



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

February 14, 2020

To: Elections Commission

From: Scott T. Nago  
Chief Election Officer

Re: Status of Operations

As the Office of Elections transitions to elections by mail, we have participated in an Informational Briefing conducted by the Legislature, attended a policy academy focusing on election-related cybersecurity, and sent all active voters a second notification card. Additionally, we are continuing preparations for the 2020 Elections. The kickoff to the 2020 Elections started on Monday, February 3, with the opening of candidate filing.

**ELECTIONS BY MAIL INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING**

The Senate and House Committees on Judiciary conducted a joint Informational Briefing on November 13, 2019 regarding the status of implementing elections by mail for the 2020 Elections with presentations by the Office of Elections and the Clerk of each County. Our presentation provided an overview of the responsibilities of our office and focused on our statewide voter education plan. At the time, we were finding that many voters were not connecting the phrases “elections by mail” or “voting by mail” meaning that no polling places will be established on Election Day. As such, our presentation highlighted our planned messaging through a series of election mailings and targeted outreach.

Similarly, we submitted our report to the Legislature, *Implementing Elections by Mail*, pursuant to Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. The initial report, dated November 6, 2019, and a subsequent addendum dated December 31, 2019, are posted on our website, [elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov).

## **ELECTION SECURITY**

The Office continues to work with the Hawaii State Fusion Center, Office of Enterprise Technology Services (OETS), and representatives from other government agencies to discuss security and contingency plans for the 2020 Elections.

On January 10, 2020, we participated in a training and tabletop exercise hosted by the National Governors Association (NGA). Also in attendance were the Hawaii State Fusion Center, OETS, as well as representatives from the County Civil Defense and County Elections Divisions, and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). This meeting was a follow-up to our selection by the NGA to assist in the development of best practices and strategies to improve election security and allowed us to build on our relationships with key players in the area of cybersecurity.

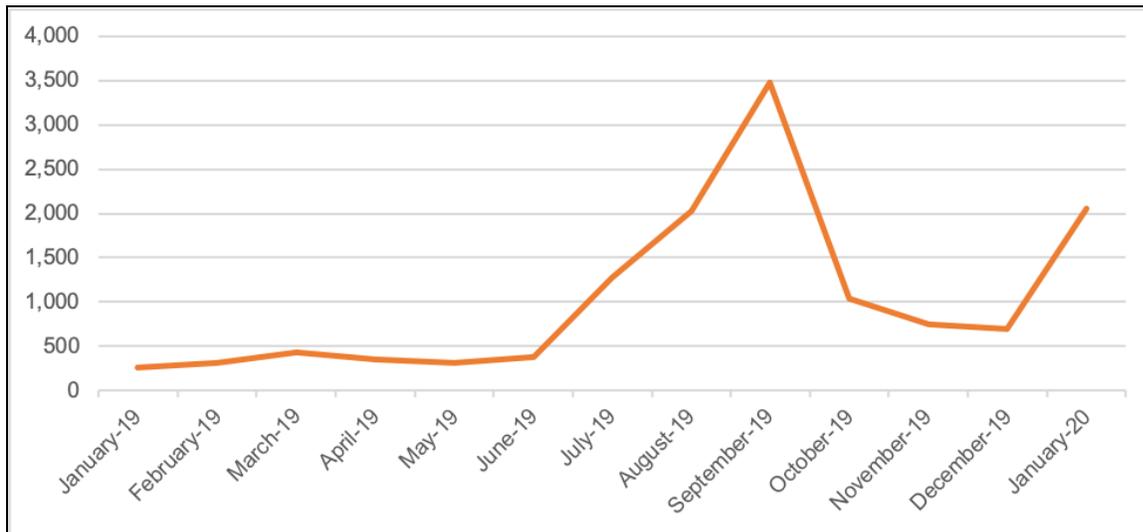
## **NOTIFICATION POSTCARDS**

In mid-January, the Office of Elections began sending out over 658,000 notification postcards, providing dates and deadlines, to active registered voters in our State. The postcard is part of a series of election mailings to raise awareness about the transition to elections by mail and ensure the voter registration rolls are up to date.

