

Thursday, May 14th, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

Due to COVID-19 concerns, our state has experienced considerable and rapid changes to the approaching elections. As an update to my campus-wide e-mail on Monday, April 13th, 2020, here are **four important updates** for your consideration:

#1 - June 23, 2020 Election:

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has postponed the 2020 Presidential Primary and NY-27's Special Election until **Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020**.
- The New York State (NYS) Board of Elections (BOE) canceled the Democratic Presidential Primary; it was then reversed by court order due to a series of lawsuits.
- **The NYS 2020 Presidential Primary is still on for June 23rd, 2020.**

#2 - If you are registered to vote in Geneseo during the June 23rd election date, here is what you need to know:

- Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order on Thursday, April 9th, to permit statewide absentee balloting for any election on or before June 23rd because of COVID-19. This effectively **allows everyone the opportunity to mail in their ballot**, and not personally visit their poll site (for more details, please read update #3 below).
- Two physical poll locations in Geneseo are to be determined (check geneseo.edu/vote for updates).
- There will be five elections decided: [Special 27th District Congressional Election](#) and four primaries ([Democratic Presidential Primary](#), [Republican Primary](#), [Libertarian Primary](#), and [SAM Primary](#)).
- There will be three ways to vote:
 - 1.) *In-person on Election Day.*
 - 2.) *Early voting for 10 days before June 23rd, 2020*
 - 3.) *Absentee ballot by mail.*
- There is still time (**until May 29th**) to register to vote for the Special 27th District Congressional Election.

#3 - Absentee ballot and electronic applications:

1. This week, the Livingston County BOE is **mailing a paper application** to all eligible registered voters in the county - over 41,000 people. If returned to the BOE, each voter will receive their absentee ballot in the mail.
2. **If you are registered to vote in Geneseo and live on-campus**, your ballot will be forwarded to your permanent address on file with the college.
3. **If you are registered to vote in Geneseo and live off-campus**, and you have left Geneseo for the summer, please forward your mail to your summer address or you will not receive an application.
4. However, if you are concerned about receiving your paper application, and you would prefer completing an **electronic absentee ballot application here is the link: [Electronic absentee ballot application](#). Here are some tips for completing the election ballot:**

 - 1.) The COVID-19 reason for voting absentee is "**Temporary illness or physical disability**" in **Box 1**. You may also choose to check "**Absence from county on election day**" in **Box 1**.
 - 2.) **Box 5 Residence is the address where a person is registered to vote in Geneseo, not the home address where you may have returned to because of school closure or summer break.**
 - If you are registered on-campus, your street address is 10 MacVittie Circle and name of Residence Hall, and your apartment is your room number.
 - If you are registered off-campus, use your off-campus address.
 - 3.) Upon submission of your ballot application, the BOE will immediately send an e-mail acknowledgement that the request has been received.
 - 4.) After receiving the ballot at your permanent residence, **you will need to complete it and mail your ballot back** (your ballot will contain instructions on how to do so).

#4 - The March 18 Village of Geneseo elections have been postponed to September 15th, 2020:

- Without a new Executive Order from Governor Cuomo's Office, traditional election rules will apply:
 - 1.) *No early voting.*
 - 2.) *Register to vote ten days before.*
 - 3.) *No special absentee voting.*
- [The slate of candidates from March 18th still pertain.](#)
- Finally, previously cast absentee votes still count.

For more information on what you need to know to vote and make sure it gets counted (This information is also available at geneseo.edu/vote):

COVID-19 and Voting

- This is a situation that changes daily. For more info on voting during the pandemic, see [The New York State Board of Elections website](#) and the [Livingston County Board of Elections website](#).

Register to Vote Here

- If you have not registered to vote previously, use [this link to register to vote in NY](#). For the June 23 elections, you must register by postmarked mail or in person by May 29. For the Village of Geneseo election, you must register 10 days before the announced election day.
- If you are **graduating, you may wish to update your voter information to your new address.**
 - If you are remaining in NY, [use this link](#).
 - If you are leaving NY, [use this link to find out how to register to vote in your state](#).

Requesting an Absentee Ballot (Due to the COVID-19 emergency, every registered voter may vote by absentee ballot.)

- As a SUNY Geneseo student, you may vote absentee in NYS because you are:
 - Absent from the county you are registered to vote, or if from NYC, absent from NYC. **(If you are registered to vote on campus and will not be in Livingston County on June 23, 2020, this applies to you.)**
 - Living in Geneseo off-campus where you are registered to vote and choose not to vote in person because of the coronavirus, or
 - Registered at your permanent home address (not Geneseo) and choose not to vote in person because of the coronavirus. (Request a ballot(s) from your home county, not Livingston County.)
- **[Apply for your absentee ballot here!](#) (The absentee ballot application must be postmarked by June 16 for the June 23 elections, and seven days before the Village election once a date is announced. It is highly recommended you APPLY NOW for all elections.)**
 - If you are registered on-campus, your street address is 10 MacVittie Circle and name of Residence Hall, and your apartment is your room number.
 - If registered off-campus, use your off-campus address.
 - If registered at your permanent home address, use that address AND mail to your home county Board of Elections.
 - [Use this form for an example absentee ballot](#).
- Your absentee ballot will be sent to you by mail (at the address you indicate in Boxes 6 and/or 7). We recommend mailing it immediately after completion, but absentee ballots must be postmarked by June 22 for the June 23 elections and the day before the Village of Geneseo election.

Be a More Informed Voter

- If you are registered to vote on campus, [find out more about who's on your ballot](#).
 - Only registered Democrats will be able to vote in the Presidential Primary. [See the Sample Ballot for the Democratic Primary here](#).
 - All those registered in the 27th Congressional District (which includes Geneseo) will be able to vote in the Special Election. [See the Sample Ballot for the Special Election here](#).
 - All those registered in the Village of Geneseo (which includes the campus and most areas off-campus) will be able to vote in the Village election. [See the Sample Ballot for the Village of Geneseo Election here](#).
- If you are registered to vote at home or at your off-campus residence, you can use your address [to find out more about who's on your ballot](#).

Find Your Polling Place

- If you are registered to vote on campus, **the on-campus polling site at Kuhl Gym will not be open for the June 23 Elections or Village of Geneseo Election.** If you are voting in person, the two physical poll locations in Geneseo to be determined (check geneseo.edu/vote for updates).
- If you are registered elsewhere, [use this link to find your polling place](#).

Still have questions?

- [Check out the Livingston County Board of Elections Website](#).
- Check out our website: geneseo.edu/vote