

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 23, 2017

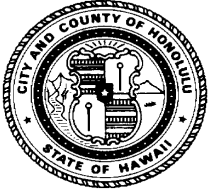
Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to implement elections by mail statewide beginning in 2020.

We support elections by mail because it is convenient and accessible for voters, and it will streamline the administration of elections. In recent years, more than half of voters have cast their ballot prior to election day.

This bill envisions elections by mail to be implemented statewide in 2020. Given our strong support for all mail elections, we believe the bill should permit election officials the flexibility to be able to implement all mail elections earlier. Specifically, election officials should be given the ability as early as 2018 to implement all mail elections in particular precincts or counties, as they deem appropriate. As such, we would propose the following changes to proposed section 11-A.

§11-A Elections eligible to be conducted by mail. Beginning with the 2020 primary election, all elections shall be conducted by mail in accordance with this title. Any election prior to the 2020 primary election may be conducted by mail, in whole or in part, as determined by the chief election officer for state or federal elections or the county clerk for county elections. To the extent an election is only conducted in part by mail, any proclamation will clearly detail which precincts will continue to have polling places and which ones will be conducted by mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

KIMBERLY L. RIBELLIA
Deputy City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077 TELEPHONE (808) 768-3810

TESTIMONY OF GLEN TAKAHASHI
CITY CLERK, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 23, 2017

Chair Luke and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1401 HD1 that would transition Hawaii's elections into a vote-by mail election scheme.

As evident in 2016 and in other recent elections, an increasing number of voters now cast their ballots prior to election day. In the City & County of Honolulu, absentee voting comprised 60 and 52 percent of votes cast in the 2016 primary and general elections, respectively. We expect this trend to continue, even as the State continues to expend considerable energy and expense to administer polling places statewide.

In a general consensus, our counterparts in both Oregon and Washington indicated that in their elections-by-mail transitions, more effort should have been exerted to amend their entire election statutes to ensure that the election scheme functions properly and does not contain ambiguities caused by the different methods of voting. We believe that HB1401HD1 incorporates that comprehensive review of Hawaii's election statutes for transitioning Hawaii's election scheme.

In addition to modifying or removing references to polling places, HB1401 HD1 adds further structure to requirements that arise with the implementation of vote-by-mail elections. Chief among the proposals is addressing the ballot return postal "service gap" by establishing places of deposit starting five days prior to the election. The measure also allows election officials to consider the postal service standards for the particular mailing origin of the vote by mail ballot packets to ensure that all voters have a full 18-days to receive and return their ballots, regardless of whether the ballots may be mailed from within Hawaii or anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

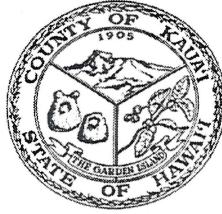
We would, however, recommend an amendment to Section 6 of the bill pertaining to the sworn affirmation required of election day registrants utilizing a voter service center. We believe that the intent of the sworn affirmation in subsection (c) is to

require an acknowledgement that the voter “*has not voted and will not attempt to vote again*” in that election if allowed to exercise same day registration, whether it be at another voter service center or in another jurisdiction elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1401 HD1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800
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SCOTT K. SATO
Deputy County Clerk

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ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
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LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

TESTIMONY OF JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401, HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
February 23, 2017

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401, HD 1. This Bill proposes enacting voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020.

Our Office fully supports transitioning to voting by mail and vote centers as a means for providing voting services, but prefers to stagger the changeover from our current polling place based voting model. We therefore, respectfully request that this Bill be amended by adopting language contained in Senate Bill 1066, SD 1, which would implement elections by mail and vote centers in a county with a population of fewer than 100,000 beginning with the 2018 primary election.

We wish to thank the Legislature for hearing this Bill and respectfully request support of this measure. Additionally, please feel free to contact the County of Kaua'i's Elections Division if we can assist in clarifying issues pertaining to elections by mail or related matters.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401, HD 1.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i

DANNY A. MATEO
County Clerk



JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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TESTIMONY OF DANNY A. MATEO
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 23, 2017

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to have elections by mail statewide beginning with the 2020 elections.

