



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

February 16, 2018

To: Elections Commission

From: Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer

Re: Status of Operations

As the 2018 Elections approach, the Office of Elections has been reviewing procedures for election day registration, finalizing use of facilities, and opened candidate filing. The 2018 Primary Election is on Saturday, August 11, and the General Election is on Tuesday, November 6.

Since our last meeting, we have sent out a postcard to all households statewide to raise awareness about voter registration, implemented a new voter registration form to comply with new legislation, and are tracking election related measures as they progress through the Legislature.

LEGISLATION

We are monitoring a variety of election related measures as they progress through the 29th Legislature. Our office submitted two (2) bills this session:

- HB 1686 and companion SB 2145 Relating to Vacancies, amend the timeline in which a state senate vacancy can be held in conjunction with the succeeding primary or general election.
- HB 1687 and companion SB 2146 Relating to Publication of Election Notices, ensure that we are able to comply with statutory deadlines for proclamations by posting it on our website in addition to newspapers of general circulation.

The four (4) bills the office submitted for the 2017 Legislative Session are:

- HB 291 and companion SB 459 Relating to Elections, establish elections by mail.

- HB 292 and companion SB 460 Relating to Voter Registration, implement automatic voter registration.
- HB 293 and companion SB 461 Relating to Class C Felonies, amend the penalties associated with election day registration to be consistent with voter fraud and class C felonies.
- HB 294 and companion SB 462 Relating to Election Documents, remove the requirement to provide the last four-digits of the Social Security Number when signing a nomination paper as it is no longer required when registering to vote.

The first lateral deadline is February 16. As such, all bills must be filed with their final committee to progress through the session. The next benchmark is March 2 when all bills must be prepared for final reading on the floor of the originating Chamber in preparation to crossover to the opposite Chamber on March 8.

Versions of each of our proposed bills are still alive. House Bills 291, 292, 293, 294, and 1686 must have a public hearing prior to the March 2 benchmark. House Bill 1687 is being prepared for final reading in the House and should crossover to the Senate. Similarly, Senate Bills 461, 462, 2145, and 2146 have each crossed over to the House.

TOTALVOTE

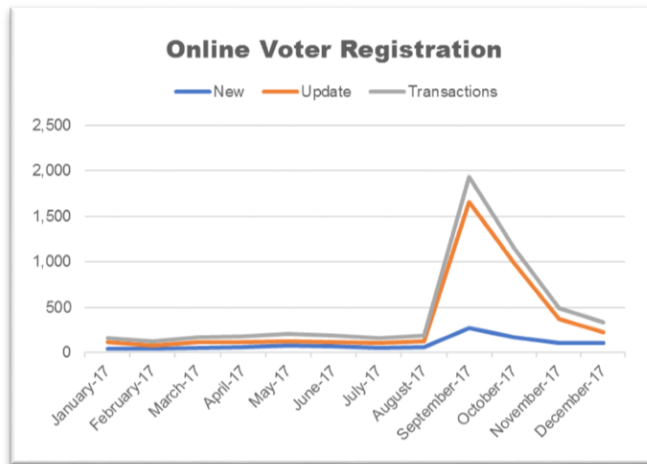
We continue to work with the Counties to refine the statewide voter registration system. As is usually the case, we are experiencing growing pains and learning curves associated with the new system. The Counties are the primary end users responsible for entering voter registrations and absentee requests. The State is responsible for maintaining and securing the system. We work with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services and the Department of Homeland Security to patch vulnerabilities and apply best security practices.

As part of TotalVote, we are developing an accessible ballot that voters may mark using their computer for the 2018 Primary Election. This will service uniformed and overseas citizen absentee voters and voters who have not received their absentee ballot within five days of the election pursuant to HRS §15-5(b). These voters will be provided access to an HTML based ballot, which they would mark online, print, sign, and return to their Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office will verify the voter's signature matches the signature that they have on file. If it matches, the printed HTML ballot will be transferred to the counting center to be duplicated onto a ballot and counted by the vote counting system. This process will also ensure the timely release of election results.

