

Resources for Beyond Voting: Elections / Campaign Financing
Special COVID Election Season List including many resources related to mail-in / absentee voting

General

Vote 411 Register, check registration, find out what's on the ballot <https://www.vote411.org/>

My Congressional District –“quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bureau”
<https://www.census.gov/mycd/>

Oregon Secretary of State – Voting and Elections Division

<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Pages/default.aspx>

Oregon Secretary of State – Register to vote; check registration

<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

National Conference of State Legislatures - Elections and Campaign page “NCSL provides 50-state research on many election law and procedural issues <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns.aspx>

SERIES: ARCHAIC ELECTION METHODS CRIPPLE DEMOCRACY

<http://www.sightline.org/series/voting-systems-cripple-democracy/>

Congress must help states avoid a perfect storm looming over November election. Tim Roemer [D] and Zach Wamp [R], former U.S. Congressmen 6/15/2020. Ambassador Roemer and Congressman Wamp are co-chairs of Issue One's Reformers Caucus

<https://www.newsweek.com/congress-must-help-states-avoid-perfect-storm-looming-over-november-election-opinion-1510967>

How to fix our voting rules before November. Marc Elias. April 5, 2020

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/how-fix-voting-right-now/609454/>

Changes to voting rules for absentee ballots, state by state. Nonprofit Vote. Updated 6/22/2020.

<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/absentee-ballots-and-covid-19/>

Voting by Mail / Absentee Ballots

Oregon's vote-by-mail system gets more tv attention, on '60 minutes'. June 29, 2020. Includes video.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/entertainment/2020/06/oregons-vote-by-mail-system-gets-more-tv-attention-on-60-minutes.html?fbclid=iwar2q-zlxs6voqvbiwvuoqbywrbxh4zww8byi1wzt-cgp8zlphtbnnl530>

The False Narrative of Vote-by-Mail Fraud. Wendy R. Weiser. April 10, 2020

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>

Vote by Mail during COVID-19: Insights from Oregon Paul Manson. April 13, 2020

<https://evic.reed.edu/research/vote-by-mail-during-covid-19-insights-from-oregon/>

Why a Vote-by-Mail Option Is Necessary. Matthew Harwood_ April 8, 2020

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/why-vote-mail-option-necessary>

VOTE BY MAIL FOR SECURE ELECTIONS IN 2020. State-by-state resources for elections officials. Sightline.

<https://www.sightline.org/votebymail2020/>

Four Ways States Suppress the Absentee Vote. Sightline. 7/30/2020.

<https://www.sightline.org/2020/07/30/four-ways-states-suppress-the-absentee-vote/?fbclid=IwAR24guCMGSwTMT-zLEoL088C769HZ6zUHOhdCdrFG-cW09-ezseyTmAEEQ40>

Few States Are Prepared To Switch To Voting By Mail: That Could Make For A Messy Election. Nathaniel Rakich.

April 27, 2020. Good discussion of what is needed for states to be ready for vote-by-mail.

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/few-states-are-prepared-to-switch-to-voting-by-mail-that-could-make-for-a-messy-election/>

15 states that have recently expanded access to voting by mail. Tokyosand. May 25, 2020

<https://politicalcharge.org/2020/05/25/15-states-that-have-recently-expanded-access-to-voting-by-mail/>

The Neutral Partisan Effects of Vote-by-Mail: Evidence from County-Level Roll-Outs. Stanford U. April, 2020.

<https://siepr.stanford.edu/research/publications/neutral-partisan-effects-vote-mail-evidence-county-level-roll-outs>

Vote and Home: How Our Democracy Survives and Pandemic. Maney. Unite America. 3/31/2020.

https://assets.website-files.com/5dcf4d91edfe6ab1ce622550/5e83697a6ac981ba06c2b000_ua%20vote-at-home%202020%20download.pdf

Why a vote-by-mail option is necessary. Harwood. Brennan Center. 4/16/2020.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/why-vote-mail-option-necessary>

HEROES Act Includes Funding Election Officials Need to Run Safe, Secure Elections in 2020. Brennan Center.

5/20. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/heroes-act-includes-funding-election-officials-need-run-safe-secure>

GOP touts mail voting as Trump attacks it. Gardner and Viebeck. The Washington Post. 13 Apr 2020.