We have been promoting the postcard through our social media, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and sent out a press release asking voters to be on the lookout for the card through the end of January. We are asking voters who do not receive a postcard to check their voter registration online at [olvr.hawaii.gov](http://olvr.hawaii.gov) or by calling our Office or their County Elections Division to verify their voter registration status.

Election mailings serve as notices of voter registration and confirm that a mail ballot packet will be delivered for each election. County Election Officials also use the process of sending election mailings to update and maintain their voter registration roll through non-delivery and checks using the National Change of Address service. Over 769,000 Hawaii residents are registered to vote, however, more than 14% have outdated addresses and must update their record before a mail ballot packet will be sent for the election. By law, mail ballot packets are not forwardable.

### Online Voter Registration Transactions, January 2019 to January 2020



Following the delivery of election mailings, the transactions and traffic to the Online Voter Registration System (OLVR) increased as demonstrated in the graph above.

We are preparing another election mailing, a signature capture card, to be sent to voters in the beginning of April. This mailing is asking voters to provide a current sample of their signature and return it to their County Elections Division.

As voters return their signature sample, the County Elections Divisions will attach it to their voter registration record for use when validating the signed voted return envelope for the election. While it is not mandatory for voters to return their card, it will reduce discrepancies that may arise during receipt and validation of return envelopes. We would note that if there is a discrepancy with a voter's signature on the return envelope, they will have up to 5 business days after the election to correct their signature and have their ballot counted.

Our office is currently procuring radio and television commercials highlighting the importance of the card and the transition to elections by mail, in addition to promoting the message through our social media and website.

## **PREPARATION FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS**

We are continuing preparation and implementation of our voter education and media campaign, as well as conducting ongoing discussions with the County Elections Divisions and vendors, and finalizing various logistical matters.

### **Inventory**

In late December, the Office of Elections focused on inventory and warehouse organization. Since elections are conducted on two-year cycles, in the odd-numbered years, we make our preparations for the upcoming elections to establish operations at the State Capitol, provide supplies to the neighbor islands, and procure necessary materials. Following the election in the even-numbered years, we will inventory and unpack the supplies used during the previous election and prepare for the next election cycle.

We have received approval to use the State Capitol, beginning in July, to serve as the base of operations for the 2020 Elections. As such, we will move into the Senate Chamber on July 15, 2020. The Senate Chamber will serve as the counting center in Honolulu and be used to compile and release the election results. Ahead of each Election Day, we have reserved use of Senate Conference Room 016 to serve as a control center to answer inquiries from the public that may arise. On Election Day, we have reserved House Conference Room 423 to serve as a meeting room for the Board of Registration to resolve any challenges to a voter's registration. We will vacate the State Capitol by November 30, 2020. As in prior election years, related matters, such as parking, air-conditioning, custodial services, and security at the State Capitol are also being addressed.

### **Seasonal Staffing**

On January 2, 2020, our seasonal election specialists to support ballot operations and counting center operations started. The ballot operations specialist supports candidate filing and ballot proofing, printing, and delivery. The counting center operations specialist is responsible for recruiting and training counting center officials, coordinating the testing of the voting and vote counting system, and processing of voted ballots. These positions run through December 31, 2020.

In previous elections, in the polling place model, we would also be looking to hire seasonal election assistants to recruit and train the polling place officials to staff the polling places. However, as we implement elections by mail, we will not be hiring these election assistants.

### **Candidate Filing**

Candidate filing opened on February 3, 2020 and runs through June 2, 2020. The candidate filing process allows qualified individuals to appear on the ballot. Individuals interested in running for office must submit an application to receive a nomination paper, obtain signatures from registered voters of the jurisdiction for the office sought, and file the nomination paper with the appropriate filing fee based on the office.

A total of 107 seats are up for election, which consists of 4 federal seats, 68 state seats, and 35 county seats. Every Friday, we post a list of candidates who have been issued or filed a nomination paper on our website. Historically, an average of 400 nomination papers are issued of which 318 are filed per election.