VOTER REGISTRATION POSTCARD

In September 2017, we mailed a postcard to all households statewide to raise awareness about voter registration to coincide with National Voter Registration Day. The postcard (see page 8) encouraged citizens to register or update their registration using the online voter registration system. Online voter registration transactions increased approximately ten times over the previous month. This also helps to maintain the integrity of the voter registration rolls by reminding voters that they must update their registration when they move or change their name.

| | New | Update | Total |
|------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Jan. | 45 | 117 | 162 |
| Feb. | 42 | 84 | 126 |
| Mar. | 51 | 120 | 171 |
| Apr. | 65 | 120 | 185 |
| May | 85 | 125 | 210 |
| Jun. | 69 | 120 | 189 |
| Jul. | 53 | 111 | 164 |
| Aug. | 66 | 124 | 190 |
| Sep. | 274 | 1,657 | 1,931 |
| Oct. | 169 | 986 | 1,155 |
| Nov. | 113 | 378 | 491 |
| Dec. | 106 | 228 | 334 |



VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

We developed a new Voter Registration and Permanent Absentee application and Absentee application to comply with Act 167, SLH 2016 which became effective on January 1, 2018. This removes the requirement for applicants to provide their full nine-digit Social Security Number when registering to vote or requesting an absentee mail ballot. This ensures privacy and security for applicants.

Applicants must now provide their Hawaii Driver License or State Identification number. If the applicant does not have either type of identification, they may provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number. If the applicant does not have a Social Security Number, they may provide proof of identification such as a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other document that shows the applicant's name and address pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). We have replaced the new forms on our website, as well as deployed the new forms to state libraries, post offices, satellite city halls, and state agencies.

Because of the implementation of this Act and to ensure compliance with HAVA and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), we entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation to electronically transfer driver license and state identification applications for voter

registration purposes. We also worked with the Department of Transportation to update the driver license and state identification application to include language to ensure applicants can use the form to update their voter registration record.

As a result, these changes secure voters' personal identifiable information, efficiently service voters, and maintain the integrity of the voter rolls. We also believe these systems lay the foundation for implementing automatic voter registration, if and when such legislation passes.

SAME DAY REGISTRATION

The 2018 Elections will be the first time citizens will be allowed to register and vote at their polling place on election day. The Legislature passed Act 166, SLH 2014 allowing voters to register and vote at an absentee walk site starting in 2016 and on election day starting in 2018. Same day registration was implemented at the absentee walk locations for the 2016 Elections and over 3,000 voters took advantage of this opportunity.

We believe same day registration removes the final barrier to registering and voting. In the past, an applicant would have to appear in front of a registrar to register to vote, until 1990 when the statute was amended to allow registration by self-subscribing affidavit. Now, with same day registration, any qualified applicant will be able to participate in the electoral process regardless of when they submit their application. While the 30-day voter registration deadline still exists for our internal administration of elections, we are able to service all interested citizens for the election. The voter registration deadline is July 12 for the Primary Election and October 9 for the General Election.

The Counties have designated Election Day Officials at the polling places to serve as registration clerks, and we have worked with them to develop the procedures. For every applicant, Election Day Officials will confirm the applicant's identity and call the control center to verify they are at the correct polling place. Additionally, if there is an issue or question regarding the application, the call will be escalated to County Staff to address. Our training will focus on these new procedures.

CANDIDATES AND BALLOTS

Candidate filing opened on February 1, 2018. Each candidate must file a nomination paper signed by a requisite number of registered voters who are eligible to vote for the candidate. The process demonstrates the candidate has at least a modicum of support of voters in their district. There are 104 seats up for election this year. The deadline to file a nomination paper is June 5 at 4:30 p.m.

Additionally, candidates may be a member of a qualified political party or nonpartisan. The deadline to form a political party is February 22 at 4:30 p.m. On February 6, the Constitution Party filed their petition to qualify as a political party

and barring any objections to their petition, they will be eligible to field candidates beginning March 8. As such, there are tentatively five qualified political parties which will appear on the 2018 Election ballot.

Upon the close of candidate filing, we will work with the vote counting system vendor to proof and print the Primary Election ballot. Candidates running for federal and state contests excluding the Office of Hawaiian Affairs are nominated to the General Election through a single party primary. The single party primary is a nomination process where voters must indicate their political preference and only vote for those candidates. All voters may vote for Office of Hawaiian Affairs and County candidates which are special nonpartisan contests.

We will begin printing the Primary Election ballot in mid-June to meet the 45-day deadline for mailing ballots to uniformed and overseas citizen absentee voters pursuant to federal law. Ballots continue to be printed, quality-checked, secured, and transported over the month preceding the election. We contract individuals to serve as ballot packers who are responsible for maintaining the inventory and security of unissued ballots. This process is repeated for the General Election.

For the General Election, preparations begin immediately following the Primary Election to determine the winners and ballot questions. The deadline to submit ballot questions for placement on the General Election ballot is August 23. Also, the question to hold a constitutional convention will appear on the 2018 General Election Ballot. The question is "Shall there be a convention to propose a revision of or amendment to the Constitution?" The law requires this question be posed to voters every 10 years. The 2008 General Election was the last time it appeared on the ballot.

