



March 13, 2020

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Secretary of State Katie Hobbs
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VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Governor Ducey, Secretary of State Hobbs, and Attorney General Brnovich:

During these difficult times, we all agree that Arizonans should come together to safeguard our public health. With the Presidential Preference Election just days away, we are increasingly concerned that voters will be forced to choose between exercising their right to vote and protecting their health and that of our community.

We know that as Secretary of State, Governor, and Attorney General, you have the power to find a solution to these problems that will safeguard lives and make our primary election as successful as possible. In light of the severity of the public health risk and the constitutional right to vote, we suggest the following immediate changes to ensure that Arizonans, statewide, are able to cast ballots without risking their health or unintentionally causing harm to others. If you believe you do not have the authority to take such steps, we encourage you to seek a court order to protect the fundamental rights of voters and the public health of our communities in Arizona.

In-person voting

1. **Extend early and emergency voting** by all means possible to permit voters to cast in-person ballots **until Monday at 5:00 PM.**

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2. **Provide reimbursement** for all county election departments for the costs of extended early and emergency voting and for the expenses incurred to purchase hand sanitizer, spray disinfectant for machines, hand wipes, and portable hand-washing stations. Sanitizing wipes should be placed next to all voting equipment and all areas should be wiped down as each voter leaves.
3. **Require election officials to utilize line management strategies** that keep voters in larger spaces that are not tightly compacted. Post signage in all polling locations asking voters to maintain appropriate distance from each other while waiting in line. Ensure all voting machines or booths are positioned at least six feet from one another.¹
4. **Deploy state resources on Election Day** to monitor polling place wait times statewide and to ensure that if wait times exceed 30 minutes local elections officials are complying with their duties to take prompt remedial action.

Voter Education

1. **Use emergency funds** for advertising and direct voter communication concerning these changes.
2. **Advertising should encourage voters and lift up options for voting** such as the ability to vote in-person until 5:00 pm on Monday, the ability to use drop boxes to submit ballots, and the ability to safely vote in person on Tuesday, March 17th.

We stand ready to help in any way we can, particularly with public education. Our organizations participate in the non-partisan voter hotline, 866-OUR-VOTE. We will make the hotline available to answer voters' questions about these changes and ensure that all voters have the information they need in order to be able to participate in this important election.

Thank you for addressing this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html>

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