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## YMCA - Election Day as a Holiday Email

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**Democracy is something worth celebrating! Our partners at YMCA of the USA are a great example of how some nonprofits are celebrating Election Day while encouraging their vote and engage potential voters. By making Election Day a paid holiday, YMCA of the USA makes it easy for staff to vote, volunteer, or serve as poll workers.**

**Dear Colleagues:**

As you may know, the Y has a long history of promoting civic engagement, with a particular emphasis on voting. Again this year Y-USA is partnering with Vote.org and Nonprofit VOTE to help YMCAs support nonpartisan voter engagement activities in their communities. As part of our collaboration, we have joined Nonprofit VOTE's Nonprofit Staff Vote initiative, which encourages nonprofits to give their staff paid time off to vote on or before Election Day.

In support of this important effort, I am proud to inform you that Y-USA's offices will be closed on Election Day – Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

I know many of you may vote by mail or vote early in person. If that's the case, I hope that on Election Day you will take time to relax and remember those who have campaigned, protested and even shed blood to ensure all Americans have the right to vote.

**Regardless of how you plan to vote this year, just make sure you do it.**

Elections matter. With respect to the Y, we depend on elected officials at the federal, state and local levels to advance policies and funding that support our work to strengthen community. It makes a difference when Y advocates like yourselves vote. Visit [ymca.net/vote](http://ymca.net/vote) to check your registration status, register to vote, request an application for a mail-in ballot and get information on your local elections.

I am planning to vote early in person. I've always enjoyed going to my local polling place to cast my ballot – it helps me feel engaged in the process. However you plan to cast your ballot, again, just please do it.

Sincerely,  
Kevin

**KEVIN WASHINGTON**  
President and CEO  
YMCA OF THE USA