

Astronaut Casts Election Day Vote From International Space Station

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NASA astronaut Andrew "Drew" Morgan waves during boarding at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome ... [+]PHOTO CREDIT SHOULD READ DMITRI LOVETSKY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Topline: Astronaut Andrew “Drew” Morgan voted in Tuesday’s election [while in orbit](#) 250 miles above Earth,

thanks to a team effort between NASA and Lawrence County, Pennsylvania's department of voter services.

- Morgan, who is registered to vote in Lawrence County, mailed an absentee ballot application in the spring and indicated his location would be the “International Space Station, low Earth orbit” on Election Day.
- Lawrence County voting services director Ed Allison said he was initially skeptical of Morgan's application, until he began receiving [phone calls](#) from NASA to make arrangements.
- In order for Morgan to vote securely, Lawrence County's director of IT created a secure email address and password.
- A “fillable PDF” file was created to be Morgan's ballot—all he had to do was click the circle next to the name of the candidate he wanted to vote for.
- When it came time for Morgan to cast his vote, the ballot was sent to him in one email while a second email contained a secure password only he would have.
- The entire process took one month from start to finish, according to local paper the [New Castle News](#).

Crucial quote: Morgan made sure to send a thank-you note from space: “Dear Mr. Allison: Thank you for facilitating my vote from on board the International Space Station. Cordially, Andrew R. Morgan, COL, US Army, US Segment Lead, International Space Station.”