

P.E.E.R. PROJECT

Partnering to Ensure Election Resiliency



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Safe, fair, and accessible elections are a nonpartisan priority for elected officials nationwide—especially in light of the threats posed by COVID-19. After listening to recommendations from policy experts and nearly 100 legislators in the Future Caucus Network, MAP developed a set of strategies for policymakers to mitigate public health risks while building election resiliency.

1 ENABLE VOTERS TO VOTE-BY-MAIL

- **No Excuse:** States that require a valid excuse to cast an absentee ballot should remove the need for an excuse OR declare the COVID-19 public health crisis a legitimate excuse.

2 ACCOMMODATE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- **Set up online portals** for mail-in ballot requests.
- **Provide prepaid, pre-addressed return envelopes** for all absentee ballots.
- **Expand early voting:** Maintain in-person voting options, and expand early voting dates to reduce voter concentration at polling places.
- **Extend deadlines:** Plan for increased mail-in ballot processing time and other potential disruptions.
- **Expand ballot drop locations:** Ballot drop boxes are a low cost, highly accessible option for ballot returns.

3 ENHANCE BALLOT SECURITY

- **Implement ballot tracking** to provide legitimacy, ensure voter confidence, and eliminate potential for fraud.
 - **Use electronic scanners** to count absentee ballots. Any signature review should be conducted by a bipartisan or nonpartisan authority.
 - **Develop audit procedures:** While incidents of fraud are markedly low, protocol should exist.
 - **Provide ballot replacement guidance:** Include with mailed ballots and have available online.
 - **Add security:** Consider background checks for workers processing absentee ballots. 24-hour live-streamed surveillance is a lower-cost option for election watchers to monitor ballot drop, and ballot processing location.



“Vote-by-mail isn’t a Democratic or a Republican issue

in Oregon, it’s just... the way things are and the way they’ve been for about 20 years now.”

*Rep. Julie Fahey (D)
Founding Future Caucus
Co-Chair, OR*

On his plan to ensure every Ohian who desires can vote at home:

“A plan that does not afford every Ohioan an opportunity to vote free of charge would be unconstitutional.”

*OH SOS Frank LaRose (R)
Founding Future Caucus Co-Chair, OH*

Vote at Home Rules by State as of April 3, 2020

