

---

# Mail-In Voting: Beyond COVID-19



## OVERVIEW

In the 2020 election, voting by having your ballot sent to a registered voter is permitted. However, voters in the United States do not always have this opportunity. Depending on the state one lives in, voting can be conducted via mail. All citizens can choose to vote in the mail for any reason. In other states where voters can permanently, without restriction, vote in absentia (via mail), a large percentage, 26%, of voters chose to mail in their ballots. In some states, however, an excuse for voting in the mail is required. In these states where a viable excuse is required to vote through the mail a much smaller percentage, 9%, of voters chose to vote this way. Voting through the mail could allow more citizens to vote due to being more accessible and convenient.

## GOALS

1. Our goal is to allow citizens to have the opportunity to vote via mail for any reason, including convenience.
2. Our directive is to make vote-by-mail available on a federal level as a nation-wide mandate, not a state-by-state issue.

## LEGISLATION

The Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act, introduced to the House by Representative Susan A. Davis of California on January 3, 2019, would "prohibit a state from imposing additional conditions or requirements on the eligibility of an individual to cast a vote in federal elections by mail, except to the extent that it imposes a deadline for requesting the ballot and returning it to

---

the appropriate state or local election official.” This is a vital piece of legislation to ensure vote by mail for all citizens, but it has not become law yet.

Find out if your representative supports this bill: <https://tinyurl.com/billHR138>

Find out if your state offers universal mail-in voting: <https://represent.us/vote-home-covid19/>

## **MILESTONES**

### **2020 Election**

Due to Covid-19, all registered voters in the United States have the opportunity to vote from a ballot sent to them. Many states have temporarily allowed voters to vote in absentia for the upcoming 2020 election for any reason. We hope to raise awareness about this exciting and essential policy so that if you want to vote but still feel safe, you can!

### **Texas and the Supreme Court**

In June, Texas Democrats requested an emergency ruling from the US Supreme Court to allow an expansion of mail-in voting in the state for primary elections. This request had been challenged by Texas’s Republican Attorney General, who said that fear of the coronavirus was an “insufficient reason” to vote by mail. The US Supreme Court struck down the Democrats’ request, refusing to expand mail-in voting in Texas at this moment. However, these cases are not finished yet - Justice Sonia Sotomayor, while not dissenting, wished for a lower Texas circuit court to make a more definite decision on the matter before the November election. Mail-in voting remains a vital issue contested by courts and lawmakers, so advocacy on your part would be a welcome change.

### **WHY DOES THIS MATTER?**

Universal mail-in voting makes elections far more accessible, especially in a nation where voting is typically limited to one day. Voting by mail has increased overall voter turnout in some states, making their democracy more representative of the people as a whole. While some have concerns about mail-in voting favoring one party over another, studies have shown that this is not the case. Overall, vote-by-mail is necessary to allow more citizens to be represented, not to create more partisan divides in America.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

It is our responsibility to make voting by mail an available option for all Americans. Now that you know about this option, help us move to support it!

## Contact Your Representative

Urge your state's representatives to support the Universal Right to Vote By Mail Act in the House

Find your representatives: <https://tinyurl.com/repcontact>

Here's a script you can use when you call or email:

"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from [town, state] calling with concerns about universal mail-in voting. I am urging Representative \_\_\_\_ to support HR 138, the Universal Right to Vote By Mail Act. I want Congress to make mail-in voting available, without any restrictions, even after the coronavirus pandemic is over. All American citizens must be able to vote and have their voices heard, regardless of whether they can go to a polling place. Thank you for representing my state.

## Raise Awareness

One of the biggest problems facing voting by mail is that many people don't know it exists. But this is easy to change. Tell your friends, family, and coworkers about the prospect of voting by mail, and encourage them to support this method of allowing all citizens, even the disenfranchised, to vote.

## Vote!

The most important and effective way to make your voice heard is to vote. While this may seem trite, your vote does make a difference! Consider supporting representatives and senators that support voting by mail to ensure change can be created in the voting process.

Note that the deadlines for requesting mail-in voting are different from Election Day! Check this chart to see the day you have to request your ballot. Also, check with your state government to see when your ballot has to be submitted to make sure your vote counts! It varies by state, and often, this can also be before Election Day.

STATE	Request Deadline	STATE	Request Deadline
Alabama**	10/29	Montana	11/2
Alaska	10/24	Nebraska	10/23
Arizona	10/23	Nevada	10/20
Arkansas**	10/27	New Hampshire**	N/A
California	10/27	New Jersey	10/27
Colorado	All Mail	New Mexico	10/20
Connecticut*	11/2	New York*	10/27
Delaware**	10/30	North Carolina	10/27
DC	10/27	North Dakota	N/A
Florida	10/24	Ohio	10/31
Georgia	10/30	Oklahoma	10/27
Hawaii	All Mail	Oregon	All Mail
Idaho	10/23	Pennsylvania	10/27
Illinois	10/29	Rhode Island	10/13
Indiana*	10/22	South Carolina*	10/30
Iowa	10/24	South Dakota	11/2
Kansas	10/27	Tennessee**	10/27
Kentucky*	10/27	Texas*	10/23
Louisiana*	10/30	Utah	All Mail
Maine	10/29	Vermont	11/2
Maryland	10/27	Virginia	10/23
Massachusetts	10/28	Washington	All Mail
Michigan	10/30	West Virginia**	10/28
Minnesota	11/2	Wisconsin	10/29
Mississippi*	N/A	Wyoming	11/2
Missouri**	10/21		

---

**Watch our video for more information:**

<https://youtu.be/wJFrnKijrns>

## **SOURCES/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Learn more about the voting process: [Vote Save America](#)

The Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act: [H.R.138 - 116th Congress \(2019-2020\): Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2019](#)

Increased turnout: [Vote-By-Mail System Nearly Doubles Voter Turnout In Rockville Election](#)

Favoring parties: [Universal Vote-by-Mail Has No Impact on Partisan Turnout or Vote Share](#)