Our office in Pearl City provides candidate filing services for federal and state offices. In May 2020, we will open a satellite location at the State Office Tower. It will open on May 5 and will serve the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays until May 21, and will be open daily beginning May 26.

The neighbor island Counties provide candidate filing services to candidates for federal and state offices, on our behalf, in addition to candidates for county offices. The City and County of Honolulu services candidates for its city offices.

Prior to the opening of candidate filing, the Office of Elections updated the candidate filing procedures, Candidate's Manual, and candidate filing system. In addition, training was provided to staff as well as county staff who are assisting with candidate filing.

### **Political Party Petitions**

The deadline to file petitions to form a political party for ballot purposes is February 20, 2020. The law requires that the petition must contain signatures of currently registered voters comprising not less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total registered voters of the state as of the 2018 General Election. In 2018 there were 756,751 registered voters, which results in 757 signatures being required.

As of February 12, 2020, nine political parties have been issued petitions and zero have filed. However, we expect some prospective political parties will file their petition by the deadline. After a petition is filed and if there are no objections by another political party within 20 business days, the filed political party will be recognized and eligible to have candidates appear on the ballot.

Currently there are 4 political parties that are eligible to field candidates; the Democratic Party of Hawaii, the Green Party of Hawaii, the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Republican Party.

## **LEGISLATION**

We are monitoring and testifying on election-related measures as they progress through the Legislature. In our report, *Implementing Elections by Mail*, submitted to the Legislature, we proposed a variety of housekeeping amendments addressing the implementation of elections by mail. Additionally, our Office submitted the following three measures, of which two highlight proposed amendments to elections by mail and one addresses state senate vacancies.

### **HB 1751 and SB 2137, Relating to Elections**

This bill authorizes the county clerks to operate additional voter service centers with varying days or hours of operation to address areas where it might be more difficult to establish voter service centers that meet the current requirements.

### **HB 1752 and SB 2138, Relating to Elections**

This bill reestablishes the definition of “precincts” as the “smallest political subdivision established by law.” Act 136, SLH 2019, removed the term “precinct,” due to the association with polling places. However, in practice, election officials use precincts as the geographical boundaries of voters including the intersecting boundaries associated with different offices or jurisdictions (i.e., areas where voters are eligible to vote for certain offices). Other states that conduct elections by mail continue to use precincts to ensure that each voter is provided the correct ballot associated with where they live, and similarly that election results are properly reported by these areas.

### **HB 1753 and SB 2139, Relating to Vacancies**

This bill amends the filing deadline for candidates to fill a vacant state senate seat. Currently, if a vacancy occurs after the close of candidate filing, a candidate who has already filed for a different office would not be able to run for the vacant seat. This bill also ensures we are able to comply with the federal requirements of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to mail covered voters a ballot 45 days prior to the election.

### **CONCLUSION**

As a follow-up to the last meeting, the League of Women Voters testified about publishing the list of voters being removed from the voter registration rolls following the General Election. The information is publicly available through each County Elections Division as they are statutorily responsible for voter registration. As voter registration records are constantly updated, the list is provided by request as a snapshot in time.

Additionally, we have issued a notice of award to Hart InterCivic as a result of our Request for Proposals for a Voting and Vote Counting System and Ancillary Services. The proposal was just under \$3,000,000 per election for the 2022, 2024, and 2026 Elections. We will continue to lease the voting and vote counting system which includes maintenance and operation and we have included the mailing house services such as addressing, inserting, sorting, and sending mail ballot packets. Following the 2026 Elections, we have the option to extend for three more Elections – 2028, 2030, 2032.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-442-VOTE (8683).

## OFFICE OF ELECTIONS PRESENTATION TO THE LEGISLATURE



A circular graphic with a white background and a grey border. The text "HAWAII VOTES BY MAIL" is written in a semi-circle at the top. In the center, "AUG 08" is written above a large "2020", which is above "NOV 03". At the bottom, "STARTING IN 2020" is written in a semi-circle.

