



For Immediate Release

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Support for Scaling Up Voting Options Across the Country

Washington, DC — In response to recent global and national responses to the novel coronavirus outbreak, officials in all industries are creating action plans to secure the steady function and preservation of American society. Voting is a civic right, and must be secured in times of crisis in order to maintain confidence in the system and outcomes. Local, state and federal lawmakers are consulting leading experts and election administration officials to create plans that can potentially be implemented at scale using existing and new infrastructure and processes.

"In the event of crisis, eligible voters must retain functional access to their American civic rights. We commend legislators and governors for creating paths for election administration in a time when dedicated local and state officials across the country are making critical decisions about how best to put voters first."
— Amber McReynolds, CEO of The National Vote at Home Institute

Voting by mail from home — when planned and executed effectively in lockstep with proven voter education activities — offers secure and accessible options that make it a rational starting point for election guidelines that could potentially be implemented at scale. Processes related to voting from home are currently implemented in a variety of ways across the country, and the rate of voter participation for this method steadily increases. Vote at home best practices like the ones highlighted in the national bill recently proposed by Sen. Wyden (D-Ore.) are built on and modeled after existing structures currently employed by numerous election officials in local and state jurisdictions.

NVAHI has supported the innovation of vote by mail and at home practices by offering policy and implementation recommendations, research, trend reporting, and strategic action plans to states like Virginia, Michigan, Nebraska, Hawaii, Utah, Pennsylvania, and many more. We recognize that there are many barriers to implementation, and that traditionally underrepresented communities will likely still face obstacles to voting. That's why our organization will continue to partner with the extensive network of election officials, secretaries of state, legislatures, civil rights groups and local advocates to ensure that the most current resources are available for states looking to pursue any of these innovations, independent of national legislation. This includes immediate efforts in Michigan, Maryland, New Jersey, Georgia, New York, Rhode Island, and more.

Putting voters first is the National Vote at Home Institute's top priority, and voting at home is one of the best methods to facilitate voter participation securely, conveniently, and in a cost effective way. In the coming days, NVAHI will release a detailed and scalable strategic plan that can be adopted by election officials in every state across the country. While it is imperative that all states in our union take bold steps to protect the function of our democracy, we are intimately aware that a "one size fits all" approach is untenable. Together with our partners, we are confident that we can deliver an actionable way to preserve the integrity of elections through November and beyond.

Quick Resources

[App: Check mail ballot options in your state](#)

[Holistic look at voting by mail processes by the National Conference of State Legislatures \(NCSL\)](#)

[How to sign up for absentee ballots by state \(Primary\)](#)

[How to sign up for absentee ballots by state \(General\)](#)

[MIT: Graphic on Impact for Voters with Disabilities](#)

[Rutgers: Study on Impact for Voters with Disabilities](#)

[Election Administration & Voting Survey Report on mail ballot usage in 2018 \(pg 29 & 30\)](#)

[Bipartisan Policy Center Election Report](#)

[Broad look at voting reforms and turnout](#)

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