Most Americans, unlike Trump, want mail-in ballots for November if coronavirus threatens. Reuters/lpsos poll

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-poll/most-americans-unlike-trump-want-mail-in-ballots-for-november-if-coronavirus-threatens-reuters-ipsos-poll-idUSKBN21P3G0>

Voter Turnout

U.S. voter turnout trails most developed countries May 21, 2018 Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/02/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/>

The U.S. Should Require All Citizens to Vote. Ornstein. July 2012.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/07/the-us-should-require-all-citizens-to-vote/259902/>

Voter Registration

Automatic Voter Registration Works Everywhere It's Been Implemented Derek Rosenfeld April 11, 2019

Brennan Center study shows that AVR increased registration rates in every state where the policy has gone into effect.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/automatic-voter-registration-works-everywhere-been-implemented>

Automatic Voter Registration: Finding America's Missing Voters Kennedy, Daley, Wright. Demos. Jan 20, 2016

<http://www.demos.org/publication/automatic-voter-registration-finding-americas-missing-voters>

"Inaccurate, Costly and Inefficient: Evidence That America's Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade". Pew Center for the States. Feb, 2012. <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/documents/Pew-UpgradingVoterRegistration.pdf>

Voting Systems - Primaries

FairVote – Primary Elections

http://www.fairvote.org/primaries#open_and_closed_primaries

Open Primaries <https://www.openprimaries.org/>

Listings of the type of Primaries for each state:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/primary-types.aspx>

Voting Process/Methods – Ranked Choice Voting [aka Instant Runoff]

Ranked Choice Voting – Benton County [begins in 2020 is more than three candidates]

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/elections/page/ranked-choice-voting>

Ranked Choice Voting video created for Maine [1:30] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rkx0e2Cduyk>

Where RCV [Ranked Choice Voting] is Used Has helpful 2-minute video about how it worked in a Mayoral election

http://www.fairvote.org/where_is_ranked_choice_voting_used

Fair Vote – Ranked Choice Voting / Instant Runoff <http://www.fairvote.org/rcv#rcvbenefits>

Why Alaska needs ranked-choice voting. Jacob Begich. 9/1/2020

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2020/07/31/why-alaska-needs-ranked-choice-voting/>

Voting Process/Methods – STAR Voting

STAR Voting <https://www.starvoting.us/>

Star Voting – Multnomah County <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1821618454770952>

Star Voting – Lane County <https://www.facebook.com/starvotinglane>

STAR Voting for Lane County video https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=81&v=w9JZVEOR-Os

Electoral College

About the Electors. National Archives <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/electors.html>

Electoral College https://ballotpedia.org/Electoral_College

National Popular Vote <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/> "Work-around" to the Electoral College

Oregon Just Joined the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Eberhard. Sightline. 6/5/2019

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/06/05/oregon-just-joined-the-national-popular-vote-interstate-compact/>

FairVote: National Popular Vote http://www.fairvote.org/national_popular_vote#endorsers_of_the_npv_plan

Voting Rights

Electoral Dysfunction – The Right to Vote [4 min. video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMI0MHFGhE8>

Restricting the Vote - section on the Brennan Center site that keeps track of attempts to restrict people from voting

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/restricting-vote>

Texas has closed more polling stations than any other state. 3/4/2020

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/texas-has-closed-more-polling-stations-any-other-state>

Long voting lines in Texas renew accusations of voter suppression. 3/4/2020

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/diversity-inclusion/485906-long-voting-lines-in-texas-renew-accusations-of>

Oregon Just Passed a Voting Rights Act. Here's Why It's a Big Deal. Eberhard. Sightline Institute. 6/13/2019

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Fall 2020

<http://www.civictinker.info> Free to copy with attribution for non-profit use.

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/06/13/oregon-voting-rights-act-passes-senate-june-12/>

Info on the bill from the state <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/HB3310>

Voting Laws Roundup 2020. Brennan Center

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-2020>

Democracy Diminished: State and Local Threats to Voting, Post-Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder

Legal Defense Fund, NAACP. 2014 [Report] <https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/Democracy-Diminished-State-and-Local-Threats-to-Voting-Post-Shelby-County-Alabama-v.-Holder.pdf>

'Politics Ain't the Same' — How the 19th Amendment Changed American Elections Lynn Sherr Aug 28, 2016

<http://billmovers.com/story/politics-aint-19th-amendment-changed-american-elections/>

Voting and the Criminal Justice System

Felony Disenfranchisement. The Sentencing Project

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/felony-disenfranchisement/>

FAQ on Felons' Voting Rights in Oregon

<https://multco.us/elections/faq%E2%80%99s-felon%E2%80%99s-voting-rights-oregon>

State Felon Voter Laws [map and chart]

<http://felonvoting.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000286>

Federal judge rules all Florida ex-felons can vote despite fines or fees. Lemongello and Skoneki. Orlando Sentinel.

