The links below are provided for activists, researchers, journalists and others who need quick access to reference material on the topic of Vote at Home. (click on these links to jump to: Research, Best Practices & handouts, Media Coverage and Articles – both electronic and print)

Elections officials will find dedicated materials here including best practices for ballot box management, signature verification and curing, and inbound ballot process management. Older and less frequently used items can be found in the Archives.

Our “Scale-up roadmap to secure the 2020 election” can be found here.
A timeline to guide the implementation can be found here.
COVID driven state policy changes can be found here.

Orientation: to get you fully acquainted with Vote at Home
• Explanatory video – 2 minutes of the basic story, a great starting point.
• A slightly longer video from Vox – with bipartisan election officials’ commentary
• VAH intro flyer – four pages that will tell you a lot, in a hurry
• 2019 Annual Report – four more pages detailing our progress and partners
• FAQ: Myth busting the “fraud & security” issue around mailed-out ballots
• Research reports show VAH is fair and equitable to all communities
• How “repeater” absentees argue for a “single sign-up” option – 43%-67% overlap!
• VAH local “municipal/county elections” – VAH works well even below the state level
• Policy and Research Guide – a 30 page, organized, in-depth set of much of the content below for those working to improve access to mailed out ballots in their state
• All our recent email blasts can be found here.

The three best recent articles on Vote at Home
• NY Times Editorial Board – It’s time to Vote at Home to save the 2020 election
• Washington Monthly – How Utah demonstrated how a county roll-out model works
• NY Times op-ed – Detailed study of Colorado shows how VAH lifts all communities

Research from NVAHI and others
• National Conference of State Legislatures – The single best place for state by state policy
• Stanford U research – voting by mailed ballot does not provide any partisan advantage
• America Goes to the Polls 2018 – this report from Nonprofit Vote shows which voting reforms had the most impact. VAH, Same Day and Automatic Registration led the way
• Webinar from America Goes to the Polls 2018 – as well as the Powerpoint slides used
• Bipartisan Policy Center – Election Task Force Report, VAH coverage starts on page 24
• Research report on Colorado – the data behind the NY Times op-ed listed above
• 28 million mailed ballots did NOT go missing – Real Clear Politics article missed the mark
• When Women Vote – a very insightful book on the subject, co-authored by our CEO
• US regional voting methods over time – from MIT Election Lab
How/When to Apply for mailed-out ballots for 2020 General – NVAHI research by state

The Colorado Voting Experience: A Model That Encourages Full Participation – a joint effort by Common Cause and NVAHI

US Census data on the 2018 election – alternatives to Election Day voting hit 40%

US Election Assistance and Voting Survey 2018 – more detailed data, similar conclusions

2018 general election mailed-ballot use by state graphic

How use of mailed out ballots varies by region since 1996 – the West is leading the way!

Western states 2018 vote from mailed ballots – the data showing the 69%

PEW: National 2018 – shows 69% of ballots cast in the West from VAH, 27% nationally

PEW: The challenge of recruiting, hiring and training poll workers

Northern Illinois U - “Cost” of voting by state in 2016. 100% VAH OR and CO rank #1-2

How VAH addresses underserved communities well

VAH serves all communities equitably – recent research provides the evidence

VAH shows equal appeal across race, income education level - MIT research

Bipartisan Policy Center – Longer wait times at polling places impact minorities more

Youth turnout in 2018 in VAH states vs others – VAH shows a lift of 7%-11% points

MIT on Disability Voting – Voting gap closes with higher availability of mailed-out ballots

Rutgers on Disability Voting – Turnout gap closes in West where VAH predominates

NVAHI 2018 younger voters- tracking turnout by age cohort shows how VAH engages

PRRI: National 2016 – shows 5 of 6 major barriers to minority turnout addressed by VAH

Minority voting issues that VAH solves – graphic from PRRI research

Scientific American – African Americans wait longer at the polls (VAH solves this!)