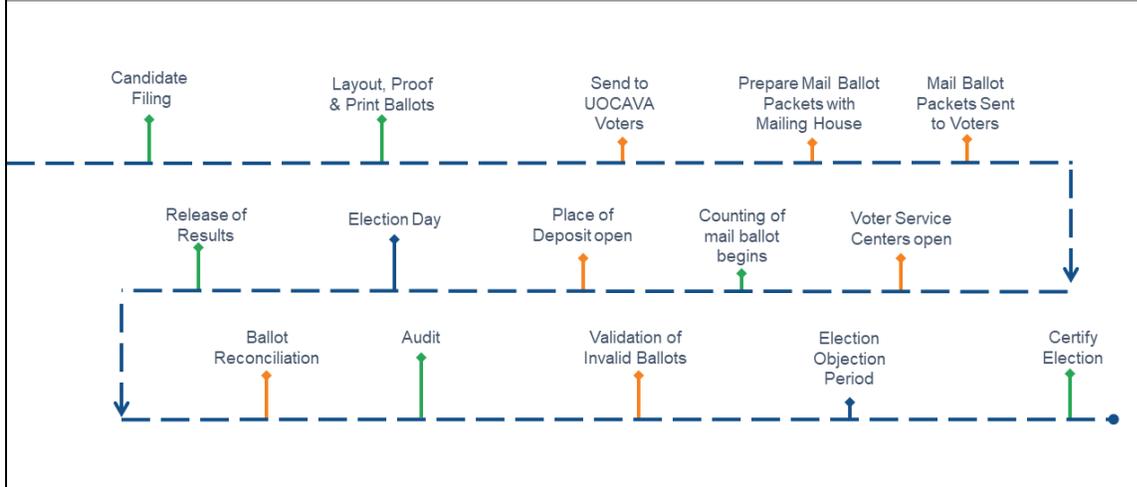
**Implementing  
Elections by Mail**

Office of Elections  
November 13, 2019

