



Media Relations Update

April 21, 2020

As the world faces a changing political, economic, and social landscape, ALZA Strategies is committed to keeping you in the loop on how the COVID-19 crisis is impacting public affairs. We hope you remain healthy and safe during these trying times.

Voter Registration in the Context of COVID-19

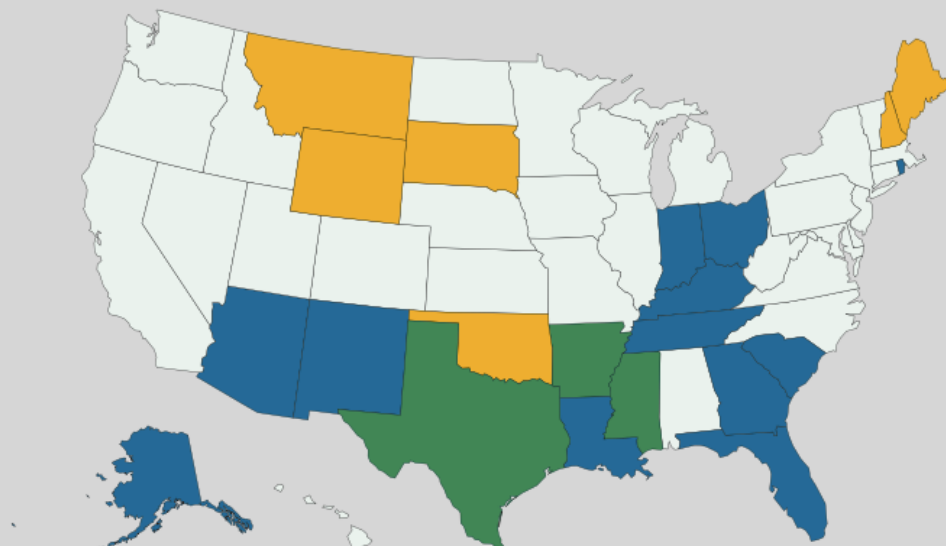
With stay-at-home orders still in force in most states, campaigns are forced to move their efforts to online platforms, making online voter registration difficult for those without access to the internet, says a [recent Fulcrum article](#). Low-income families and rural dwellers, in particular, already have trouble with WiFi capabilities, but the problem is worse in states without any online voter registration process. *Fulcrum* reports that 28 million people across nine states must complete physical forms to register to vote, and 15 states have a one-month deadline that is soon approaching. Perhaps even more concerning is that three of those states have both restrictions – offering no online voter registration *and* a one-month deadline, depicted in the graphic below. Although many states offer registration by-mail, residents are still required to pick up forms in person or download them from a government website, print and return forms by mail or in person.

Since many people do not have access to the internet, a printer, or both, campaigns will need to find new ways to increase voter registration and conduct GOTV activities if the COVID-19 crisis extends into late summer and fall.

Where registration is toughest

The coronavirus, by preventing millions from resuming their lives out in public for months, will likely hold down the number of new voters this year. That's especially true in the 15 states that end registration a month before Election Day and the nine that don't permit registration online. Three Southern states are on both lists.

■ One-month deadline ■ No online registration ■ Both



Source: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

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