

The *Weekly Dome Report*

Week of November 9, 2020..... Volume 30..... Space News and Stuff

Upcoming Events

Monday, Nov.9

6pm.....Mythology Monday
- *Welsch Mythology*

Friday, Nov.13

6pm.....Final Frontier Friday
- *Speed of Light*

Saturday, Nov. 7

2pm.....Stellar Saturday

7pm.....Stellar Saturday

VOTING IN SPACE



Kate Rubins next to the ISS "voting booth."

WEIRD SPACEFACT
IF YOU LOOKED AT THE
EARTH FROM 66
MILLION LIGHT YEARS
AWAY, YOU'D SEE
DINOSAURS

The right to vote is essential to democracy, but for American astronauts 200 miles above the Earth, it is not the easiest of tasks.

The process for voting in space started back in 1997 when the Texas state legislature, where most astronauts lived due to NASA's Johnson Space Center being in Houston, passed Rule 81.35. This rule allowed eligible voters to vote if they were in space during the early-voting period or on Election Day. Before astronauts leave Earth they register for the election they will not be present for, and then during the election an encrypted ballot is uploaded to them. Access is granted via email through the use of certain credentials, and then the votes are cast and the ballot is sent back to Earth.

The first American ballot cast in space was back in 1997 by David Wolf aboard the Russian Space Station Mir. Nowadays, astronauts reside on the International Space Station, where they usually stay for a duration of six months. As we reach further into space, the logistics of democracy itself might become immensely difficult as we establish colonies on the moon, Mars, and beyond.

FREE HUMOR



Original Story: <https://airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/how-do-astronauts-vote-space>

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