### Our Role

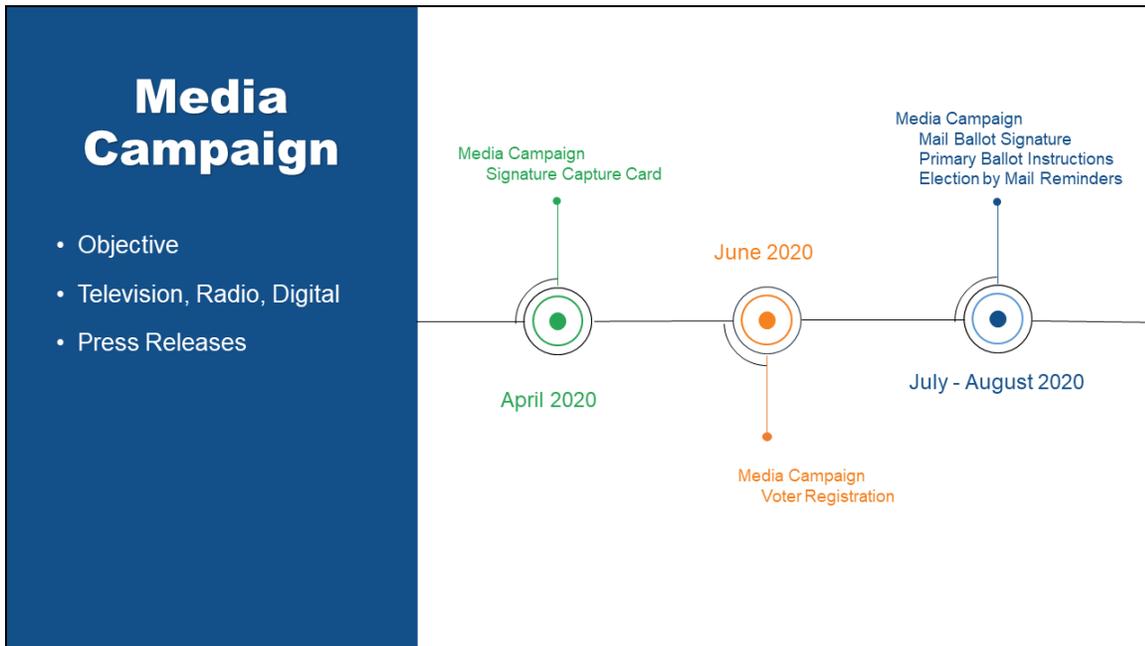
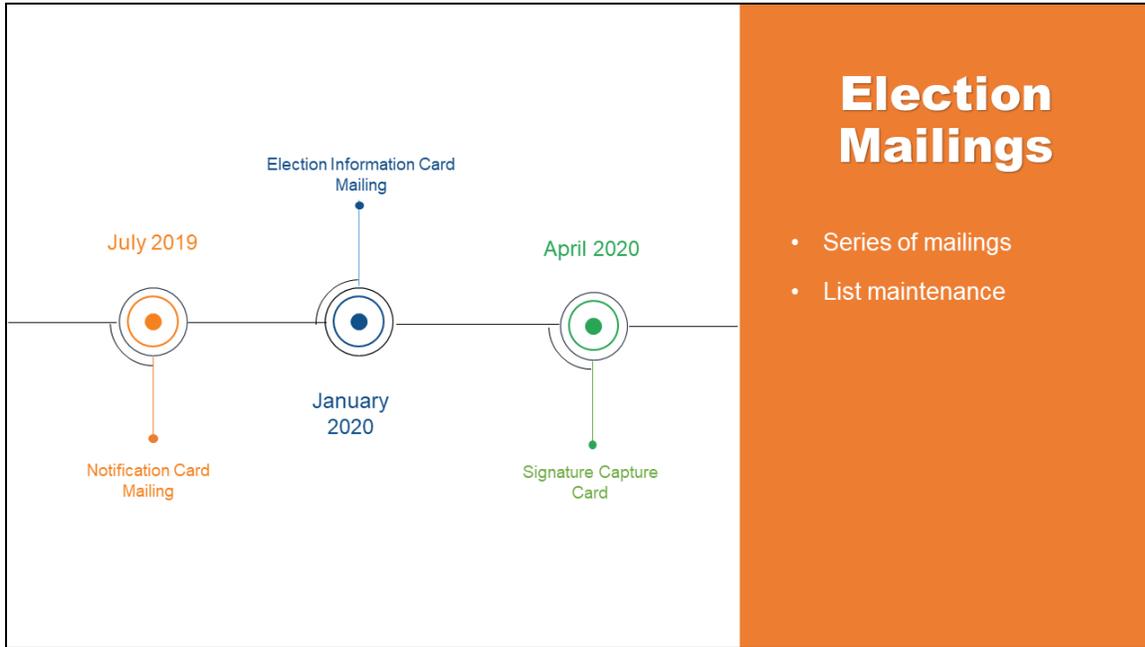
- Voter Education
- Print Ballots
- Count & Tabulate Results

