In 2022, fewer than 50% of voters will cast their ballot in a traditional polling booth on Election Day

With the voting methods used in the midterm election becoming clear, you can see the Vote at Home (VAH) model continues to grow rapidly (27% of all votes cast in 2018), and a trip to the polling booth on Election Day is waning (down to 55% in 2018). If these trends continue, 2020 will be the last US election where voting in a traditional polling place on Election Day will be the norm.

So, it makes sense for policy makers, elections officials and activists to get out ahead of these trends in 2019 and 2020, and properly architect their states’ move to secure, cost-effective, voter-centric mailed-out ballot elections. And it makes sense for journalists to start to actively cover this fundamental shift in US voting behavior.

The data shows that voters with a ballot in their hands vote at much higher rates than those who have to traipse to a polling place on a specific day and wait in line to cast their vote. So, it also makes sense for campaigns to actively focus their GOTV resources to get their supporters to sign up for mailed-out ballots, subject to the policies in place within each state.

Voting at Home (VAH) is growing steadily, and exceeds early in-person voting (EIPV)

By 2022, fewer than 50% of all ballots will be cast in-person on Election Day

Sources: 1992-2016:: MIT Election Lab. 2018: PEW Research
Separately, research conducted by PhD candidate James Szewczyk at Emory University provided the following summary statement outlining the positive impact on “down ballot” races using VAH: “I find that all-mail elections cause an increase in turnout in municipal elections and a decrease in ballot roll-off on statewide ballot measures in presidential election years in some counties, which is largely consistent with my argument that voters gather more information about politics when voting by mail.” The full research report can be downloaded here. It reinforces research conducted by Pantheon Analytics for the National Vote at Home Institute showing the same phenomena in Utah in 2016.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.