



Nam Y. Huh/AP Photo
'I Voted' stickers sit on the table for voters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Illinois.

Support rises for mail voting amid coronavirus pandemic

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
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Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans’ support for mail-in voting has jumped amid concerns about the safety of polling places during the coronavirus pandemic, but a wide partisan divide suggests President Donald Trump’s public campaign against vote by mail may be resonating with his Republican backers.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds Democrats are now much more likely than Republicans to support their state conducting elections exclusively by mail, 47% to 29%.

In 2018, about half as many Democrats were in favor, and there was little difference in the views of Democrats and Republicans on the question.

The survey also found a partisan divide on support for no-excuse absentee voting, the system in place in most states, including almost all the top presidential battlegrounds, even as a majority of Americans say they favor that practice.

The increased partisanship in the debate over how America votes comes just as that question has been thrust into the forefront of American politics. As health officials warn about the risk of spreading the coronavirus at polling places, some in the Republican Party have tried to limit the expansion of mail voting, with Trump and others openly fretting that it may enable too many people to cast their ballots for the GOP to win in November.

All states conduct elections differently, and only five states automatically mail ballots to every voter. But in response to the virus, some states — including Ohio on Tuesday — have shifted their primaries to virtually all-mail elections. On Monday, New York Democrats canceled their presidential primary, which had already been delayed until June 23.

The Republican National Committee has been fighting some of those moves. Republicans successfully petitioned a New Mexico court to block the state from holding its June primary exclusively by mail, forcing the state to open some polling places and only send applications for absentee ballots to voters.

The Republican Attorney General in Texas argued unsuccessfully in a legal case that the coronavirus should not be an automatically accepted excuse for people seeking absentee ballots in that state.

Most prominently, the Republican-controlled Wisconsin legislature rebuffed a last-minute request to hold that state’s April 7 primary and state court election by mail. Democrats won a contested Supreme Court race, but not before shuttered polling locations left vot-

ers in long lines at polling places in Green Bay and Milwaukee, where only five of 183 stations were open.

But the debates over the primaries may only be a preview of the partisan battles ahead if the virus is still forcing stay-at-home orders and social distancing in November.

The poll finds that 39% of Americans favor conducting all-mail elections, up from 19% in 2018. Another 40% are opposed. But even more, 48%, favor a move to voting only by mail if the coronavirus outbreak is ongoing in November.

The poll also shows 60% of Americans support allowing people to vote via absentee ballot without requiring them to give a reason if the outbreak is still happening. That includes 73% percent of Democrats and 46% of Republicans. Some 40% of Republicans are opposed.

The partisan differences could have a strong impact across the presidential battleground states. Five of the top seven swing states — Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — have divided government, and skirmishes over voting have already broken out in several. In some, there are signs that Democratic areas are moving faster than GOP ones to embrace mail voting.

In Wisconsin, Democrats have already started to bolster their mail voting operations for November. Reliably Democratic Milwaukee, the state’s largest city, will send every one of its 300,000 voters a request for an absentee ballot. Republicans, who have resisted a similar step statewide, acknowledge that Milwaukee’s move would put them at a disadvantage. “It makes winning Wisconsin harder,” said Andrew Hitt, chair of the state Republican Party, calling for intervention to “level the playing field.”

In Pennsylvania, Democratically-led areas are eager to expand absentee voting, but Republicans seem less so. The second-most populous county in the state, the Democratic bastion of Allegheny, which includes Pittsburgh, is sending absentee ballot requests to all its voters in its June primary.

The poll found roughly two-thirds of Republicans worried that voter fraud would be a major problem with all-mail voting. Two months ago, about as many described voter fraud as a major problem in U.S. elections in general. Widespread voter fraud in mail-in voting is uncommon.

Brynn Alexander, 36, who just moved with her husband to military housing in Alabama, is one of those who worries about security.

“How do you even identify that the mail got to the right person?” Alexander asked. She added that she favored exceptions for some, like her 70-year-old mother, but preferred votes at the polls.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
						
60 48	60 47	57 42	60 44	58 42	57 44	57 42
An afternoon shower	Cloudy, a little rain	Cloudy, showers around	A shower in spots	Rain	A chance of rain	Partly sunny

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures

High/low	59/41
Normal high/low	58/42
Record high	83 in 1987
Record low	30 in 1943

Precipitation

Sunday	0.08"
Month to date	1.77"
Normal month to date	4.65"
Year to date	31.86"
Normal year to date	29.74"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Cassiopeia is low above the northern horizon before midnight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:20 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:53 a.m.
Moonset today	1:12 a.m.

First	Full	Last	New
			
Apr 30	May 7	May 14	May 22

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:27 a.m.	8.2	11:47 a.m.	0.1	
6:38 p.m.	6.1	11:40 p.m.	3.6	
Cape Disappointment				
4:14 a.m.	7.7	11:07 a.m.	0.1	
6:13 p.m.	6.0	10:49 p.m.	4.1	
Hammond				
4:21 a.m.	8.0	11:24 a.m.	-0.2	
6:25 p.m.	6.2	11:13 p.m.	3.8	
Warrenton				
4:22 a.m.	8.6	11:31 a.m.	0.2	
6:33 p.m.	6.5	11:24 p.m.	3.7	
Knappa				
5:04 a.m.	8.4	12:48 p.m.	0.1	
7:15 p.m.	6.4	none		
Depoe Bay				
3:23 a.m.	7.7	10:37 a.m.	-0.2	
5:31 p.m.	6.0	10:22 p.m.	3.9	

OBITUARIES

Bertha Lucille ‘Bert’ Hodson

Astoria

March 21, 1934 — April 9, 2020

Bertha Lucille “Bert” Hodson, 86, died April 9, 2020, in Astoria.