State-specific information

Civic Nebraska – 90 second video showing how VAH doubled turnout in Nebraska

Indiana Vote by Mail – an excellent web site model for style and content

Western states 2018 vote from mailed ballots – 69% came from this model

Nebraska 2018 data showing increases in counties opting into VBM

CA - Study showing increase in turnout - after first five California counties used VAH

CA - changing the Way People Vote – Cal State Fresno researches the Voters Choice Act

CA -Track the California counties – as they adopt Voter’s Choice Act, now over 50%

Comprehensive Connecticut report – NVAHI-authored 38 pages in response to Executive Order 64 looking at why and how CT should consider improved VAH policies

MN & ND NVAH turnout up in 2018 primaries – driven by VAH jurisdictions

Pantheon: Utah 2016 - shows 5%-7% lift in turnout from VAH (10% for millennials)

Pantheon: Utah 2016 down ballot - shows 5.5% increase in down ballot voting with VAH

Emory University – Researcher confirms positive down ballot impact of VAH

Pantheon: Colorado 2014 - shows triple the expected low-propensity turnout with VAH

PEW: Colorado 2014 – shows VAH saves $6 per voter per election

Voice of San Diego – Registrar estimates saving $2 - $3 million every election with VAH

Oregon Public Broadcasting 2016 - survey showing 87% support for VAH in Oregon
• **Survey of New Hampshire voters** – they favor no excuse absentee 2:1

**Best practices, handy guides, handouts, charts, graphs and maps**

• **Sample legislation** - for full “Step 5” vote at home policy
• **VAH FAQ & best practices**
• **VAH guide: ballot return choices** – optimizing drop boxes, vote centers, USPS
• **VAH guide: permanent absentee list** – best practices to set up and manage
• **VAH 50 State mailed ballot policy map** – shows the 5 steps vs. state, May 2020
• **Trends in voting method 1990s-2018** – VAH growing, polling place use shrinking
• **VAH 2018 Primary turnout by state graph** – shows mailed ballot states lead
• **VAH 2018 Midterm turnout map** – shows mail ballot friendly states lead

**Specifically for elections officials**

From the *Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Elections Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council and Subsector Coordinating Council’s Joint COVID Working Group*. These “best practices” white papers cover a wide range of VBM processes.

• Outbound processes: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDUZ](https://go.usa.gov/xvDUZ)
• Ballot applications: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDU4](https://go.usa.gov/xvDU4)
• Inbound processes: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDUB](https://go.usa.gov/xvDUB)
• Signature verification and cure: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDU9](https://go.usa.gov/xvDU9)
• Electronic ballot delivery: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDUb](https://go.usa.gov/xvDUb)
• Ballot drop boxes: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDUK](https://go.usa.gov/xvDUK)

From Others

• **Webinar with equipment vendors** – inbound ballot handling
• **Toolkit for scaling up VBM** – more great work from the Center for Civic Design
• **Three recorded webinars** – envelope design, tracking tools, supplementary tools
• **Video of how Colorado handles incoming mailed ballots** – best practices at work
• Orange County, CA is a role model for doing this at scale.
  • Here’s a video of their process, from printing to mailing to returns handling
  • Here’s a video of how they explained the move to vote centers
  • Here’s their voter web site, a good one to emulate
• **Video from Michigan Secretary of State** – encouraging mailed-out ballot signup
• **Video of how Chicago Board of Elections** encourages voting by mailed-out ballot
• **NVAHI OpEd on avoiding the NC-09 issues**
• **Oregon’s Vote by Mail procedures manual**
• **Colorado’s signature verification training guide**
• **Center for Civic Design** – Best practices for mailed ballot envelope design, and a presentation on the same topic
• **Center for Civic Design** – A very clear 2-minute video on post election audits
• Ballot Tracking tools: [Ballot TRACE](#) and [Ballot Scout](#) plus a presentation on ballot tracking
• Signature curing tool:TXT2Vote has a nice solution to speed connecting with voters
• Electionmail.org: to report any problems with mailed ballots, plus a presentation on optimizing mailed ballot processes.
• Two reports on risk-limiting audits. [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#)

