The challenges of the 2020 election — What we’re reading
Compiled by Angie Drobnic Holan

Experts say the proper functioning of democracy is at risk because of the complications raised by holding elections during a pandemic. Elements of concern include new voting procedures, heightened political polarization, and a deluge of misinformation on social media.

A beautifully designed and user-friendly collection of election laws and deadlines for each state.

Polling evidence shows that voters expect more difficulties voting, and that voters split by party over whether they prefer in-person voting (Republicans) or voting by mail (Democrats).

A look at the trade-offs between election security and discouraging people from voting.

An election expert warns that the increase in absentee ballot voting in the November 2020 elections will result in election reporting delays. The 2020 election may be “too early to call” until days after Election Day, but the delay itself is not evidence of fraud.

How to make sure your ballot is counted this fall. By Louis Jacobson, Samantha Puterman and Amy Sherman of PolitiFact. Aug. 17, 2020.
A primer for voters on how to avoid common errors that cause election officials to reject ballots by mail.
At least 34 states have used or plan on using ballot drop boxes this year. This report reviews the safety and security of drop boxes, as well as best practices for managing them.

Silicon Valley is losing the battle against election misinformation: More groups are pushing false information into voters’ social media feeds in the run-up to November, and the deceptions are savvier than in 2016. It may be too late to fix. By Mark Scott and Steven Overly of Politico. Aug. 4, 2020.
Misinformation tactics used by Russia in 2016 are now being imitated by other countries, as well as a flood of American political groups.

This is Democrats’ Doomsday Scenario: What if early results in swing states on Nov. 3 show President Trump ahead, and he declares victory before heavily Democratic mail-in votes, which he has falsely linked with fraud, are fully counted? By Trip Gabriel of the New York Times. Sept. 2, 2020.
An examination of partisan trends in voting methods and what it means for reporting results.

An examination of why the late-breaking vote in recent years tends to lean Democratic, and why expectations for election night results are no longer realistic.