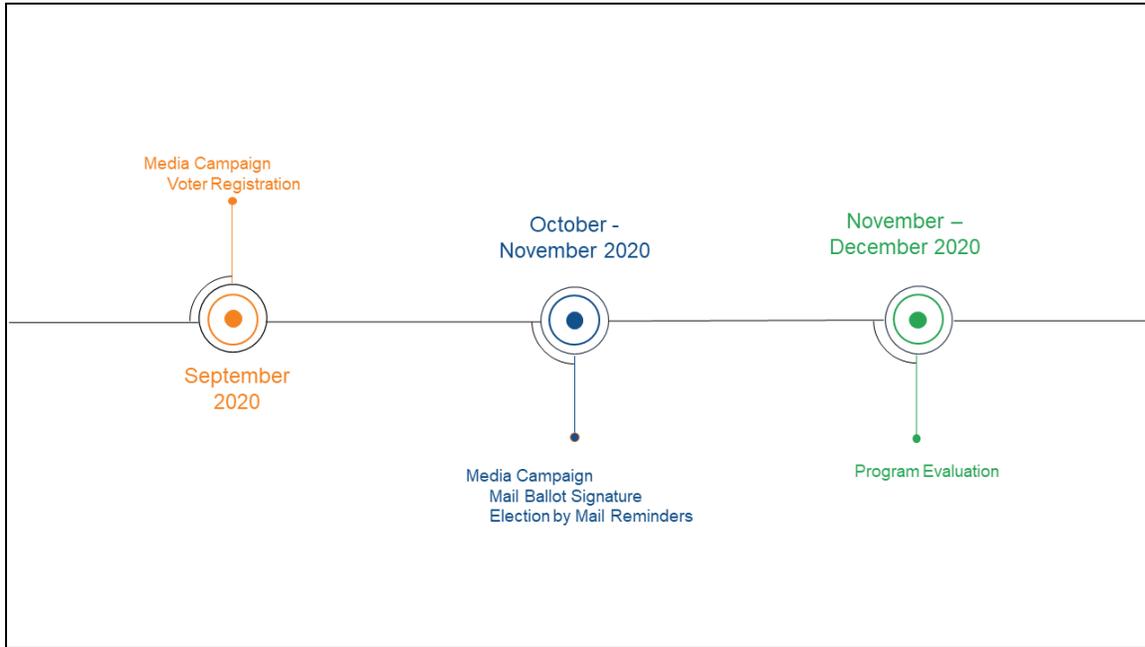
## Overview



## Voter Education







**June 2019** **November 2020**

Community Outreach

- Young Voter Registration Program
- College Students
- Disability Community
- Senior Citizens

## Outreach

- Objective
- Tabling Events & Voter Information Booths
- Community-Based Organizations
- Voter Presentations



[www.elections.hawaii.gov](http://www.elections.hawaii.gov)

## JANUARY NOTIFICATION CARD



**VOTING COMES TO YOU**  
Starting with the 2020 Elections, no polling places will be established. Visit [www.elections.hawaii.gov](http://www.elections.hawaii.gov) to learn more.

**JUL 09 VOTER REGISTRATION**  
Last day to register to vote to receive your mail ballot packet for the Primary Election.

**JUL 21 MAIL BALLOT PACKET**  
Look for your Primary Election mail ballot packet to be delivered.

**JUL 27 VOTER SERVICE CENTER**  
Voter Service Centers are open through Election Day. Services include in-person voting and same day registration.

**AUG 08 PRIMARY ELECTION**  
Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm.

**OCT 05 VOTER REGISTRATION**  
Last day to register to vote to receive your mail ballot packet for the General Election.

**OCT 16 MAIL BALLOT PACKET**  
Look for your General Election mail ballot packet to be delivered.

**OCT 20 VOTER SERVICE CENTER**  
Voter Service Centers are open through Election Day. Services include in-person voting and same day registration.

**NOV 03 GENERAL ELECTION**  
Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm.

**LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE**  
No kasapulam ti tulong iti lengguage, awagan ti Opisina Dagiti Eleksion (Office of Elections) iti 808-453-VOTE (8683).  
若您需要語言協助，請致電選舉辦公室 (Office of Elections)。電話：808-453-VOTE(8683)。

**hi vote here**

808.453.8683

elections@hawaii.gov



**Office of Elections**  
802 Lehua Ave  
Pearl City HI 96782

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HONOLULU, HI  
PERMIT NO. 205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**IMPORTANT**

If the person named on this card is no longer at this address, please write "NOT AT THIS ADDRESS" and place card in the mail. This will allow us to clean-up the voter registration rolls.

Napateg. No ti tao a nainaganan iti daytoy a kard ket awanen iti daytoy nga adres, isurat ti "NOT AT THIS ADDRESS" (awan iti daytoy nga adres) ket ipatulod daytoy a kard babaen ti koreo. Iti kasta, maikkankami iti gundaway a mangdalous iti listaan dagiti rehistrado a botante.

重要。如果此卡上的人不再居於此地址，請寫上「NOT AT THIS ADDRESS」「不在此地址」，並將此卡放置在郵箱內。這將讓我們清除該選民登記紀錄。