Media coverage, interviews, editorials and articles

Recent Electronic Media
• The Fulcrum Webinar – Amber McReynolds and Tammy Patrick share their expertise
• Press conference 4/21 – Five elections officials share their expertise in mail ballot voting
• Wake Up to Politics – Amber McReynolds interviewed on the popular PBS show
• Interview with former CO Gov. Hickenlooper – and Amber McReynolds
• Now This News – A five minute interview with Amber McReynolds covering all the issues
• Maryland Public TV – Interview on why VAH had such an impact. Starts at 5:00 mark
• SiriusXM Radio – “Top of Mind” interview with Amber McReynolds (starts at 81:15)
• CBS – “Vote by Mail” gets a shout out on Madam Secretary
• Unrig podcast – Top notch panel including two SoS’s (MI, WA), Amber, Common Cause and Democracy Works reps address Vote at Home election issues and best practices
• KTRC Santa Fe – Amber McReynolds interviewed on how states can move to VAH
• NPR – Audio: Miles Parks interviews Amber McReynolds regarding ballot harvesting. She describes that rather than over-regulating, simply removing the conditions that led to the fraud is the way to solve the problem. ([transcript is here](#))
• WAMU (D.C.) – Audio: Will mailed-ballot voting catch on in the Washington, DC area?
• Miami Herald – Video: Why mail ballots have been a problem, but can also be a solution. Interviews with experts including NVAHI CEO Amber McReynolds

Recent Print Media
• The Hill – Let’s put the vote by mail “fraud” myth ro rest
• Roll Call – Vote by mail states do not see rampant fraud, contrary to some assertions
• National Review – How to hold elections during a pandemic
• AZCentral – Elections officials sound off. All mail elections would work just fine.
• NBC News – Article pushes back on false claims that mail elections invite fraud
• New York Times – Can states pull off a move to all mail elections in November?
• Washington Monthly – How not to screw up the coming VBM elections
• Business Insider – The postal service could run out of funds just when we need it most
• Mother Jones – Interview with Amber McReynolds on the need to move swiftly for 2020
• Real Clear Politics – Morton Kondrake says we are all election reformers now
• CNN – Two Secretaries of State on bipartisan approach to current election challenges
• The Conversation – Great article on all the things states can do to save the election
• MinnPost – Minnesota can move to Vote at Home for 2020, if they act soon
• Independent Voter News – The pandemic creates a chance to fix what was broken
• NY Times Editorial Board – It’s time to Vote at Home to save the 2020 election
• Washington Monthly – How Utah demonstrated how a county roll-out model works
• Vote at Home Press release – Support for scaled-up mailed-out ballots re: COVID-19
• PEW Trusts – COVID-19 could get US to vote by mail
• New York Times – Vote by mail can save the 2020 election from the Coronavirus
• Washington Post – Sen. Wyden introduces bill to speed VBM in response to COVID-19
• WTTX Chicago – Great article and video on how voting by mail is being encouraged
• Wired – The antidote to election problems with the Coronavirus: mailed-out ballots
• Detroit News – A good set of reasons to allow early processing of mailed-out ballots
• USA Today – US Elections are broken. But Vote at Home provides one of the fixes
• Maui News – thorough coverage of the issues and benefits expected of move to VAH
• Associated Press – Oregon’s Vote by mail model could offer a secure solution for others
• Delaware News – Legislature passes first step in move to “no excuse absentee” voting
• The American Prospect – 2019 was a historic year for election reform, including VAH
• NY Times – National Vote at Home chosen as one of top 5 “fixes” for 2019
• Washington Post – Why don’t more Marylanders vote? VAH in Rockville offers answers
• Philadelphia Inquirer – Post-it Posse shows how an individual can impact our democracy
• New Jersey Globe – State’s use of mailed-out ballots in 2019 doubles vs. 2015
• Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf – Pennsylvania passes no excuse absentee and other reforms

Research
• NVAHI 50 State compilation of mailed ballot rules and practices
• Registration deadlines by state – prepared by NCSL, July 2019
• Voting Rights Lab – State voting rights policy tracker
• How/When to Apply for mailed-out ballots for 2020 Primaries – NVAHI research by state
• GAO 2016 report – See page 93 for discussion of VAH turnout benefits
• Center for American Progress 2018 – Increasing Voter Participation (see pgs. 28-31)
• Bipartisan Research Center: New Realities of Voting by Mail Report 2016
• Election Project (Univ. FL) turnout data blog: A great source for turnout data
• Oregon 2008 study – Research showing a 10% increase in turnout from VAH
• Vote For US – Inspiring book on how people are changing our elections. Chapter 4: VAH

