

CBST Votes

The 2020 Election and You

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah

Monday, October 5, 2020

CBST Votes Town Hall

- Introduction: Senior Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum
- Insights from the Road: Randi Weingarten
- Overview of the The 2020 Election: Sabrina Farber and Harold Levine
- Breakouts:
 - Your Voting Plan: Harold Levine (stay on this Zoom)
 - Reaching Voters in Swing States: Sabrina Farber (switch to a second Zoom)

Election 2020

- President
- One third of Senate seats
- All 435 House seats
- State and local elections

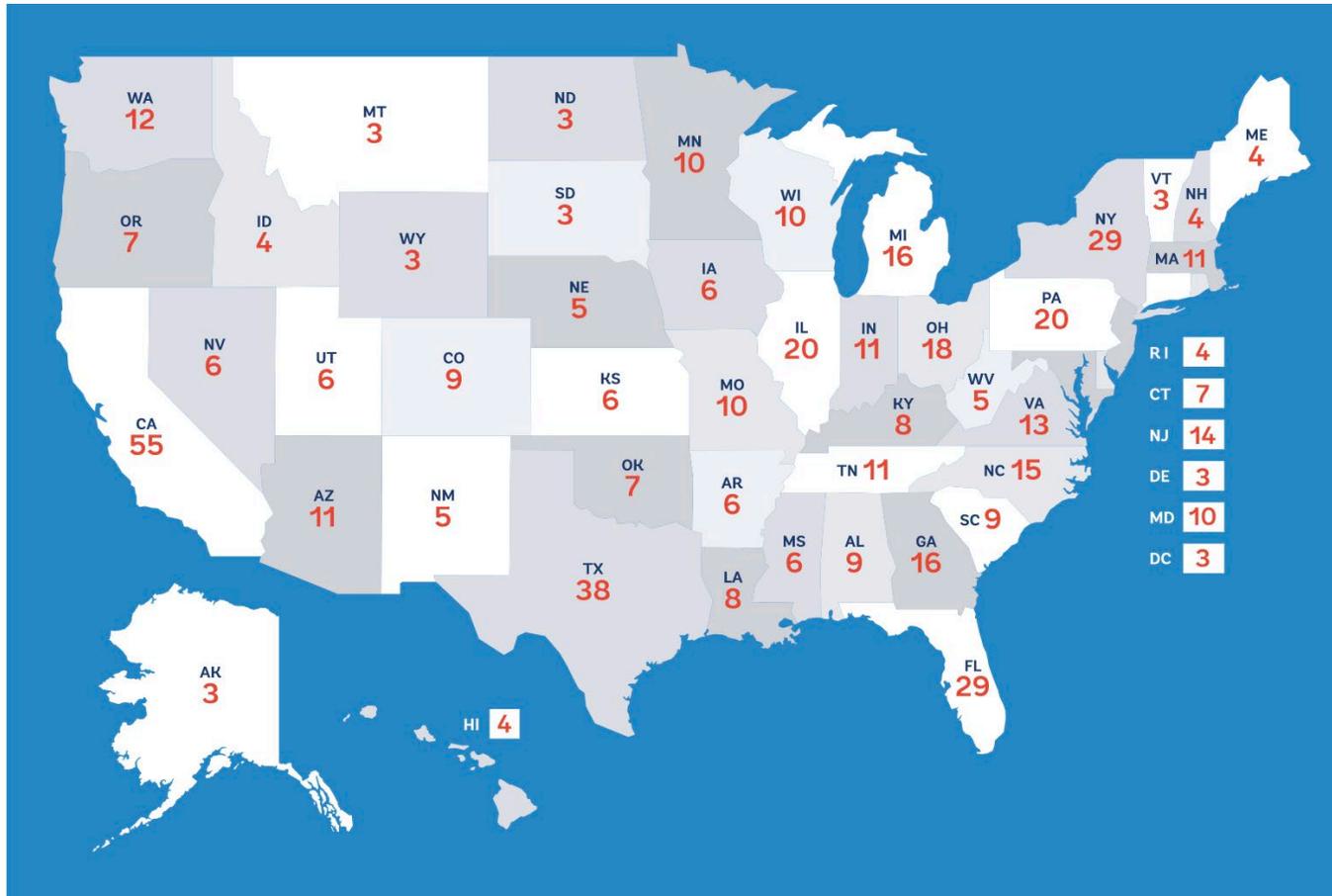
Elections in NY, NJ and FL

	New York	New Jersey	Florida
President	X	X	X
US Senate	None	Cory Booker	None
US House	All	All	All
Governor	No	No	No
State Senate	All	No	50%
State Assembly	All	No	All

