

## Address Confidentiality Program

# safe at home

John R. Ashcroft • Secretary of State

### Safe at Home

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## Safe at Home Participant News

### 2020 Elections

Participants who are registered to vote through Safe at Home, are assigned a voter code that appears on their blue authorization card. Participants should also receive a voter identification card or letter from their local election authority (LEA) identifying their polling location for upcoming elections. **Participants who do not have a current Safe at Home authorization card or voter identification card should contact Safe at Home at (866) 509-1409 as soon as possible.**

Safe at Home participants have three options for casting a vote in upcoming elections.

1. Absentee voting in person: During the six weeks prior to an election, Safe at Home voters may cast an absentee ballot in person at their LEA office until 5:00 p.m. the night before an election. This option offers the most benefits to participants such as voting when it is most convenient for the participant and working directly with LEA staff who are familiar with the Safe at Home program.
2. In-person voting on Election Day: The participant goes to his or her assigned polling location and the poll worker uses the Safe at Home voter code as the last name of the participant to look up the voter record. Once the voter record is located, the participant will be required to sign his or her legal name to verify the voter code and will then cast a ballot.
3. Absentee voting through the mail: During the six weeks prior to an election, participants may cast an absentee ballot by mail. Voting by mail allows participants to request, complete, and return



a ballot without going to a polling location or the LEA office. Participants must allow plenty of time to complete, notarize, and return the forms through the mail to meet all of the absentee voting deadlines.

**For any voting method, participants use their Safe at Home authorization card and their voter identification card as verification of their voter code and substitute address. Safe at Home voters are not required to provide their confidential home address at any point of the voting process.**

If Safe at Home participants have not yet registered to vote, they may contact our office for more information. To help protect their confidential information, participants should only register to vote through the Safe at Home program and not through any other agency.

### Important Dates to Know

#### March 10 – Presidential Preference Primary

Must be registered by February 12

#### August 4 – Primary Election

Must be registered by July 8

#### November 3 – General Election

Must be registered by October 7

## Personal Property Records

Safe at Home participants have the option to use their substitute address on public records created with local government agencies. These agencies include county assessors and collectors who oversee the creation of county tax records and the collection of county taxes. The following types of personal property are considered taxable: motor vehicles, trailers, mobile homes, watercraft, boat motors, aircraft, livestock, farm machinery and equipment, and any other personal property not exempted by law. Participants who own taxable personal property may contact the Safe at Home office if they need assistance setting up their personal property record in the county where they live. Personal property accounts are based on the location of residence and the personal property owned as of January 1 of each year. If you have moved within the same county or into a different county since January 2, 2019, you might need to create or update a personal property account. Please contact Safe at Home at (866) 509-1409 to discuss the options.

If participants receive a personal property declaration from their county and it contains their confidential street address, they may contact Safe at Home for further instructions before returning the form to the county. Participants need to be aware that any address information already on file with the county may continue to be available to the public on previous bills and receipts, but Safe at Home might be able to protect addresses on future personal property bills and receipts.

### Participant Question: What should I do when a government agency requests my home address?

As participants interact with government agencies or the courts, they may find some agency representatives are not familiar with the Safe at Home program or how to use the substitute address. Safe at Home staff regularly provide information about the program to agencies and the courts throughout the state, but the majority of their employees do not encounter program participants on a regular basis. Government agencies and the courts might still ask for a participant's home address because



they would normally require this information from their customers.

It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the agency that he or she is a Safe at Home program participant and to provide only the substitute address in place of the confidential address. If the agency requests the confidential address or states that it is a requirement for services, the participant may contact Safe at Home for assistance and should do so prior to disclosing any address information. **If a participant discloses his or her actual address to a government agency or the courts directly, the information might not remain confidential.**

The law that created the Safe at Home program allows government agencies and the courts to use the substitute address in place of a confidential address. Participants should be aware that the law does not require agencies and the courts to keep a home address confidential if a participant provides the actual address to them. The most successful use of the program is for participants to provide the substitute address in place of their confidential address any time they interact with a government agency or the courts. If the agency is unwilling to accept the substitute address or unsure how to use it, then participants should contact Safe at Home for assistance before revealing their real address.