She was born March 21, 1934, to James and Nola (Wilcox) Acton in Columbia, Missouri, and graduated from high school in Rawlins, Wyoming, in 1953.

On Feb. 6, 1954, she married Edward Hodson in Rawlins, and together they raised their children in Hawaii, Texas and Wyoming, until eventually moving to Astoria in 1966.

An avid bowler for decades, Bert was president of the Astoria Women’s Bowling Association from 1970 to 1976, and helped coach the youth in the Junior Bowling League. She was a member of the Elks, Eagles and Moose, and worked part-time at the Moose Lodge as a bartender and waitress. She also worked with the local elections board during elections.

Bert enjoyed animals, reading, crochet-

ing and camping with her husband, Edward “Red” Hodson, in their RV, but especially loved cruising the world with her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids, traveling to such places as Paris, London, Rome, Barcelona, Istanbul, St. Petersburg, Buenos Aires and Bora Bora.

Bertha is survived by her son, Darryl Hodson, of Astoria; two daughters, Nancy Allyn, of Hermiston, and Janice Kanehailua, of Honolulu; four grandchildren, Tawnya Hodson, of Point Arena, California, Ryan Shurtleff, of Portland, Jeremy Hodson, of Astoria, and Kerry Allyn, of Salem; and three great-grandchildren, Landon and Shyre Hodson, of Astoria, and Brandon Allyn, of Salem.

Because Bertha requested no memorial service, a private family get-together will be held, instead.

Donations may be made to a local food bank of one’s choice.



Bertha Hodson

Minnie Jo Isom

Astoria

Feb. 15, 1924 — April 13, 2020

Minnie Jo Isom was born in Upland, Nebraska, on Feb. 15, 1924, the daughter of George and Gesina Loschen.

She married Bill Isom on Nov. 15, 1947, in Kearny, Nebraska. They were married 70 years until his death in 2018. The family moved to Astoria in 1968, where they raised their three children, Teresa Zweber and Tom and Tim Isom.

Jo worked for the Columbia River Bar Pilots for many years, retiring in 1989. She enjoyed crocheting, gardening, family gatherings and spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jo and Bill were longtime members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Jo is survived by her son, Tim Isom,

daughter-in-law, Debbie Isom, and son-in-law, Tom Zweber; grandchildren Julia (Dylan) Opsal, Treavor Isom, Joe Isom, Brandon (Cassie) Nelson, Aaron (Chelsea) Zweber, Will (Jaime) Isom, Paul (Amanda) Isom and Ryan Isom; great-grandchildren Lily, Maggie Jo, Carl and Marvin; and step-great-grandchildren Tyson, Timbe and Cassidy. She is also survived by a sister, Gladys (Bob) Barnes.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; son Thomas Isom; and daughter Teresa Zweber.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Bethany Lutheran Church. Due to the current circumstances, a memorial service will be held at a later date.



Minnie Jo and Bill Isom

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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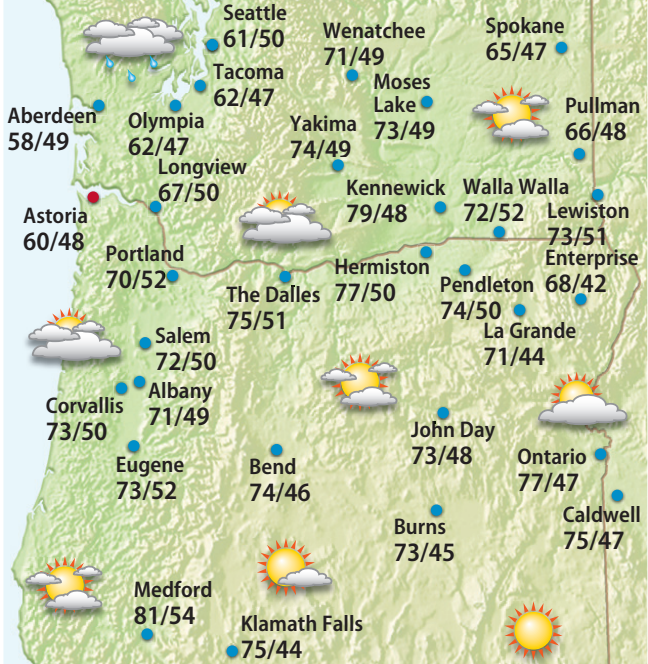
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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	73/44/pc	78/46/pc	North Bend	63/51/pc	60/49/sh
Brookings	62/50/pc	57/50/c	Roseburg	77/54/pc	72/52/c
Ilwaco	57/50/c	57/48/r	Seaside	61/49/c	59/46/r
Newberg	69/49/c	66/47/r	Springfield	73/51/pc	67/50/sh
Newport	60/49/c	57/47/r	Vancouver	70/51/c	67/48/r