Presidential Election

- Popular vs. Electoral College Votes
 - Each state gets a number of votes equal to their number of representatives, plus their two senators.
 - 538 votes
 - Generally “winner takes all” – Over 50% of the popular vote and all electoral college votes go to that candidate.
 - Popular vote can go one way and the Electoral College the other way (2016)
 - 270 votes needed to win

538 Electoral College Votes



Senate 2020

- 100 Senators, Vice President casts a tie-breaking vote
- Currently 53 Republicans, 47 Democrats
- If Republicans keep the White House, 4 seats would need to flip to change control
- If Democrats win the White House, 3 seats would need to flip to change control

House Election 2020

- 435 seats, state delegations vary by size of state
- All Representatives up for election every two years
- Currently 232 Democrats, 197 Republicans, 1 Libertarian, 5 vacant seats

The Voting Process - 2020

- Mail Votes/Absentee Ballots (functionally the same)
 - Submitted by mail or in person
 - Mail, Drop box, Board of Elections
- In person voting
 - Early
 - October 24-November 1 (NY)
 - No in-person early voting in NJ
 - Election Day
 - November 3

In Person vs. Mail Ballots (NY)

- + A voting machine will spit out a ballot improperly filled out:
 - Votes for more than one candidate
 - Stray marks or blank ballots.
- + Voters can immediately fill out and re-scan a corrected ballot.
- Mail ballots are not checked until scanned after the election; voter may or may not be able to correct a ballot.
- Technical issues (signature, return envelopes, etc.) may invalidate a mail ballot.

In Person vs. Mail Ballots

In Person

- Voting machine will spit out improperly marked ballots
- Voter has a chance to correct ballot
- Votes counted as soon as they are cast

Mail

- More Convenient
- Lower risk of exposure to Covid-19 when voting
- Votes may not be counted until after Election Day

The Case for In-Person Voting

- Given the high number of mail ballots and the challenges of Covid-19, the vote-counting process may last for days or weeks after Election Day.
- The vote count on Election Day night will be important in terms of popular sentiment and subsequent actions by each party.
- In NY and many other states, in-person votes at a polling place, on a voting machine, are tallied immediately and count in the Election Day vote count.
- Mail votes (even those delivered in person) may not be counted until after Election Day, and not count in the Election Day vote count.

New Yorkers: Go to an Early Voting polling place with a filled-out Mail Ballot in Hand

- Request and fill out a Mail Ballot, place in envelope but do not mail.
- Bring to your Early Voting polling place.
- If possible, vote in person and destroy your Mail Ballot.
- If in-person voting not possible, either place your Mail Ballot in a Drop Box at the polling place or bring it to the Post Office immediately.

My Voting Plan

- Check your registration
 - Register if necessary
- Decide whether to vote in person or with a mail ballot
 - If a mail ballot
 - Requesting a mail ballot, if appropriate
 - Completing and returning a mail ballot
 - Tracking your ballot
 - If in person
 - Early (polling place location and hour)
 - On Election Day (location and hours)
- Knowing what's on your ballot

My Voting Plan

The Social Justice Team at CBST wants to help you create a plan to vote.

Print out this two-page worksheet and use the resources at cbst.org/vote to help you fill it out.*

Name: _____ State I live in currently: _____ State I'm registered to vote in: _____

1/ PREPARE

Are you registered?

- Yes I am!
Jump to step 3
- No I'm not.
Jump to step 2

2/ REGISTER

If not, how will you register?

- I will register online.
- I will register a different way.

How: _____

Jump to step 3

3/ MY BALLOT

Know your ballot:

- I've downloaded my ballot, I know what's on it.
- I've done candidate/issue research.
- I've decided how I will vote on candidates/issues.
- I know how to track my ballot.

Start here

*If you have questions while filling out your worksheet, need help returning a mail in ballot or getting to the polls, or simply want to talk to a CBST Votes Team Member, email vote@cbst.org.