House Bill No. 1401 HD 1 provides a comprehensive overhaul of current statutory provisions related to elections, to conform to elections by mail operations. Feedback from other jurisdictions that have transitioned to elections by mail have indicated a comprehensive overhaul is needed for creation of effective and efficient elections by mail law.

Overall, we feel that elections by mail is a more efficient and effective way to reach our voters and administer elections and we respectfully request your support of this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1.



HB1401 HD1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
House Committee on Finance

February 23, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1401 HD1, which reduces barriers to voting and increases voter participation opportunities, by allowing future elections to be held by mail.

For many years, Hawai‘i has had one of the lowest voter participation rates in the nation.¹ In response to historical data reflecting the underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in particular in the polls, during the past three election seasons OHA has implemented a “Hawaiian Voice, Hawaiian Vote: I Mana Ka Leo” campaign to increase Native Hawaiian voter registration, education, and turnout.

During the course of these campaigns, many potential Native Hawaiian voters expressed ambivalence toward taking time off of work to visit polls, or taking the necessary steps to complete the absentee voter registration process. This measure would reduce such hurdles for voter participation by automatically giving citizens the opportunity to vote at their own convenience, from the comfort of their own homes. This will ultimately result in a more accessible election process and potentially higher Native Hawaiian voter turnout.

Evidence indicates that the people of Hawai‘i generally would also likely benefit from the modernized voting process envisioned by this bill. For example, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado—the three states that already conduct elections-by-mail—saw marked increases in voter turnout after implementing their mail-in voting systems.² Notably, these states have not found that holding elections by mail complicates election administration, or leads to increased voter fraud.³ Implementing such a system for Hawai‘i

¹ Craig Gima, *Hawaii voter turnout dropped below 2012 presidential election*, THE HONOLULU STAR ADVERTISER, Nov. 9, 2016, available at <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/11/09/breaking-news/hawaii-voter-turnout-dropped-below-2012-presidential-election/>.

² New York Times, *Graphic: Voting by Mail* (Oct. 6, 2012), http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/10/07/us/voting-by-mail.html?_r=0; Joey Bunch, *Despite criticism, few efforts to change Colorado’s mail ballot law*, THE DENVER POST, Feb 15, 2015, http://www.denverpost.com/politics/ci_27529935/despite-criticism-few-efforts-change-colorados-mail-ballot.

³ Allison Terry, *Voter turnout: the 6 states that rank highest, and why*, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, November 6, 2012, available at <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Elections/2012/1106/Voter-turnout-the-6-states-that-rank-highest-and-why/Oregon>.

would not only mean that every eligible voter could vote at their own convenience, but also that voters would have a much longer time with ballots in their hands, giving them ample opportunity to consider issues and candidates and make more informed decisions.

Hawai'i's electorate may benefit greatly from the increased convenience offered by this measure, but we recognize that the logistics of implementation can be complex. Therefore, on these matters, we defer to the Office of Elections and County Clerks' Offices.

Given the potential to greatly bolster Hawai'i's low voter turnout rate, including the turnout of Native Hawaiian voters, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB1401 HD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



ADA

HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

John Bickel, President
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer
Karin Gill, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Guy Archer	Jan Lubin	George Simson
Dylan Armstrong	Jenny Nomura	Emmanuel Zibakalam
Gloria Borland	Stephen O'Harrow	
Chuck Huxel	Cameron Sato	

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823
www.adaaction.org

February 22 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chair Luke and Members of the Finance Committee

RE: HB 1401 HD1 Relating to Elections
Support for hearing on Feb. 23

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 1401 HD1 as it would enact vote by mail.

Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates. We believe this bill would increase turnout as it would encourage people conveniently to vote at home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, February 23, 2017, 11:00 a.m., Room 308
HB1401, HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1401, HD1 that introduces voting by mail across all counties in 2020.

