

2020 NM Election: Absentee/Mail-in Voting Vlog

[Video Description: A Caucasian male with light brown hair and groomed beard, wearing a royal blue polo shirt, standing in front of a black background.]

Now we will focus on the absentee/mail-in voting procedure. Absentee and mail-in voting are the same. With the COVID-19 pandemic still a concern, it may be safer, or you may prefer to opt in doing the absentee voting process due to a medical condition instead of voting in person. To absentee vote, you will need to do several things first.

1. Make sure you are registered to vote
2. Make sure your registration information is current or update the information
3. Request an absentee ballot if you have not done so

These procedures can be done online at www.nmvote.org.

To request an absentee ballot, go to <https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/OVR/WebPages/AbsenteeApplication.aspx>

We hope you had a chance to view the recent vlog regarding the step by step process of requesting an absentee ballot application.

Once you have submitted your request, it will be forwarded to your local county clerk who will then log your request and if everything looks good will then mail your ballot 28 days prior to election day.

Some counties and political organizations have already mailed out or will be mailing out paper absentee applications. It is okay to fill the

paper application out and mail it to the county clerk instead of doing it online.

The last day for a voter to request an absentee ballot for the 2020 General Election is October 20, 2020. This is expected to allow enough time for mail delivery.

Once you receive the ballot, carefully read, and follow the instructions. Use a black or blue ballpoint pen to mark your choices. It would be a good idea to print a sample ballot from the Secretary of State's website. This is important because if you mark your choices on an official ballot and then change your mind, any alteration you make on the ballot may make it difficult for the tabulator (ballot counting machine) to recognize your choices. Make your choices on the sample ballot then when you get the official ballot form, you can copy your choices on to the official ballot.

When you have completed filling out the official ballot, please make sure you place the completed ballot in the "privacy envelope". Then place the privacy envelope inside the mailing envelope. Please notice that there is a section on the mailing envelope that you must carefully fill out and includes your signature and the last four digits of your social security number. This information must be provided in order for your ballot to be accepted.

You can either mail the envelope (return postage is already included) or you can drop it off at your local county clerk's office or at any early or election day polling location in your county.

If you decide to drop the ballot at one of the polling places in your area, some locations may have a drive up drop off option or an indoor express drop off line.

If you decide to mail the ballot, please be sure you mail it at least 7 days prior to November 3, 2020 to be counted.

Please keep in mind that your ballot **MUST** be received by the county clerk no later than 7:00 pm on November 3, 2020 to be counted. You can use the Voter Information Portal to track when your ballot arrives and is accepted at the county clerk's office. The Voter Information Portal link will be shown at the end of this vlog.

In our next video I will walk you through the In-person voting process, see you there.

[Image Description:

Your local County Clerk's Office

<https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/county-clerk-information/>

Voter Information Portal

www.nmvote.org

Next Screen

Produced in cooperation between Secretary of State's Office N.M. Election Board and N.M. Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. A logo of the Great Seal of New Mexico and a logo of NM Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing is shown above their names.]