

EARLY VOTING FACT SHEET

This is part of a series of FJP resources providing guidance for elected prosecutors navigating the 2020 election and its aftermath. It provides an overview of quick facts surrounding early voting in the United States and links to additional resources for those seeking further information.

Where Is Early Voting Available?

- **43 states and D.C. offer some form of early voting.** See the [National Conference of State Legislature](#) for a detailed breakdown of state policies.
- As of Friday, October 23, **39 states have started early voting.** A breakdown of the date each state begins early voting is [here](#).
- The seven states that do not currently offer early voting are: Connecticut, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Delaware.

What Do We Know About Early Voting Turnout?

- In 2016, about [47 million](#) people cast early ballots.
- The Election Project [estimates](#) that, as of October 21, 2020, **more than 43 million ballots have already been cast.** With 13 days to go until the election, those ballots represent more than 91% of early votes cast in the 2016 election and more than 30% of the total votes cast throughout the 2016 election.
- Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape's [survey](#) found that 25% of voters plan to vote in-person early, while 39% plan to vote by mail and 36% plan to vote in-person on Election Day. If their projection is correct, **2020 turnout will far surpass that of 2016.**
- The Washington Post [estimates](#) that one in five of the early votes cast so far have come from voters who did not vote in 2016.
- Democrats [appear](#) to be much more heavily represented than Republicans in early voting.
- Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, and North Carolina have seen a [two-fold increase](#) in early voting, as compared to 2016.
- Several states have seen [very long lines during early voting](#), as voters look for new ways to cast their ballots in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and local election officials struggle to meet increased demand.

How Long Does Early Voting Last?

- Early voting periods [range](#) in length from four to 45 days; the **average length is 19 days.**
- The **average starting date for early voting is 22 days before the election.** Starting dates range from 45 days before the election to the Friday before the election.
- Early voting in most states [ends](#) either the weekend before the election, the afternoon before the election, or on Election Day.