This measure modernizes the way we vote, can increase voter turnout, and saves money in the process. The League encourages everyone to register to vote and then vote. But in the 21st century, voting does not mean we must line up at a polling place!

Voter education promoting “voting by mail” is already well underway, and voters are responding. To succeed with this approach, certain reminders we already use should be emphasized, such as signing the outside ballot return envelope and meeting the deadline for ballot return.

Conducting elections by mail **statewide** is an extension of decades of experience with successful distribution, collection and counting of mail-in absentee ballots. Hawaii has permitted absentee voting since 1976, so procedures for voting by mail, including division of labor between the Counties and the State, are well established. Our County Clerks and the Office of Elections support this change.

We should start a logical expansion of this already popular absentee voting to a statewide “vote by mail” approach like that outlined in SB1066 SD1. We have experience with this approach - Hawaii’s U.S. House vacancy election in 2010 and the special vacancy elections conducted by the City & County of Honolulu in 2009 and 2010, were conducted entirely by mail and produced high turnout.

The League of Women Voters supports a simple, secure, and effective approach plan as outlined in this bill. Beginning in 2020 all registered voters would receive a ballot in the mail that would give them eighteen days before the election to study the candidates and issues. We would have time to consider the ballot without



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the pressure of a long voting line behind us. The voted ballot will be inserted in a secrecy envelope and then placed in a prepaid return envelope. No one will know an individual's vote!

Also, Voter Service Centers for those who need assistance and for those who like to vote in person will be provided.

Voting by mail will reduce the high cost of maintaining, storing, and transporting voting equipment and supplies to more than 200 polling places. No longer will we need to recruit and train thousands of volunteers for state elections—small changes with a big impact! The Office of Elections estimates it will save Hawaii \$800 thousand per election cycle.

But what's even better most studies have now found that vote by mail increased turnout.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

¹ United States Government Accountability Office, "Elections; Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections," June 2016.p. 31



House Finance Committee
Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen

02/23/2017 at 11:00 AM in Room 308
HB1401 HD1– Relating to Elections

TESTIMONY —STRONG SUPPORT
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports HB1401 HD1 which would establish a statewide “Voting-by-Mail” or, “Elections-by-Mail” system.

Common Cause believes that increased citizen participation in the electoral process is a crucial component of maintaining a successful democracy, and believes that Voting-by-Mail provides people more time to exercise their right to vote.

VOTING TRENDS

It’s important that the ways we engage the voting public be maximized to counter the perceived voter apathy, and other factors that have led to a decrease in voter participation in recent years. We believe the intent of HB1401 HD1 achieves that goal in numerous ways; the first of which being the basic voter preference for Voting-by-Mail. Although statewide Voting-by-Mail has yet to be fully implemented locally, it has been successfully utilized in Hawaii as recently as the 2010 1st Congressional District election. According to figures provided by the Office of Elections, trends show a leaning of basic voter preference for Voting-By-Mail with 54.4% of voters from the 2016 Hawaii Primary Election opting to participate by mail-in absentee ballot, compared with 38.1% who voted at their precinct.

OVERCOMING LOGISTICAL OBSTICLES

In addition to the individual and collective benefits that Voting-by-Mail provides to the public, tangible solutions to significant logistical obstacles accompany the intent of this bill: Hawaii’s 2014 Primary Election reminded us that the potential for storms, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, pose a substantial threat to an electoral system which relies heavily on holding elections on a single day. A Voting-by-Mail system is more “protected” from these natural disasters.