Best Practices, NVAHI materials, etc.
• NVAHI 5-steps to VAH graphic – from absentee excuse-required to full VAH
• NVAHI Circle of Advisors announced
• Vote at Home primary logo (rectangle) and Vote at Home circular logo
• MIT Election Lab
• **US County data map** – age, income, education, etc. by county
• **Northern Illinois Univ. 50 state voting cost map 2016**
• **Route 50** – This article on voting by Amber McReynolds is a great overview
• **Profile of Amber McReynolds** – from Voyage Denver
• **Audio testimony plus Q&A in Alaska**: Anchorage elections official plus Amber McReynolds describe in detail how it VAH works in practice: starts at 4:24:03
• **VAH webinar conducted for the Secure Elections Network** – a wonderful primer on the topic, as taught by NVAHI Chair Phil Keisling and CEO Amber McReynolds
• **Colorado’s bill HB 13-303** – creating their 100% VAH system in 2013
• **Georgia lawsuit amicus curiae testimony** by NVAHI CEO Amber McReynolds
• **Rock the Vote**: Understanding voting rights, and tools/links to act

Electronic Media

• **NBC Nightly News** – Video: Bipartisan interview with OR SoS’s – former Phil Keisling (D) and (the late) Dennis Richardson (R) voicing their support for VAH
• **Comcast Newsmakers** – Video: NVAHI CEO Amber McReynolds interviewed on VAH revolution
• **NPR** – Audio: NVAHI CEO Amber McReynolds interviewed on free & fair elections
• **KRLD (Dallas)** – Audio: Amber interviewed on how VAH works well vs. Texas’ reluctance
• **Oregon Senator Ron Wyden** – Video: showing how easy VAH is in practice
• **NVAHI CEO, Amber McReynolds, 2017 video presentation to the Indiana Legislature**
• **NVAHI Chair Phil Keisling addresses the 2018 Unrig Summit video**
• **NVAHI Chair Phil Keisling interviewed on Radio Café** – Audio: Jump to 19:40 runtime
• **National Association of Letter Carriers convention** – Video: NVAHI Counsel Mike Pfeifer speaks

