

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

Citizen-Centric Report Fiscal Year 2021

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COMMISSION

JESUS I. SABLAN

Chairperson (Saipan & Northern Islands)

DORISANN ALDAN-ATALIG

Vice-Chairperson (Saipan & Northern Islands)

PROSERPINA T. MAGOFNA

Member (Saipan & Northern Islands)

LELANIE I. MANGLONA

Member (Rota)

ESTHER A. YATAR

Member (Rota)

JOHN D. ATTAO

(Member (Tinian & Aguiguan))

COMMISSION STAFF

KAYLA S. IGITOL

Executive Director

ROBIN N. SABLAN

Administrative Officer

AMBROSIO J. LISUA

Administrative Specialist

BENWACHI N. TAISAKAN

Outreach Coordinator

CHRISTINA K. NORITA

Election Register Clerk

ASHLEY B. BORNILLA

Election Clerk Assistant

JOSEPH O. IGINOEF

Register Clerk Assistant

Who are we?

The Commonwealth Election Commission was created under Public Law 12-18, as amended which was codified in Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code. It was created to establish procedures and requirements of voters and the conduct of elections within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commission shall have nine (9) members appointed by the Governor subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Five members shall be residents of Saipan and the islands north of Saipan, two members shall be residents of Rota, and two members shall be residents of the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan. No person may be appointed a commission member who is not a registered voter of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Election Commission's Executive Director is Julita A. Villagomez, who serves at the pleasure of the Commission. Including the Executive Director, CEC's full-time staff consist of six employees. Eight months prior to election the commission hires Ten (10) temporary employees to assist in preparation and closing of election.

Mission

To ensure a fair, honestly, orderly and impartial election process.



WHO QUALIFIES TO REGISTER?

A person is eligible to vote who meets the following qualifications as provided in Title 1 Division 6 § 6201.

1. A citizen or national of the United States
2. Who, on the date of election, is 18 years of age or older
3. Domiciled in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the election
4. Has not been declared by a court to be of unsound mind
5. Not serving a sentence for a felony



CONTACT US

Commonwealth Election Commission

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PERFORMANCE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS COMMISSION

IMPORTANT DATES
2020 General Election

DATE	DATE	ACTIVITY
July 6, 2020	137 days	Last day to establish candidate requirements. Also day for submission of nomination petition to candidates.
August 1, 2020	86 days	Last day of submission of nomination petition to candidates.
August 26, 2020	71 days	Support for alternate ballot commission.
September 4, 2020	63 days	Last day for voter's registration for election.
September 18, 2020	49 days	Last day for Commission's review on nomination petition and candidate's statement.
October 3, 2020	34 days	Early Voting for Northern Islands (NMI) commences.
October 6, 2020	31 days	Campaign for application for nomination ending by midnight.
October 13, 2020	24 days	Campaign for application for nomination ends.
October 27, 2020	10 days	Early Voting for Saipan, Tinian, Rota & Northern Islands. Nomination ballot to be placed in each polling place.
November 3, 2020	4 days	NOV GENERAL ELECTION
November 12, 2020	15 days	Release of all campaign materials from polling places.
December 23, 2020	36 days	Submission of Campaign Financial Statement of a candidate.
January 10, 2021	77 months	General Official term office.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS COMMISSION

IMPORTANT DATES
2021 Special Election

DATE	DATE	ACTIVITY
August 19, 2021	86 days	Last day for submission of nomination petition to candidates. Support for alternate ballot commission.
September 14, 2021	41 days	Last day of submission of nomination petition to candidates.
September 21, 2021	34 days	Last day for Commission's review on nomination petition and candidate's statement.
September 27, 2021	28 days	Voter registration is closed.
September 27, 2021	28 days	Deadline for application for alternate voting for candidates.
October 11, 2021	14 days	Submission of nomination petition & declaration of intent.
October 18, 2021	7 days	Early Voting for Saipan, Tinian, Rota & Northern Islands. Nomination ballot to be placed in each polling place.
October 18, 2021	7 days	Last day for early voting.
October 18, 2021	8 days	NOV SPECIAL ELECTION
October 21, 2021	11 days	Release of all campaign materials from polling places.
December 09, 2021	50 days	Submission of Campaign Financial Statement.

