



NRLCA FACT SHEET

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Vote-by-Mail

Americans are growing frustrated with the current state of our electoral system. Malfunctioning voter equipment, “paperless” touch-screen voting machines, human error, and poorly trained poll workers all contribute to low voter turnout and dissatisfaction.

The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association supports a voting method that puts the election ballots into the hands of the public's most trusted government agency; the United States Postal Service. Giving Americans the option to vote-by-mail allows citizens the convenience of voting from home, giving them time to research, consider and study the candidates to make educated decisions. Once the voter makes his/her decision, they would put their ballot in the mail to be picked up, delivered, and processed by federal workers. Voters would no longer have to take time away from work and their family to wait in long lines at the polls, and elderly and disabled voters would not have to make special arrangements to get to the polls.

In the 110th Congress, there were two Congressional bills aiding in allowing Americans to vote-by-mail

Senator Wyden introduced S. 979, a bill providing annual grants to states or localities moving to all mail elections. The bill would also require the Election Assistance Commission to determine ‘Best Practices’ in the conduct of all-mail elections. Finally, the bill would require the United States Comptroller General to conduct numerous studies, ranging from security and voter fraud; to voter participation levels; to accuracy of the election results.

Representative Susan Davis introduced H.R. 281, a bill that would remove “excuse requirements” for absentee voting, allowing all citizens the right to request an absentee ballot for any election that includes a contest for federal office.

Although bills have yet to be introduced in the 111th Congress, we urge you to sign on to them when they are put forward in the coming months.

NRLCA Position

NRLCA urges Senators and House members to co-sponsor Vote by Mail bills in the 111th Congress.

Contact Paul Swartz (Senate) or Kevin Talley (House) if you have any questions or would like more information on this issue.