

Honorable _____
State Capitol
City, State Zip

Dear Governor _____:

I am sure you are contemplating options for conducting your state's elections in the wake of the COVID-19 virus. Our democracy relies on timely, reliable and secure elections, even when states and localities are challenged by natural or manufactured disasters.

I am _____. Your state's members of the National Association of Postal Supervisors urge you to seriously consider implementing vote-by-mail for the November elections. We encourage you to communicate with the United States Postal Service to discuss a "negotiated service agreement" with the agency to reduce the postage for the distribution and return of mail-in ballots. In addition, the Postal Service provides resources for conducting mail ballots on its website at <https://about.usps.com/election-mail/election-mail-resources.htm>.

Our organization represents the frontline managers of the United States Postal Service, including postal supervisors, managers and postmasters, who are uniquely familiar with postal products, operations and capabilities. We believe vote-by-mail (including the expansion of use of no-excuse absentee ballots) represents a secure and reliable approach toward the conduct of elections. Numerous organizations with expertise assessing trust and privacy protection have concluded the Postal Service ranks the highest among all government components.

Indeed, many states and municipalities have already benefited from vote-by-mail. Currently, five states conduct elections by mail (i.e., Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington). In addition, other states permit counties and municipalities to conduct their elections by mail. Furthermore, the recent 2020 primary election experience in Arizona and Florida demonstrates the attraction and voter confidence in casting mail-in ballots. The benefits of vote-by-mail include voter convenience, cost-effectiveness, and increased turnout. Indeed, the recently-enacted economic stimulus package includes \$400 million to assist states, among other actions, to use mail ballots. The funds are available through the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

I hope that this information will be helpful as you plan for your upcoming elections. Please let me know if NAPS can be of assistance.