1. Vote Early
California law allows voters to cast their ballot, starting October 5th up to election day (November 3rd). A Voter Information Guide will be mailed to you. You can check the status of your ballot by visiting www.slovote.com.

2. Put your ballot in the mail or drop it off at an Official Ballot Drop Box
Your Vote By Mail (VBM) Ballot return envelope is postage paid, but you can drop off your VBM at one of three official Ballot Drop Boxes beginning October 5th.

• County Clerk-Recorder
• Department of Social Services
• Cal Poly – Robert E. Kennedy Library

3. Vote in Person: VOTER SERVICE CENTERS
• Open Saturday, October 31st – Monday, November 2nd 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
• Open ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, November 3rd 7 A.M. – 8 P.M.
• Vote by Mail Ballots can be dropped off at Voter Service Centers
  o Ludwick Center Gym
  o Octagon Barn
  o San Luis Obispo Airport – Old Terminal
  o Cal Poly Performing Arts Center Lobby
  o County Clerk-Recorder Office

Visit www.slovote.com for information on all-mail ballot voting, special district and county candidates and measures.

Visit us online at slocity.org/government/municipal-elections for more information.
Have a Safer Halloween During COVID-19

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidance for Safer Halloween and Día de los Muertos celebrations during COVID-19. Similar to the County’s guidance, the CDPH’s guidance strongly discourages traditional trick-or-treating and encourages families to plan safer alternatives. Suggestions include a candy scavenger hunt at home, scheduling online activities like pumpkin carving and costume contests, and car-based tours of Halloween displays.

SLO Parks & Recreation Has Created 4 Awesome Spooooky (but safe) Activities
Visit www.SLORecEvents.org to learn more!

Halloween Safety Tips from SLO County Health:
Traditional trick-or-treating is strongly discouraged this year, but you can make giving treats safer by taking a different approach. Try passing out pre-packaged treats outdoors, such as a porch or driveway, using one of these ideas:

• Set up a table to stand behind and hand out candy (while wearing a face covering) using a candy-grabber or tongs, to help you keep a safe distance from trick-or-treaters.
• Make treat bags and hang them from streamers outside for kids to grab.
• Create a candy luge and slide treats to trick-or-treaters from a distance.
• Place a bowl of candy and bottle of hand sanitizer at the end of the driveway/walkway.

These ideas will help you and others be extra safe while still celebrating Halloween
• Host a virtual Halloween “watch” party with online video/chat and have best costume or craft project contests.
• Have a Halloween movie night with household members either at home or the drive-in.
• Organize a neighborhood “car costume” parade where participants decorate their vehicles and judges watch the vehicles drive by while physical distancing between each other.
• Coordinate a contact-free neighborhood scavenger hunt.

Thank you for doing your part to #SLOtheSpread and help keep our community safe!
Recipients announced for SLO City Small Business Relief Fund

Through a unique partnership, government, nonprofit and the business community have come together to provide direct funding to small businesses disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant recipients for the SLO City Small Business Relief Fund were notified on Tuesday, September 22.

The application, open from August 10 - 24, saw an overwhelming response with more than 400 businesses applying to receive a grant. Through a rigorous screening process, all three organizations initially reviewed each application, and a committee made up of representatives with backgrounds and expertise in local business made the final determinations. In the end, 52 businesses across a breadth of industries throughout the city of San Luis Obispo received $5,000 each. Click here to view a full list of the recipients.

New Streamlined Tenant Improvement and Permit Processing Program to Help Businesses Reopen

The City’s new Tenant Improvement Fast Tracking Program (TIPP-FAST) is designed to streamline the review of tenant improvement (TI) projects. The program is part of the City’s 2020-21 meta goal for economic stability, recovery and resiliency. Initially designed to assist business and property owners with timely reopening and needed modifications to business operations in response to COVID-19, the TIPP-FAST program is available to all qualifying TI projects. A City staff team including representatives from Building, Planning, Utilities, Fire, Engineering, and Public Works is ready to assist with implementation of this program.

Outreach by Homeless Service Providers and the City of San Luis Obispo to Connect the Unsheltered with Services

Due to multiple health and safety issues, affecting the unsheltered, residents, City operations and the natural environment, on Monday, October 19th, the City of San Luis Obispo will begin cleaning up an area along the Bob Jones trail and the adjacent San Luis Creek. At this time there are many campsites that have created a significant risk to individual and community health and safety. Outreach to the unsheltered in the area began last Monday, with local social services and mental health partners on hand throughout the week to connect people with services including shelter referrals and other support. Read More
State Releases COVID-19 Rules for Private Gatherings

The California Public Health Department released updated guidance for private gatherings. The guidance outlines rules for private gatherings that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place. It focuses on attendance, location, behaviors, singing, chanting, shouting and live music. Anyone planning to host or participate in a private gathering must comply with the following requirements:

1. Keep it outside.
2. Keep it small (no more than three households present at one time).
3. Don’t attend if you feel sick or are in a high-risk group.
4. Practice physical distancing and hand hygiene.
5. Wear a face covering to keep COVID-19 from spreading.
6. Keep it brief.

Marsh Street Bridge Replacement Project Update

This week, Souza, City contractor, poured the CIP Soldier Pile wall, pulled curing blankets from the bridge deck and applied curing compound to the deck. Concrete cylinder samples were not up to strength to pull false work this week and will be re-tested on Monday to see if Souza can begin pulling false work. Next week Souza plans to remove false work and begin working on creek restoration.

For weekly project updates, visit marshstbridge.com

City of San Luis Obispo Fire Department Warns Against Illegal Campfires; Encourages Community Members to Remain Vigilant

The City of San Luis Obispo Fire Department is encouraging community members to remain vigilant about illegal campfires and to call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious or illegal campfires as we head into the fall fire season.

To learn more information on Safety Tips for Recreation Fires, visit the City’s website.