ELECTION DAY OFFICIALS

We are recruiting 4,000 volunteers to serve as Election Day Officials at the 235 polling places, 4 control centers, 4 counting centers, and approximately 100 delivery/collection routes. We contact individuals and non-profit organizations who worked in previous elections. We are also reaching out to neighborhood boards, high school clubs, and businesses to bring attention to our volunteer opportunities.

Election Day Officials administer the election and assist voters. They also serve as guardians of democracy to ensure the security and integrity of the election. Poll Watchers are appointed by qualified political parties to observe voting at the polling places. They ensure Election Day Officials are following the standard operating procedures to maintain the integrity of the elections. Similarly, Official Observers serve as the eyes and ears of the public. They monitor operations and handling of voted ballots at each counting center. Both are critical

to maintaining the security and integrity of our elections and ensuring the community is involved in the process.

Election Day Official training will be conducted in June and July. As many of our Election Day Officials serve for both the Primary and General Elections, they are only required to attend the training once. We will hold additional trainings in October for any new volunteers serving in the General Election or anyone who would like a refresher course. Statewide, we conduct 150 training sessions.

We are finalizing the facilities that we use for election day operations. The counting center for the County of Hawaii is the last facility we need to finalize. In previous years, we have used space in the Hilo State Office Building, but it is unavailable. We are working with the Leasing Department and County of Hawaii to reserve space at the Bank of Hawaii Building.

VOTE COUNTING SYSTEM

Testing and securing the vote counting system is essential to maintaining the security, accuracy, and integrity of the election. We administer logic and accuracy tests which are carried out by Official Observers. We will test the voting equipment that is deployed to each polling place approximately one month before the election. Once the equipment is tested, certified, and secured, we coordinate delivery of the precinct counter, which is used to count paper ballots, direct recording electronic (DRE) voting equipment, and voting booths to each polling place.

We test the voting equipment used at the counting center, which is primarily used to count absentee mail ballots, one week prior to each election. At the same time, we conduct a wide area network test to accumulate, consolidate, and compile election results. This process is also a dress rehearsal for election day.

VOTER EDUCATION

We have developed an outreach program to educate the public about voting and elections. We will be participating in more than 30 events which include college campus events, Nursing Home Week, Best of Honolulu Festival, and the Senior Fair Expo. In addition, we have worked with the Hawaii Farm Bureau to provide voter registration services at their Farmer's Market. We will also be conducting pop-up voter registration events in areas where voter registration is low. Additionally, in the days immediately preceding the voter registration deadlines, we will conduct drive-through voter registration statewide in coordination with the Clerks' Offices.

Our outreach program is built to coincide with our media campaign, which kicks off in June and runs through the General Election. We are securing

contracts with television and radio outlets, and have developed our advertisements which will focus on recruiting precinct officials, dates and deadlines, online voter registration, voting instructions, and late registration including election day registration. These topics represent questions that are frequently asked of our office and reduce voter confusion. The following is the media campaign schedule:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Election Day Official Recruitment..... | June 4 – 24 |
| Voter Registration | July 6 – 12 |
| Single Party Primary | July 23 – August 11 |
| Absentee Walk..... | July 27 – August 9 |
| Election Day Reminders, Same Day Registration | August 10 – 11 |
| Voter Registration | October 3 – 9 |
| Absentee Walk..... | October 19 – November 3 |
| Election Day Reminders, Same Day Registration | November 5 – 6 |

While the Counties operate and coordinate a media campaign for absentee walk locations, we supplement the campaigns to ensure all voters are aware on the statewide level. Absentee walk will be open from July 30 through August 9 for the Primary Election, and October 23 through November 3 for the General Election.

It is our hope that many citizens will take advantage of these opportunities and participate in the elections to choose their elected officials, and have their voice heard on the various questions that may appear on the ballot. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or toll free at 1-800-442-VOTE (8683).

VOTER REGISTRATION POSTCARD

REGISTER ONLINE TO VOTE

在綫登記爲選民 Agparehistro nga agbotos babaen ti online



www.elections.hawaii.gov

- ✓ Register to Vote
- ✓ Request to Vote by Mail
- ✓ Update your Registration


註冊投票，要求通過郵件投票，更新您現有的選民登記信息。

Agparehistroka tapno makabotoska, kiddawem ti panagbotosmo babaen ti koreo, pabaruem ti agdama a rehistrasionmo a kas botante.

☎ 1.800.442.VOTE (8683)✉ elections@hawaii.gov☎ (808) 453.6150

HAWAII VOTES

www.elections.hawaii.gov



2018 ELECTIONS

Primary: 8.11.18
General: 11.6.18

State of Hawaii Office of Elections

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