5/24/2020. <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/politics/os-ne-amendment-4-judge-ruling-sunday-20200524-h5axxddum5do5mayjf3xlzqmqe-story.html>

Voter Fraud

In Their Own Words: Officials Refuting False Claims of Voter Fraud

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/their-own-words-officials-refuting-false-claims-voter-fraud>

Myth of Voter Fraud

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/voter-fraud>

Election Commission Documents Cast Doubt on Trump's Claims of Voter Fraud

<https://www.propublica.org/article/election-commission-documents-cast-doubt-on-trumps-claims-of-voter-fraud>

Election Security

Framework for Election Vendor Oversight. Brennan Center. Nov. 2019.

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/2019_10_ElectionVendors.pdf

Interview with Oregon's election system, Steve Trout, on KATU

<https://katu.com/news/your-voice-your-vote/director-of-elections-in-oregon-talks-election-security>

Senator Ron Wyden Mar 2018 Senate Hearing on election security

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXjYNLJ9yAM>

Securing American Elections Prescriptions for Enhancing the Integrity and Independence of the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election and Beyond. Michael McFaul, Editor Stanford University June 2019.

<https://fsi.stanford.edu/publication/securing-american-elections-prescriptions-enhancing-integrity-and-independence-2020-us>

Senate Republicans block two election security bill. By Maggie Miller. 10/22/19

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/466985-senate-republicans-block-two-election-security-bills?fbclid=IwAR2ISkclCkedZP1sWAVyjY0YB7JoSIO2ArchGhMp5JzWKaGhRfLByeKio>

House passes third bill aimed at preventing foreign election interference. By Maggie Miller. 10/23/19

<https://thehill.com/policy/technology/467185-house-passes-third-bill-aimed-at-preventing-foreign-election-interference>

Election Security Funding: Cost Estimates Breakdown. August 15, 2019. Brennan Center.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/what-does-election-security-cost>

Cybersecurity Campaign Playbook. Harvard U. Belfer Center. <https://www.belfercenter.org/CyberPlaybook>

Congressional Ignorance Leaves the U.S. Vulnerable to Cyberthreats Scientific American

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/congressional-ignorance-leaves-the-u-s-vulnerable-to-cyberthreats/>

Redistricting and Gerrymandering

People Not Politicians [Oregon's campaign to have an independent redistricting commission]

<https://www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/>

Oregonians, not politicians, should draw our electoral districts. Oregonian. Feb 23, 2020.

www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2020/02/opinion-oregonians-not-politicians-should-draw-our-electoral-districts.html

Redistricting commissions: congressional plans. National Conference of State Legislatures. 4/18/2019.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/redistricting-commissions-congressional-plans.aspx>

A primer on gerrymandering and political polarization. Dews. Brookings Now. July 6, 2017.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/07/06/a-primer-on-gerrymandering-and-political-polarization/>

How Does a Political Party Get Fewer Votes But Still Win Elections? Gerrymandering on Steroids

<https://billmoyers.com/story/how-does-a-political-party-get-less-votes-but-still-win-elections-gerrymandering-on-steroids/>

This Is a War: Republicans Ramp Up Bid to Control Election Maps for Next Decade. Jindia. June 22, 2020.

