

GENERAL ELECTION 2020

As I write this there are 75 days until the General Election, November 3, 2020. All polls will be open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and by virtue of our Ballot on Demand system voters may vote anywhere in the County.

In addition, Early/Absentee voting begins on Tuesday, October 6 in the Catron County Clerk's Office. Early voting on a voting machine can be accomplished every day, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and on Saturday, October 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Clerk's Office.

Mobile voting will take place at the Quemado Community Center, Monday through Wednesday, October 19-21; the Datil Fire Station, Thursday through Saturday, October 22-24; and Glenwood Community Center, Monday through Wednesday, October 26-28. All Mobile sites will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Many have expressed concerns about third party applications for Absentee Ballots they have received in the mail from other sources other than Catron County Clerk's Office. They are true duplicates of the official Application for Absentee Ballot and can be used to request an Absentee Ballot. If you have any questions or doubt, the County Clerk's Office will be happy to send an official Application for Absentee Ballot upon email or phone request. An electronic version of the Application will be available at NMVote.org starting in September. All application methods are viable, but only one application needs to be sent. Be sure to fill out all blank spaces on the application including Name as Registered, physical address, mailing address (where you want the ballot sent), year of birth and your signature. Any information not provided may result in delay in sending your ballot.

Be aware, Absentee Ballots will not be mailed until October 6, 2020.

Because of all the concerns about the US Post Office, the last day to receive Applications for Absentee Ballots will be October 20 at 5:00 p.m. This will allow 14 days for the ballot to be mailed to the voter and be returned to the Clerk's Office by Election Day. Any applications received after this date will be rejected and the voter will need to vote in-person early or on Election Day. The most important thing to know for voters who will be using the absentee ballot for the 2020 General Election is that you should mail your completed ballot back to the County Clerk no later than October 27th to ensure it arrives before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. If unable to mail by the 27th, please bring you Absentee Ballot to the Clerk's Office in person or send by another family member. The other option for returning an Absentee Ballot is to take it to your local poll on Election Day.

New Mexico Election Law requires all Early, Mobile, Absentee and Election Day ballots to be counted immediately after elections close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Election Day Workers are diligent to complete their work and return the final count to the Clerk's Office on Election Night. The Absentee Board, which is responsible for finalizing Early and Mobile machine counts and processing and counting all Absentee Ballots, must complete their work before going home on Election Night. Catron County has the most amazing Election Workers anywhere. Be sure to thank them when you go vote.

One final note: Voter Registration is still open. You can request a Voter Registration card from the Clerk's Office by calling (575) 533-6400 or 1-844-801-1690, or you can go to NMVote.org and register electronically. You can also update your voter registration using the same methods. If you are unsure of

your current registration, go to NMVote.org and click on "Find My Registration & Election Information". You can click on "Register to Vote" to make changes. If your physical or mailing address is out of date, please take the time to update your registration.

This is a Presidential Election and is very important for our nation. There are also other important offices to be voted on including US Senator, US Representative, State Senator, State Representative, numerous Judges, local County Officials, two State Constitutional Amendments and three State Bond questions.

Voting is an amazing Right and Privilege. Do not neglect this great opportunity. If you are not registered to Vote, register today. If you will not be available on Election Day, plan to vote early or by Absentee Ballot. Information on all candidates and questions is available online. Take the time to be informed and make wise choices. As citizens of the United States of America, we are privileged! DON'T MISS OUT!

As Sam Adams said, "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."