POTENTIAL TO SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY

Estimates from the Office of Elections show that after an initial technology investment, the state would save approximately \$800,000 per election cycle. Tax dollars can be saved by the reduced need for as many walk-in voter service centers that accompanies a Voting-by-Mail system; a system which will only be further complemented by the election reform measures that are in the process of being implemented: Online Voter Registration, as of 2015; Late Voter Registration at Early Walk-In Sites as of 2016, and Election Day Registration as of 2018. These programs, combined with implementing a Voting-by-Mail system, will showcase Hawaii as a “model” state for voting reforms.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **strongly supporting HB1401 HD1**.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: zulli@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1401

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christen Zulli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: coletteandkaipo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1401

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colette Faris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ariannafeinberg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1401 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM

HB1401

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support mail-in voting as I believe it'll make it easier for people to vote. We need to do all in our power to increase voter turn out!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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STEWART MAEDA
County Clerk



JON HENRICKS
Deputy County Clerk

County of Hawai'i
Office of the County Clerk

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TESTIMONY OF STEWART MAEDA
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REGARDING HOUSE BILL NO. 1401 HD 1
RELATING TO ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to uniformly enact voting by mail across all counties of Hawai'i for all elections commencing in 2020.

Our office strongly supports this bill. Currently, elections in our state consist of absentee voting by mail, absentee walk-in sites and Election Day voting. Absentee voting was implemented to supplement Election Day polling places and to allow greater opportunities to vote. The total turnout for Hawai'i County of individuals who voted in the 2016 General Election was 66,021 and of that 39,551 individuals chose to vote absentee. Sixty percent (60%) of all individuals who voted in Hawai'i County chose to vote absentee rather than by utilizing traditional polling places.

Transitioning to a vote by mail election would help to create a more convenient voter process, increase voter turnout, and provide financial savings during election years. This bill would also allow voters more convenience and flexibility.

Our hope is that the passage of this measure will encourage voters who may feel disenfranchised due to isolation, lack of transportation, or disability, to feel more a part of the process.

Given our strong support for all mail elections and the preferred method used by voters to vote by mail, we believe the bill should permit election officials the flexibility to implement all mail elections as early as 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1401 HD 1.

TESTIMONY to the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HB 1402 H.D. 1

Thursday, February 23, 2017 11:00 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 308

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by: Mary Smart, Mililani HI

Chairman Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

1. I oppose HB 1401 H.D.1 which takes away the convenience of election day voting at our local precinct. Hawaii election statistics show in that 203,328 Hawaii voters who choose this option despite other options available. Most of us reject mail-in ballots and don't appreciate this attempt to discontinue election day precinct voting. We have rejected going to a centralized location. We want to vote in our community/precinct.
2. Election day voting gives constituents the longest time to consider the candidates and propositions. It also ensures that mistakes such as over votes are corrected and their ballot is not invalidated. Precinct voting is a community event that impresses upon the local residents the importance of performing their civic duty of voting. Precinct voting protects the secret ballot aspect of the vote and prevents coercion of voting a particular way that isn't protected by mail-in voting schemes. With precinct voting there is no in-transit concerns that plague vote-by mail users. An article hyperlinked to this statement dated 20 August 2015 identified [1600 Hawaii ballots were late](#) and could not be counted. It was reported that in 2012 [over a quarter of a million absentee ballots were rejected](#). Voters who thought they participated in the election were disenfranchised. This doesn't happen with precinct voting on election day.
3. Having a limited number of election day service centers is a disservice to the voter. There is nothing more important than convenience of election day voting. Many people have to walk to their precinct. This change will put an undue burden on the voter. Furthermore, mail-in ballots give the voter less time to consider their options. Instead of having the full election period, the voter must get the ballot in the mail before election day if they want their ballot counted.
4. It is well known that mail in voting is more susceptible to fraudulent voting than in person precinct voting. Vote by mail is not a transparent process. Precinct voting with poll workers and poll watchers give a semblance of transparency of the process. There are documented problems with mail in voting that are documented in many websites including "[THE NO VOTE BY MAIL PROJECT](#)".
5. I have seen that Election day precinct voting costs approximately \$800,000. With 203,328 individuals taking advantage of election day precinct voting the cost is less than \$4 per vote. The continuance of our free republic is based on the validity of the voting

process. The price is worth it. When you consider the amount candidates spend per vote, the election day precinct polls are well worth the cost.