<https://billmoyers.com/story/thisisawar/>

The tumultuous life of an independent redistricting commissioner. Vasilogambros et al. Pew. November 26, 2019.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/11/26/the-tumultuous-life-of-an-independent-redistricting-commissioner>

After Shelby County v. Holder, Can Independent Commissions Take the Place of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act? Armour. Washington University Journal of Law and Policy. 2017

https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1972&context=law_journal_law_policy

National democratic redistricting committee

<https://democraticredistricting.com/>

Rightlines2020 [GOP effort at redistricting]

<https://rightlines.gop/>

Drawing the line on gerrymandering [audio]

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/more/policycast/drawing-line-gerrymandering>

What is Redistricting? Levitt. Loyola Law School <http://redistricting.lls.edu/what.php>

Fair Vote – Gerrymandering http://www.fairvote.org/gerrymandering#gerrymandering_key_facts

Redistricting. Brennan Center <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/gerrymandering-fair-representation>

The State of Redistricting Litigation Li, Wolf and Lo. Updated June 23, 2020.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/state-redistricting-litigation>

Redistricting. National Conference of State Legislatures <http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting.aspx>

Campaign Finance

Oregon Voters Could Finally Rein in Campaign Contributions Eberhard. Sightline. July 8, 2019

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/07/08/oregon-voters-could-finally-rein-in-campaign-contributions/>

Oregon Honest Elections Campaign [Oregon]

<http://or.honest-elections.com/>

Oregon Supreme Court Opinion allowing campaign contribution limits. 4/23/2020.

<https://cdm17027.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/pdf.js/web/viewer.html?file=/digital/api/collection/p17027coll3/id/8738/download#page=1&zoom=auto>

Oregon Supreme Court rules campaign contribution limits are legal in Oregon. Oregonian. Apr 23, 2020

<https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2020/04/oregon-supreme-court-rules-campaign-contribution-limits-are-legal-in-oregon.html>

Portland Open and Accountable Elections

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oea/#:~:text=Mission%20Statement,and%20accountable%20to%20all%20Portlanders.>

Portland Open and Accountable Elections: Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oea/article/736089>

Campaign contribution limits - federal. Federal Election Commission.

<https://transition.fec.gov/info/contriblimitschart1718.pdf>

Campaign contribution limits in the states. National Conference of State Legislatures.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/campaign-contribution-limits-overview.aspx>

Citizens United Opinion [Be sure to check out the dissenting opinion, too. Starts on page 88.]

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>

Secret Spending in the States. Brennan Center. 2016. Shows the importance of state/local campaign finance laws!

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/analysis/Secret_Spending_in_the_States.pdf

A 28th Amendment to Restore the American Promise [video] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6igolnTvqA>

Questions about 527 and 501(c) 4 orgs.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/faq.php>

Difference between SuperPACS and “dark money” [money from the non-profits]. Especially at “Here’s a huge caveat”:

<https://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/10/30/the-difference-between-super-pacs-and-dark-money-groups/>

Chart of Disclosure Rules from the Campaign Legal Center [federal]

http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/CLC_501c_disclosure_chart.pdf

Getting Foreign Funds Out of America’s Elections. Vandewalker and Norden. Brennan Center. April 2018

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/Getting%20Foreign%20Funds%20Out%20of%20America%27s%20Elections.%20Final_April9.pdf

Campaign Finance Tracking

Center for Responsive Politics – Open Secrets All things \$ in politics including “dark money” groups.

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http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/nonprof_summ.php Info on non-profits acting in the political realm

MoneyLine <http://pml.cq.com/>

Oregon Campaign Finance Information - ORESTAR System Public Search

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/gotoPublicTransactionSearch.do>

Choose other searches: PACs, etc. on left side of page

Public Disclosure Commission - Follow the Money. Washington State Campaign Finance Information

<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/>

Public Financing of Elections

Public Financing of Presidential Elections brochure

<http://www.fec.gov/pages/brochures/pubfund.shtml>

Public Financing. Brennan Center. Feb 4, 2016

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/reform-money-politics/public-campaign-financing>

Here's a research guide from Harvard University on **Campaigns and Elections.**

https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/campaigns_elections

Initiative and Referendum

Oregon Initiative and Referendum database Detailed info but not campaign finance info

http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search.search_form]

Misc

Reformers Caucus Bipartisan group on behalf of money-in-politics reform of former members of Congress and governors. <https://www.issueone.org/reformers/>

Democracy: An Election Agenda for Candidates, Activists, and Legislators. Weiser and Bannon. May, 2018.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/democracy-election-agenda-2018>

Disinformation

Twitter brings back special labels for profiles of political candidates. March 2020.

<https://mashable.com/article/twitter-election-badges-2020/>

About election labels on twitter. July, 2020.

Election labels contain additional information about twitter accounts for specified political candidates.

<https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/election-labels>