

DAVID BYRNE'S
AMERICAN UTOPIA

THE
**BALLOT
PARTY**
EVENT PLANNING GUIDE

How to Watch the Film and
Organize Your Virtual Event



David Byrne's AMERICAN UTOPIA brings the critically acclaimed Broadway show to HBO in a one-of-a-kind film directed by Oscar® and Emmy®-winner Spike Lee. Recorded during its late 2019 to early 2020 run at Broadway's Hudson Theatre in New York City, Byrne is joined by an ensemble of 11 musicians, singers, and dancers from around the globe. The performance seamlessly reflects on important themes ranging from immigration to racial justice through a joyful celebration of music and dance.

The film is a call to action to engage as citizens in our democracy: an invitation to reimagine our own utopias. It's time for a more inclusive America, where everyone's voice is heard. The issues on the ballot this year have the power to impact our daily lives. AMERICAN UTOPIA is an invitation to come together to start creating the world we want to see. And that starts by casting your ballot.

The HBO Special Event David Byrne's AMERICAN UTOPIA debuts on October 17, 2020 on HBO Max.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO PLAN YOUR VIRTUAL **BALLOT PARTY!**

1. THE BASICS

1. Decide who you want to celebrate with virtually.
2. Make sure you have access to the film. It will be available on HBO and HBO Max on October 17, 2020 at 8pm ET.

2. THE DETAILS

1. Figure out how you want to view the film with your friends and family virtually. Head to [HeadCount](#) for helpful tips on how to talk to friends and family about voting. And get creative with your Ballot Party! Use your phone, preferred video conferencing platform or virtual watch party platform to enjoy the music and performance of AMERICAN UTOPIA.
2. Share and send out an invite for your Ballot Party! Use the invitation template [here](#).

3. THE BALLOT PARTY

1. Set-up your virtual space, get online and connected to your party people.
2. Dance it out to [HeadCount's American Utopia playlist](#).
3. Start and/or complete your mail-in ballot. Or, make a plan for Election Day to vote safely in person. Check out [Rock the Vote's guide](#) on how to cast your ballot on Election Day or vote early.
4. Enjoy the film!
5. And spread the word! Share photos from your Ballot Party with the hashtags **#VoteEarlyDay** **#AUBallotParty** to encourage others to do the same! Remember, Vote Early Day is October 24.

THE CHECKLIST

HOW TO CAST YOUR BALLOT + VOTE EARLY

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. In some states, you can vote before Election Day by visiting an Early Voting location where you can vote early in person or drop off your mail-in ballot early.

Make sure to read and follow all instructions carefully to complete and cast your ballot correctly — many of the common mistakes that cause ballots to be rejected are easily avoidable! Check the rules in your state [here](#).

HOW DO I VOTE IN MY STATE? THERE ARE TWO WAYS:

CAST MY BALLOT BY MAIL

Voting by mail, like absentee voting, happens before Election Day. A ballot is mailed to your address and then you can return it either by mail or in person. It's a very safe and effective way to vote, and most states are allowing some form of vote by mail this year due to the pandemic. Many states require you to request a vote by mail ballot in advance of Election Day, so make sure you don't miss your deadline. Find out more information about how to vote in your state [here](#) to learn more.

CAST MY BALLOT IN PERSON

The rules for casting your ballot in person vary by community and your unique circumstances. Make a plan to cast your ballot in person by finding your polling location ahead of time, [here](#).

WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?

In addition to the presidential election, there are thousands of local state and city positions and issues on the 2020 ballot. You can make informed choices by exploring every candidate and issue on your ballot with the help from our friends at [BallotReady](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

Join a virtual community of AMERICAN UTOPIA fans as we watch the film and vote early this October! Use #AUBallotParty and #VoteEarlyDay to find others who are celebrating through music and dance and cast our ballots together!

GRAPHICS:

Use these Ballot Party graphics for your party, including social media assets for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and a virtual meeting background. [Ballot Party Graphics](#)

USE THIS SOCIAL MEDIA COPY IN ADVANCE OF YOUR BALLOT PARTY:

INSTAGRAM

Join the **#AUBallotParty** and get excited about **@voteearlyday**! Get your ballot ready and dance to David Byrne's **@americanutopia** airing on **@hbomax** on October 17! For more information, head to www.myamericanutopia.com **@participant**

Enjoy this **#AUBallotParty** Playlist from our friends **@nonesuchrecords** and get ready to join **@voteearlyday**! <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/37i9dQZF1DX4TGLEwxideE?si=MjNYsyPwRTCca3Yu401Myw> **@participant**

TWITTER

Join the **#AUBallotParty** and get excited about **@voteearlyday**! Get your ballot ready and dance to David Byrne's **@americanutopia** airing on **@hbomax** on October 17! For more information, head to: www.myamericanutopia.com **@participant**

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FACEBOOK

Join the **#AUBallotParty** and get excited about [Vote Early Day](#)! Get your ballot ready and dance to [David Byrne's American Utopia](#) airing on [HBO](#) on October 17! For more information, head to: myamericanutopia.com [Participant](#)

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[@participant](#)

USE THIS SOCIAL MEDIA COPY WHEN YOU THROW YOUR PARTY:

INSTAGRAM, TWITTER

I'm celebrating [@voteearlyday](#) with David Byrne's [@americanutopia](#) by completing my ballot early! **#AUBallotParty**

FACEBOOK

I'm celebrating [Vote Early Day](#) with [David Byrne's American Utopia](#) by completing my ballot early! **#AUBallotParty**

HASHTAGS + HANDLES:

[#AUBallotParty](#)
[#VoteEarlyDay](#)
[#AmericanUtopia](#)

INSTAGRAM, TWITTER

[@americanutopia](#)
[@hbo](#)
[@hbomax](#)
[@nonesuchrecords](#)
[@participant](#)
[@voteearlyday](#)

FACEBOOK

[David Byrne's American Utopia](#)
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[Participant Media](#)
[Vote Early Day](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

hbo.com/AmericanUtopia

