

For Release Tuesday 10/20/2020

County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Press Release/Alert

Berks County Prepares for Safe In-Person Voting for General Election on Nov. 3

Reading, PA— 10/20/2020 — The County of Berks is committed to a safe, fair, clean and secure General Election on Tuesday, November 3rd for those who plan to vote in person. All 202 polling locations in Berks County will be electrostatically sanitized with COVID-19 effective deep cleaning before the poll location is opened and after it is closed. Additionally, all election personnel and polls locations will be provided with the appropriate PPE to protect both poll workers and voters.

Poll workers are required to wear masks and will be provided with a mask, face shield gloves and hand sanitizer. Voters will be given a glove and a Q-Tip for use on the touch screen of the voting machine. Plexiglass splash guards will also be in place at each poll book at the check-in table. Voters are strongly encouraged to practice COVID-19 safety precautions while voting, such as wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and sanitizing their hands. Voters are also encouraged to bring their own pens to check in.

“We believe these measures allow our constituents to vote in person safely and with peace of mind,” said Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt, Election Board Chair. “Voting is an important civic duty and we want to ensure that everyone is able to complete a ballot without endangering their safety. We ask everyone voting in person on Nov. 3 to respect the precautions in place and continue to do their part to keep our community safe.”

Anyone wishing to vote by mail-in ballot must apply by 5 p.m. on October 27. Mail-in ballots can be returned through the mail or dropped off at the County's two drop box locations. The drop boxes are located at the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, in the main entrance lobby off Reed Street and at the County of Berks Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport. For drop box location times, please visit www.countyofberks.com/elections. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania has also released this [video tutorial](#) that walks through the process for properly completing and returning mail-in ballots.

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