



STATE OF INDIANA
Indiana Election Division

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Election Division Pandemic Response Report

The Indiana Election Division has taken significant steps in order to conduct both a primary and general election as well as supporting services to counties and voters in the midst of a pandemic. Election Division staff has worked closely with county election officials and voters to provide information and answer questions regarding the responses taken to COVID-19 enumerated below. These communication efforts have required the expenditure of significant time and financial resources.

Indiana Election Commission Orders

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indiana Election Commission passed three Orders prior to the 2020 primary election. Both substantive Orders were readopted by way of Executive Order 2020-44 on May 12, 2020 to ensure they remained in effect on primary election day.

Indiana Election Commission Order 2020-37 - passed March 25, 2020.

General Provisions

- The date of the primary election was postponed to June 2, 2020
- All dates using the May 5, 2020 primary election date to set forth deadlines were moved to 28-days later
- All materials, forms, ballots, etc. with the former date of the primary election (May 5, 2020) were deemed permissible for official use in the postponed election
- Vote center counties with more than 25,000 active voters were permitted to provide one Election Day vote center for every 25,000 active voters and a fraction of that number for the postponed primary election only. Normally, counties with more than 25,000 active voters must provide for one Election Day vote center for every 10,000 active voters

Absentee by Mail

- Permitted a voter to not mark a reason on the application (that is, "no fault" mail-in absentee voting) when requesting an ABS-Mail ballot for the postponed primary election only. If an ABS-Mail application was received from December 2, 2019, through May 21, 2020, and was rejected for not marking a reason, the application was allowed to be reviewed and approved, if the voter was otherwise eligible
- Required the Indiana Election Division to develop a new absentee ballot by mail application form for the postponed primary date that did not indicate a reason was needed for voting absentee by mail, though both versions were to be accepted by election officials
- Permitted IED and the Secretary of State to implement an online absentee application for a voter to submit an ABS-Mail application to county election officials directly. This effort was undertaken and accomplished approximately two weeks after the order was passed and remains available on IndianaVoters.com
- Permitted a 16- or 17-year old student poll worker to serve as ABS-Mail absentee voter board member (but not a traveling board member) before the postponed primary election, if the student meet the requirements of IC 3-6-6-39. Current law does not permit a student to be an absentee voter board member. The Order also allowed for some leniency if permission from the school was not possible because school was not in session

- Expanded who could deliver a marked absentee ballot in the postponed primary election to include a family member or caregiver, which is in addition to a member of the individual's household, attorney in fact, USPS, or bonded courier

In-Person Absentee Voting

- Permitted a 16- or 17-year old student poll worker to serve as in-person absentee voter board member (but not a traveling board member) before the postponed primary election, if the student meet the requirements of IC 3-6-6-39. Current law does not permit a student to be an absentee voter board member. The Order allowed for leniency if permission from the school was not possible because the school was not in session
- Waived the requirement that the same satellite in-person absentee voting sites used in the postponed primary election be used in the November general election, recognizing the public health disaster emergency may require the use of sites in the postponed primary election that may not ordinarily be available to counties

Traveling Board

- Allowed employees of a residential or in-patient healthcare facility to be nominated to serve as traveling board members to assist voters in their care who could not personally mark their own ballot during the period set aside for traveling board prior to the postponed primary election
- Added to the definition of a "temporary" disability so that it included a person who could not leave their home or be in proximity to other individuals, and allowed for a traveling board team to assist a voter with disabilities to complete their ballot via visual interaction (such as communicating via a glass window), or by teleconference or video conference

Election Day Canvassing

- Allowed for the county election board to canvass results during the ten-day period after election day, rather than requiring the canvass to begin at 6 PM on election night
- Required counties to certify results by 3 PM (local prevailing time), June 12, 2020

Indiana Election Commission Order 2020-40 - passed April 17, 2020

General Provisions

- Extended IEC Order 2020-37 for an additional 30-days
- Required counties to follow CDC and other federal and state health guidelines to create a safe and healthy work environment for staff and voters
- Required counties to train poll workers and others on hygiene best practices, social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Absentee Voting By Mail

- Reminded county election boards that they may notify voters if their absentee ballot application or absentee ballot was rejected, but must do so in a uniform non-discriminatory manner
- Allowed for an absentee voter board member to be a registered voter in Indiana. Current law requires the person to be registered in the county

In-Person Absentee Voting

- Moved the start date of in-person absentee voting at one location of the circuit court clerk as designated by the clerk to Tuesday, May 26
- Provided for only one Saturday of in-person early voting on Saturday, May 30, 2020

- Counties were to follow current state law and be open on Saturday for at least seven (7) hours unless the county had a population of less than 20,000. If the population of the county was less than 20,000, Saturday hours were able to be reduced to four (4) hours

Traveling Board

- Relaxed the requirement for the primary election to allow for an absentee voter board member to be a registered voter in Indiana. Current law requires the person to be registered in the county

Central Count of Absentee Ballots

- Allowed for a county to have more than one central count location, if necessary, to count absentee ballots on Election Day; however, each county election board member was required to appoint a proxy to oversee each of the additional locations
 - For counties with less than 50,000 active voters as of May 4, 2020, the county election board was able to designate up to three (3) locations
 - For counties with at least 50,000 active voters as of May 4, 2020, the county election board was able to designate one (1) central count location for every 50,000 active voters
- Relaxed the requirement in the primary election to allow for an absentee ballot counter to be a registered voter in Indiana. Current law requires the person to be registered in the county

Election Day Polling Locations

- Advised each county executive and county election board that under IC 3-11-8-4 all school buildings, fire stations and other public buildings should be made available to a county to be designated as a polling location under IC 3-11-8 or vote center location under IC 3-11-18.1 for the June 2, 2020 primary election
- Relaxed the requirement in the primary election to allow for a poll worker to be a registered voter in Indiana. Current law requires the person to be registered in the county
- Relaxed the requirement in the primary election to allow for a watcher to be a registered voter in Indiana. Current law requires the person to be registered in the county
- Refined Order 2020-37 to note vote centers with at least 25,000 active voters must base their count for the minimum number of sites required on the number of active voters as of the statewide voter registration deadline on May 4, 2020

Personal Protective Equipment Procurement

For both the primary and general elections, the Secretary of State's office, in conjunction with the Election Division, procured significant quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in order to aid in compliance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) best practices while ensuring the health and safety of poll workers and the public. PPE was purchased using federal CARES Act appropriations and distributed to the counties with assistance from the Indiana National Guard.

During the primary election the following PPE was procured and delivered to counties:

- 300,000 gloves
- 5,000 gallons of hand sanitizer
- 5,000 gallons of surface disinfectant
- 25,000 face shields
- 200,000 face masks
- 70,000 microfiber towels (for cleaning equipment)
- 3,132 pexiglass sneeze guards

The following is among the items that have been or are being procured for the 2020 general election:

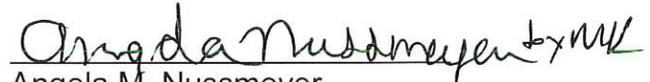
- 2,350,000 gloves
- 10,000 gallons of hand sanitizer (with additional being donated by Anheuser-Bush)

- 6,400 gallons of surface disinfectant
- 7,500 face shields
- 1,230,000 facemasks
- 80,000 microfiber towels
- 1,000 sneeze guards

PPE procured for the primary election that was not used or is re-useable will be deployed during the upcoming general election.



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