Print Media

• **Utah County Clerks** – Outline what they do to ensure VAH election security
• **Washington Monthly** – Why vote at home should be a debate topic
• **Colorado Business** – Treating voting like a business might help improve elections
• **NJ.com** – Legislature and Governor fix permanent absentee law in time for November
• **St. George (Utah) News** – First primary using 100% mailed ballots sees 3x turnout
• **Maryland Matters** – Voters and officials looking forward to Rockville VAH election
• **Lansing State Journal** – New Michigan law drives huge uptick in mailed-out ballot use
• **The Fulcrum** – Myth-busting the top 10 objections to Vote at Home
• **OZY** – What Colorado’s huge voter engagement can teach the nation
• **New York Times** – The end of the polling booth, a very thorough article on VAH progress
• **New Jersey Globe** – Primary sees first time >50% of votes cast from mailed-out ballots
• **Hawaii Civil Beat** – Legislation for 100% VAH in 2020 passes. Will be 4th state in US.
• Washington Post – More voting options = more female state legislators (NV – 67% EIPV; CO, OR, WA – 100% VAH)
• Law.com – Disability Rights Group says Pennsylvania should adopt no excuse absentee
• Silver City (NM) Daily Press – 100% vote by mail sees 3.5x turnout increase, passes levy
• Tampa Bay Reporter – Pasco County becomes first in state with mailed ballot tracking
• Philadelphia Inquirer – 10 ideas that just might save our democracy. VAH featured.
• Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial – It’s time for Pennsylvania to go to all Vote by Mail
• NBC – Los Angeles County is reinventing voting for 2020. Amber McReynolds is quoted.
• New York Magazine – Strong US turnout expected to continue in 2020, aided by VAH
• LA Times – Is California’s new voting model a success? 2020 will tell us more.
• New Haven Register Editorial – Connecticut should embrace no excuse absentee
• Lincoln (NE) Journal Star Editorial – Support bill allowing counties to opt for VBM
• Native American Voting Rights Act – for mailed ballots, passed in Washington State
• Santa Fe New Mexican – City’s first all-mail election triples turnout (and passes levy)
• Tampa Bay Times – Best way forward for Florida: Institute VAH
• The Hill – How North Carolina can prevent election fraud. This Op-ed describes the 5 problems in NC that opened the door, the ways to be sure it doesn’t happen again
• Orange County Register – County of 3.2M people (>20 states) to go 100% VAH in 2020, targeting higher turnout and savings of up to $29 million
• NY Times – Bipartisan Op-ed by former SoS’s Phil Keisling, Oregon (D) and Sam Green, Washington (R) on how voting at home can help save our democracy
• NY Times – David Leonhardt column: Let the People Vote – highlights VAH
• NY Times – David Leonhardt column: VAH brings back voting rights for all
• NY Times – The myth of the hacker-proof voting machine
• LA Times – Activists are helping fix America’s elections, VAH a key part of that solution
• The Washington Post – Low voter turnout is no accident
• The Washington Post – Proof that letting people vote at home raises turnout
• The Washington Post – Cybersecurity 202: How CO became the safest place to vote
• Vox – David Roberts: A simple voting reform that works wherever it’s tried
• Albany Times Union Editorial – Make voting easier in New York State with VAH
• Seattle Times Editorial – More states should follow Washington’s lead and vote by mail
• Omaha World Herald Editorial – Nebraska should consider more vote by mail options
• Wyoming Tribune Eagle Editorial – Three reasons why Wyoming should adopt VAH
• Hawaii Civil Beat Editorial – Hawaii should skip Kauai 2020 pilot and go VAH statewide
• Common Cause – Hawaii HB 1401 establishes Kauai to be VAH pilot in 2020
• Hawaii News Now – Kauai preparing for VAH pilot in 2020
• Chicago Tribune – A big surge in requests for mailed ballots
• Block Club Chicago – Elections officials explore VAH to improve security & turnout
• New York Magazine – The Joy of Voting by Mail in California
• California rolling out SB 450 – 100% mailed-ballot voting, county by county
• NBC-2 – SW Florida considers all mail balloting as only 20%-25% vote on Election Day
• Ripon Society – Election security, an ongoing responsibility where VAH helps
- **Washington Monthly** – To increase turnout, make it easier to Vote at Home
- **Governing** – NVAHI CEO Amber McReynolds named a Public Official of the Year
- **Governing** – What voter surge? NVAHI Chair discusses low primary turnout
- **American Prospect** – Good news from the voting wars, VAH is winning
- **The Denver Post** – Colorado empowers its citizens to vote – with VAH
- **The Denver Post** – Colorado midterm turnout very high. NAV’s exceed R’s & D’s
- **Colorado Public Radio** – How Colorado became one of the safest states in which to vote
- **Colorado Politics** – Q&A with NVAHI CEO Amber McReynolds
- **The Oregonian** – Oregon is on the cutting edge of secure, modern elections – per OR SoS
- **Sightline** – Oregon tops 2018 turnout, both in registration and ballots cast
- **Salt Lake Tribune** – Vote at Home increases Millennial turnout
- **Deseret (UT) News** – County clerks describe the steps taken to secure election security
- **Lincoln Journal Star** – More Nebraska counties look at Vote by mail after successful test
- **Yankton Daily Press** – More Nebraska counties go 100% VAH
- **Delaware online** – Paper ballots would make voting in Delaware safer & cheaper
- **Patch** – New Jersey makes voting at home easier with permanent absentee list
- **Chippewa (WI) Herald** – Let’s allow voting by mail
- **Anchorage Daily News** – First all-mail election shatters turnout records
- **Las Cruces (NM) Sun News** – First all-mail election shatters turnout records
- **WTOP** – Rockville, Maryland will be first city to go 100% VAH in 2019
- **USA Today** – article on making Election Day a holiday calls out VAH’s benefits
- **Slate** – Why Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) and VAH are made for each other
- **State Innovation Exchange** – Lists VAH as one of its core election reforms
- **The Commons** – Voter apathy is not a given. VAH can help
- **The Parallax** – CO saved over $10 million with VAH by avoiding polling machine upgrades
- **Politico** – more cases for paper ballots, and against vulnerable barcode output machines
- **CBS News** – Senate Intelligence Committee says paper is safer
- **UPI** – Dozens of states tighten election security by going back to paper
- **Governing** – Virginia’s move to paper ballots avoids recount nightmare
- **Kokomo (IN) Tribune** – Paper ballots are preferable
- **PEW** - Problems recruiting poll workers, that VAH solves
- **American Prospect 2006** – How Oregon’s voting revolution happened
- **From 1996 – the first coverage of VAH**, from esteemed columnist Carl Rowan