



City of West Hollywood

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of West Hollywood Update: LA County Board of Supervisors Votes to Provide Vote-By-Mail Ballots to All Registered Voters for November General Election

*Voter Registration Deadline is Monday, October 19
Visit www.weho.org/elections for
Information about Registering to Vote*

WEST HOLLYWOOD, May 5, 2020 – As part of the City of West Hollywood’s continuous efforts to increase voter participation, the City is getting the word out about the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (LACBOS) decision to provide vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots to all registered voters in Los Angeles County for the November General Election. The State of California is expected to follow suit. The LACBOS took that action in response to concerns about low turnout due to coronavirus social distancing and long lines at voting locations in prior elections.

The City of West Hollywood encourages community members who are already registered to vote to verify their address and voter registration status at www.lavote.net. Those who will be 18 years of age on November 3 should register to vote now. The deadline to register to vote for the General Election is Monday, October 19, 2020; the election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

“We can expect to be impacted by the coronavirus crisis not just for the next few weeks, but for many weeks and months to come. The November 2020 election is critical for so many reasons and it’s absolutely vital that we plan now to ensure access to voting that safeguards physical distancing,” said City of West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tempore Lindsey P. Horvath. “Expanding Vote-By-Mail to every registered voter in West Hollywood and throughout LA County will help to make sure that everyone can vote. It already has so many benefits: voting by mail provides voters an alternative to taking time off work or standing in line to vote.

Studies have shown that implementing and encouraging people to vote-by-mail increases turnout, especially among disenfranchised voters. And, this November, voting by mail will help keep us safe and healthy, too.”

“During the past several weeks, multiple states have been faced with difficult primary election options: move forward with elections and force voters to make difficult choices about their health and safety, or postpone elections at the risk of sacrificing people’s voices in our electoral process,” said City of West Hollywood Councilmember Lauren Meister. “I’m grateful that this will not be a choice we have to make in West Hollywood. LA County will ensure vote-by-mail options are implemented for the November election and I applaud the LA County Board of Supervisors for making vote-by-mail ballots available to all registered voters in the County.”

The City’s elections page, www.weho.org/elections, provides detailed election information and links to the California Secretary of State’s Voter Registration page, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s website, and links to find specific information about how to apply to vote by mail, and sample ballots.

The City of West Hollywood has made it a priority to promote greater participation in the democratic process. In 2018, the City Council directed staff to work with the county to provide prepaid postage on all vote-by-mail ballots for the General Municipal Election on March 5, 2019. Shortly after the Council’s action, California announced all vote-by-mail ballots in the state would now come with prepaid postage return envelopes. For the last several elections, the City has partnered with the Los Angeles County RegistrarRecorder/County Clerk’s Office to provide a “Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Box” at West Hollywood City Hall to provide a convenient way for residents and visitors to drop off ballots before and on Election Day. The City has held pop-up voter registration booths in strategic areas around the City. In addition to registering voters at the pop-ups, City staff members provided voter education and informational materials from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s office.

For more information, please call the City of West Hollywood's City Clerk's Office at (323) 848-6409, visit the City's Elections page at www.weho.org/elections, or call the California Secretary of State's Voter Hotline toll-free at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

The City of West Hollywood has declared a local emergency in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and is advising community members to adhere to Los Angeles County Safer at Home and California State Stay at Home [orders](#), which remain in effect until May 15, 2020. The City urges everyone to stay in place, maintain your space, and cover your face. Leave home only for essential needs; always use social distancing of at least six feet; and follow guidelines to use cloth face coverings such as bandanas or scarves so that medical masks, which are in short supply, are prioritized for health professionals.

West Hollywood City Hall is currently closed to the public and has suspended all in-person transactions. All public City buildings, playgrounds, parks, and facilities are closed. City Hall will remain accessible for business and essential services with transactions to be conducted by phone (323) 848-6400 and via the City's website at www.weho.org.

The City of West Hollywood coronavirus updates are available at www.weho.org/coronavirus and the City encourages community members to follow @wehocity on Twitter and Facebook and Instagram and turn on notifications for up-to-date information regarding details in the City of West Hollywood.

To view essential-business City meetings, tune in to WeHoTV at:

- www.weho.org/wehotv
- www.youtube.com/wehotv
- Spectrum Channel 10 (in West Hollywood)
- AT&T U-verse Channel 99 (in Southern California)
- SmartTV Apps: AndroidTV; AppleTV; FireTV; and Roku

For notifications by email, subscribe to the City's E-Notifications at www.weho.org/email. Visit the City's event and meetings calendar at www.weho.org/calendar and news archive at www.weho.org/news. To receive

urgent updates to your phone by text and to your email, text your ZIP code to 888-777.

For updates and information about the current numbers of COVID-19 cases in the United States and in Los Angeles County, the spread of the virus, severity, treatments, precautions, and other important public health information in multiple languages, please visit websites for:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health)
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

For reporters and members of the media seeking additional information about COVID-19 in Los Angeles County, please contact the LA County Department of Public Health Chief Communications Officer, Carl A. Kemp, at (213) 240-8144 or media@ph.lacounty.gov.

For reporters and members of the media seeking additional information about the City of West Hollywood, please contact the City of West Hollywood's Public Information Officer, Sheri A. Lunn, at (323) 848-6391 or slunn@weho.org.

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