	New York	New Jersey	Florida
Last Day to Register (online, in person, or via mail)	October 9	October 13	October 5
Last Day to Request a Mail Ballot (online, in person, or via mail)	October 27th	All registered voters in NJ will be receiving a mail ballot automatically. October 23rd deadline to request a ballot if not received	October 24
Start Mail Ballot Return	As soon as ballot is received	As soon as ballot is received	As soon as ballot is received
Early Voting Begins	October 24	No early voting in NJ	October 19
Early Voting Ends	November 1	No early voting in NJ	November 2
Election Day	November 3	November 3	November 3
Deadline for Return of Mail Ballots in Person	November 3, 9 pm	November 3	November 3
Deadline for Return of Mail Ballots via Mail	Postmarked November 3	Postmarked November 3	Must be <u>received</u> by November 3rd

Please Note!

- **Postage:** NY mailed ballots sent return by mail need postage. NJ ballot are prepaid first class. In FL it varies by county.
- **Mail ballot counts begin:** NY count is scheduled to begin after polls close. NJ count begins ten days before Election Day.
- **Early voting locations and hours.** Be sure to confirm your early voting location and hours. The location is likely to be different than you regular polling place, and the hours will differ.
- **In person voting:** NJ does not have regular in-person voting this year. Voters who go to a polling place on Election Day will be casting a provisional ballot.
- **In-person voting if you requested a mail ballot.** In NY, you can vote in person if you requested, received or returned a mail ballot. The in-person vote will be the one that counts. In FL, you must bring your mail ballot with you to the polling place and have it cancelled.
- **Note:** This information is believed to be correct at the time of writing, but election law is complicated and the situation this year is somewhat fluid. Specific cases should be discussed directly with the voter's Board of Elections.

Filling out a NY Mail Ballot (1)

- Make sure your correct name and address appear on the front of the **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope**. If not, do not use it. Contact the Board of Elections (see above).
- Complete both sides of your **ballot**. Fill in the oval just above the name of your choices of candidates. Mark them fully, in pen. Be very careful. You cannot erase a mark on the ballot. If you vote incorrectly, you will need to request a replacement ballot (Info). Do not vote for more than one candidate per office or your ballot will be invalidated. If you spoil your ballot, contact the Board of Elections (see above).

Filling out a NY Mail Ballot (2)

- When you are done, place your ballot into the **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope**. Remove the paper to expose the adhesive and seal the envelope. Sign the envelope on the back at the red "X" and date it on the line below.
- Place the **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope** into the **Return Envelope**. Make sure it's oriented so that the bar code on the Ballot Envelope shows through the window on the Return Envelope. Seal the return envelope. If you are returning the envelope by mail, place a stamp on the on the front where indicated, and write your name and address on the front of the envelope where it says "Name and Complete Address."
- Return the ballot via mail, bring it to any early voting or Election Day polling place, or return it in person to the Board of Elections.

Filling out a NY Mail Ballot (3)

- Although the ballot says "Official Absentee Military Ballot" it is valid for both civilians and military.
- Although the instructions say "mark the oval to the left of the name of your choice" the oval is actually **above** the name.
- The ballot has two sides. The back has candidates for judicial offices. There are only candidates for these offices under the Democratic column, and there are as many candidates as there are open offices.

An Error May Invalidate Your Mail Ballot

- You can only vote for one candidate for President, representative, State Senator and Assembly. The Democratic candidate is also listed on the Working Families column and the Republican candidate is listed on the Conservative column. You should only vote for your candidate in one column. If you mark your candidate in both columns, you'll invalidate your ballot.
- If you spoil your ballot by making any marks other than filling in the oval for one candidate, you need to request a replacement ballot. Contact the Board of Elections.
- Make sure to put your ballot into the envelope marked "Official Absentee Ballot Envelope," seal the envelope and sign and date it on the back.
- The "Official Absentee Ballot Envelope" goes in the return envelope, with the bar code showing through the window. If you are returning the envelope by mail, it must bear the proper postage.

Voting in Person

- Bring your voter card or tag with bar code (mailed last week to all registered NY voters)
- Consider early voting
 - October 24 to November 1 in NY.
 - Your early voting polling place will likely not be your Election Day polling place.
- Expect very long lines on Election Day
 - High turnout
 - Fewer experienced poll workers