

NAME OF EVENT: COVID-19 and the 2020 Elections: How Election Administration Can and Should be Changed in a Public Health Crisis

(This event has been approved for 1 hour of California MCLE credit.)

DATE | TIME | LOCATION: March 19, 2020 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET | Briefing Call

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: With the continuing global spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) during a presidential election year, election officials across the country are attempting to quickly devise and implement plans that account for the needs of vulnerable voters and poll workers.

In tomorrow's primary elections, polling locations have been changed from senior centers and school campuses on very short notice and last night's presidential democratic debate was conducted without a live audience.

What changes to election administration are needed and possible in states holding primary elections over the next several weeks? What can be done to prepare for November? Could a federal election be delayed or even cancelled due to public health concerns, and if so, by whom? Does the federal government have any authority to interfere with primaries, which are regulated by the states, on account of national health emergency?

SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:

Elizabeth Howard, Counsel, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice

Daniel P. Tokaji, Charles W. Ebersold and Florence Whitcomb Ebersold Professor of Constitutional Law, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Hannah Fried, National Campaign Director, All Voting Is Local

Lindsay Langholz, Director of Policy and Program, ACS, *Moderator*

AGENDA OF CONFERENCE CALL:

- 5 minutes introduction
- 30 minutes speakers' presentations
- 20 minutes Q&A
- 5 minutes conclusion

MATERIALS FOR CALL:

Wendy R. Weiser and Max Feldman, [How to Protect the 2020 Vote from the Coronavirus](#), BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (Mar. 16, 2020).

Daniel P. Tokaji & Owen Wolfe, [Baker, Bush, and Ballot Boards: The Federalization of Election Administration](#), 62 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 969 (2012).

Richard L. Hasen, [How to Protect the 2020 Election From The Coronavirus](#), SLATE (Mar. 13, 2020).

Scott Wartman and Jessie Balmert, [‘We’re in the fog of war.’ Here’s how Ohio canceled an election and sent the state into confusion](#), CINCINNATI INQUIRER (Mar. 17, 2020)

Greg Bluestein and Mark Niese, [Georgia presidential primary delayed until May due to coronavirus](#), ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION (Mar. 14, 2020).

Patrick Marley, [Delaying Wisconsin’s April 7 presidential primary amid coronavirus pandemic would be difficult](#), MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL (Mar. 16, 2020).

Edward B. Foley, [Preparing for a Disputed Presidential Election: An Exercise in Election Risk Assessment and Management](#), 51 LOYOLA UNIV. CHI. L.J. 309 (2019).

Franita Tolson, [The Spectrum of Congressional Authority Over Elections](#), 99 BOSTON UNIV. L. REV. 317 (Feb. 26, 2019).

National Conference of State Legislatures, [Election Emergencies](#) (last visited Mar. 17, 2020).

National Association of Secretaries of States, [Issue Briefing: Election Emergencies & COVID-19](#) (last visited Mar. 17, 2020).

National Vote at Home Institute, [Applying for a Mailed-out Ballot: A State-by-State Guide](#), VOTE AT HOME (last visited Mar. 17, 2020).

Dale Ho, [Voting By Mail Will Save the 2020 Election](#), N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 12, 2020).