NORTHERN MARIANAS DESCENT REGISTRY (NMDR)

Northern Marianas Descent Qualification

A person of Northern Marianas descent is a person who is a citizen or national of the United States and who has at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent by adoption, a child without any degree of Northern Marianas descent when adopted while under the age of eighteen by a person of Northern Marianas descent shall not acquire any degree of Northern Marianas descent. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent, a person shall be considered to be a full-blooded Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian if that person was born or domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands by 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship with respect to the Commonwealth.

Any person who has less than one quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof, claiming to be a person of Northern Marianas descent shall provide evidence to support that he/she possess some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof to the Superior Court. Based on the evidentiary standard of "preponderance of the evidence", the Superior Court may grant or deny such claim, and the decision of the Superior Court on such claim shall be subject to a "de novo" judicial review. However, if the Superior Court finds and agrees that the person in fact possesses at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof, the Superior Court shall certify that the person is a person of Northern Marianas descent.

Voter Registration Statistic

Precinct	Total by Precinct	Polling Site
Precinct 1A	865	Kobler Youth Center
Precinct 1B	2520	Dandan Md. School
Precinct 1C	1229	Saipan Southern High
Precinct 2	1423	Joeten Public Library
Precinct 3A	949	Oleai Elem School
Precinct 3B	2692	Garapan Elem School
Precinct 4A	661	Tanapag Md. School
Precinct 4B	555	GTC Elem School
Precinct 4C	383	J.P. Mafanas Legislative Building
Precinct 4D	151	Northern Islands
Precinct 5	2611	Kagman Youth Center
Precinct 6	1611	Tinian Gymnasium
Precinct 7	1769	NMC Campus—ROTA
TOTAL:	17,419	

NMD Registry Statistic

Years	Total Registered
2008-2021	9,730



FINANCES

GRANTS	Fiscal Year 2021
CARES Act.	600,000
HAVA Election Security	600,000
ARPA	289,959
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	1,489,959

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (*CARES*) Act and Help America Vote Act (*HAVA*) funds was used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally , for the 2020 federal election cycle. To address the effects of the coronavirus on the election procuring cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (masks, face shields, thermal scanners, etc...) to protect our Commonwealth Election Commission (CEC) employees and those visiting the polling sites. Additional costs will be incurred to disinfect polling areas, use of mailing and postages and tracking the increased number of absentee ballots and upgrading current voting equipment .



FUTURE OUTLOOK AND CHALLENGES

LOOKING FORWARD

In anticipation of future elections, The CEC continues to strive in:

- ⇒ Preparation of 2021 Special Election for a vacancy of House of Representative in Precinct 3
- ⇒ The Commonwealth Election Commission Board members to meet and address issues with election laws that need to be amended to ensure a smooth process.
- ⇒ Continuing efforts to register voters and Northern Marianas Descent
- ⇒ To conduct comprehensive training for all poll workers.

CHALLENGES

CEC confronts issues and barriers with:

- ◆ Validating the voter registry
- ◆ Increasing the number of registered Northern Marianas Descent
- ◆ Hiring of Temporary staff/poll workers
- ◆ Relocation of polling sites due to damages from Typhoon Yutu
- ◆ Power/water issues at all polling sites
- ◆ Flight delay for Rota ballots
- ◆ The processing of absentee ballots

UPCOMING ELECTION

2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Polls Open: 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

OPEN SEATS

POSITION	NO. OF SEAT
1. U.S. Delegate	1
2. Senate	
Saipan	2
Tinian	1
Rota	1
3. House of Representative	
Precinct 1	6
Precinct 2	2
Precinct 3	6
Precinct 4	2
Precinct 5	2
Precinct 6	1
Precinct 7	1
4. Municipal Council	
Saipan	3
Tinian	3
Rota	3
5. Board of Education	
Saipan	
Rota	