

## The 2020 Election and COVID-19



It seems increasingly clear that the 2020 election will be impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis and the social, economic, and political turmoil it has wrought. We need to do all that we can to ensure that the challenges we face do not undermine our basic freedoms, especially the right of every American to vote. Congress has the constitutional authority and obligation to protect that right to vote in federal elections and it is imperative that members exercise that authority now to safeguard the 2020 election.

Please call your members of Congress (**202-224-3121**) and urge them to protect our voting rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. Planning and preparations must begin now to safeguard the integrity of the 2020 election and to ensure that new protocols are in place to guarantee the 2020 elections are safe and accessible to all Americans.

Administering elections during a pandemic is new territory for the United States, but we do not have to choose between public health and a functioning democracy. The \$400M for elections included in the CARES Act was a welcome start and it is not enough. Voting rights advocates are calling for at least \$2-4 billion in the next COVID-19 response package to support states and localities as they develop procedures that will ensure that all people can exercise their constitutional right to vote in the upcoming elections. These measures include:

- No-excuse absentee voting with prepaid postage ballots mailed to all registered voters;
- Extended voter registration including online and same-day registration;
- Provisions for at least 15 days of early voting;

Election contingency plans to protect the health and safety of poll workers and voters for those who choose to vote in-person.

