inline-files/values-based-decision-making_1.pdf)
- Utilize the forms and action list in *How to Judge a Candidate*.  
<https://www.lvw.org/blog/how-judge-candidate>
- Practice. Use a copy of the Ballot to make interim candidate and proposition choices, set it aside, and then revisit your draft one or more times before you actually vote. This will utilize both your subconscious and conscious mental capabilities (*Thinking, Fast and Slow*<sup>12</sup>). DO NOT mark the original Ballot with pencil, instead make a copy or download your ballot from the County website, and use it to pre-mark a sample ballot.

#### 9 - Determine where to vote

- Every Active registered voter will be mailed a Vote-by-Mail ballot. See “Election Overview” and “Voting Your Mail Ballot” at <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-information/2020-election/2020-general-election> If you don’t receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot, contact your local election clerk. See --  
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/county-clerk-contact-information>
- Alternatively, you can vote in-person during the Early Voting period beginning 10/17 through 10/30/2020 or on Election Day, 11/3/2020. Early Voting and Election Day sites and days/times of operation can be found here <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-day-information>

#### 10 - Vote

Every Active registered voter will receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot in the mail. Alternatively, you may go to an in-person polling place during the 14-day Early Voting period (10/17 through 10/30/2020) or on Election Day (11/3/2020).

- Return your completed Vote-by-Mail ballot (in the provided envelope) by mail postage-free, deposit it in a Drop Box, or submit it at an in-person

polling place. Drop Box and in-person polling locations -- <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-information/2020-election/2020-general-election> Vote in a timely manner, i.e. all relevant information should be public by now, you've made an evaluation, and your ballot can easily be received before election day. If you mail your ballot less than a week before the election, ask a postal clerk to stamp it with a postmark.

- Make sure your signature (the name you use) is the same as the one on your Voter Registration form/NV Driver's License/NV ID. You can check your signature through [www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov](http://www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov) by logging in through the Update Your Existing Registration button, your signature is on the last page. Sign where indicated on the envelope in black or blue pen. Note that Vote-by-Mail ballots may be rejected if they: aren't in the provided ballot return envelope, have additional words/markings on the envelope, contain multiple ballots, are late, have no signature, or the signature doesn't match your registration.<sup>13</sup>
- Alternatively, go to your designated in-person polling place to vote during the Early Voting period or on Election Day. Bring your unused Vote-by-Mail ballot if you have one.
- In most cases, you don't have to show ID to vote. However, if you didn't provide a NV ID number or the last four digits of your social security number when you registered, you may have to furnish an acceptable ID. A list of acceptable IDs is: a) The card issued to the voter at the time he or she registered to vote; (b) A driver's license; (c) An identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles; (d) A military identification card; or (e) Any other form of identification issued by a governmental agency which contains the voter's signature and physical description or picture. See (NRS 293.277, Effective 1/1/2020) <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-293.html#NRS293Sec277>
- At the in-person polling place, voters will use touch-screen voting machines. A video demonstration is available at ("Demonstration ... Coming Soon") <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-resources/voting-system>

### ***11 - Make sure your vote was counted; and check your ballot status***

Check to see if your vote was counted and track your ballot.

- Voters have the option to sign up for a free service, BallotTrax, that will send the voter an alert via text message or email when the voter's ballot has been received and counted. See -- <https://nevada.ballottrax.net/voter/> and the FAQ at <https://nevada.ballottrax.net/voter/faq>
- Also, voters who want to check the status of their mail ballot can login to the Secretary of State's voter services website at <https://www.nvsos.gov/votersearch/> and confirm that their ballot has been received, or they can contact their county election office directly <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/county-clerk-contact-information>

### ***12 - Election Processes and Outcomes***

- Of the 1,886,928 voters registered for the June, 2020 Primary Election, only 491,654 (26%) cast a vote: 7,866 at a Polling place (less than 1% of registered, 1.6% of actual voters); and 483,788 Vote-by-Mail (26% of registered, 98.4% of actual voters).<sup>14</sup>
- There were 1,927,689 registered voters in Nevada as of August 31, 2020.<sup>15</sup> It is assumed that 20% or fewer of the registered voters (385,538) will vote over 15 days (14 Early Voting + Election Day) at one of the in-person polling places. The extended voting period, number of voting sites, larger sites, and an extensive voter education and outreach program should keep lines short and enable social distancing.
- Pollworkers are needed since a large percentage of pollworkers from the previous election will cancel due to COVID-19 concerns (vulnerable or older). [WorkElections](#) and [Power The Polls](#) are initiatives to recruit poll workers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters. To learn more about becoming a poll worker, please click <https://www.workelections.com/states/32/Nevada>
- Health and safety protocols and PPE will be utilized to safeguard voters and poll workers at the Voter Service Centers. [Healthy Voting](#) helps you find healthy, secure, and safe ways to cast your ballot. [We Can Vote](#) provides information to make 2020 elections safe, secure and successful.
- The Nevada Secretary of State and all 17 counties have invested in Cybersecurity systems and procedures. [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cisa-mail-in-voting-infrastructure-risk-assessment\\_508.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cisa-mail-in-voting-infrastructure-risk-assessment_508.pdf) <https://apnews.com/6ff735afc8ba4872a4a66bb5186e1adb>