6. What is the expected cost of mailing all constituents and following up on invalid ballots? The two way mailing is costly and in some cases, more than one mailing is required. Furthermore, the handling of ballots over a longer period is much more labor intensive than an election day precinct voting process. Before mandating mail in ballots, the voter should have an option to vote on such a significant change.

7. There are fewer people who use the early walk-in voting option than precinct election day voting per [2016 election statistics](#). If savings are a necessity, discontinue the early walk-in voting option.

8. Legislators should not have the goal of making the Elections Office duties easier. Election day voting at the precincts is an essential service to the voter. The Elections Office works for the voter. Over 200,000 Hawaii voters rejected mail-in ballots and went to the polls in November 2016.

9. Electronic [devices can be hacked](#). Voting electronically is not acceptable to those who are aware of the problems that can arise. If you are unaware of this, there are many videos on YOU Tube that explain the process. A paper trail of the ballots is an important protection of the vote.

10. Allowing votes to be counted before election day enables those who might want to subvert the election process to know approximately how many votes may be needed to sway an election. Ballots shouldn't be counted until election day. There is no transparency regarding who is protecting and counting the absentee ballots. As Joseph Stalin said: "It doesn't matter how many people vote, only who counts them."

11. Giving the Elections Officer the authority to "make, amend and repeal rules and regulations governing elections under this title" gives too much power over our election process to one person, especially when the current office holder has failed to perform election duties in several instances including not getting absentee ballot distributed on time (2010) and not having adequate number of paper ballots (2012).

12. Do not take away the most treasured service of government -- providing elections at the precinct on Election Day. It is an honored tradition that should not be abandoned.

13. **Vote NO on HB 1401 H.D. 1** and protect the votes of your constituents.

LATE

I strongly oppose HB1401, HD1

By Michelle Foyt, 1296 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 2804E, Honolulu, HI 96814
michellefoyt@gmail.com • 808-593-7679

Mail-in voting does not increase turnout.

The following is from the article Bergman, Elizabeth, “Voting only by mail can decrease turnout. Or increase it. Wait, what?” *The Washington Post*, 12/21/2015.

1. In Oregon in early research on voting by mail, it was thought that voting increased by 10%. Later researchers couldn’t duplicate this outcome. Finally, it was thought that unusual (“novelty”) upsurge occurred only in “special elections.”
2. According to Bergman, **voting only by mail led to a 13% or so drop in voter turnout and a 30-year study of 50 states indicated that all mail balloting did not bring in new voters.**
3. The long voting window of mail-in voting tended to decrease voting.
4. **According to Bergman, more elections office communications received by voters stimulated more voting.**

Cheaper? Maybe but at what cost?

1. **“Voter disenfranchisement of about one-third of registered voters occurs as ballots are only mailed to active voters. This can lead to misinformation about election turnouts if disenfranchised voters are left out of the count.”**

(“Why Mail Ballots Are A Bad Idea by Charles E. Corry, Ph.D.”

www.ejfi.org/Voting/Voting-78.htm) pp 1-13, 2009.

The following is taken from the No Vote by Mail Project (novbm.wordpress.com/why-not-vbm) and/or (“All-Mail Elections (AKA Vote-By-Mail),”

www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/all-mail-elections.aspx, 1/12/2017.

2. All mail voting increases printing costs.
3. There’s a need to purchase new paper ballot vote reading equipment.
4. More vote counters must be hired to count votes manually.
5. Manual counting slows down the election results.
6. The coveted privacy of voting is lost.
7. “Vote-By Mail systems eliminate ‘Election Day’ and replace it with ‘Election Month,’ thereby greatly increasing the costs campaigns must spend on GOTV (Get-Out the Vote) efforts.”
8. Automated mailing mistakes mushroom cost.

Mail-in Ballots are not private or secure.

1. **Postal System is not secure and cutting back its facilities and services.** It’s not part of the federal government. Also, in Washington and other states, third party companies sort ballots out of the regular mail and process them.

- a. “In many cases, like King County, WA, the Post Office no longer controls the incoming mail, instead a private company sorts incoming absentee ballots into precincts before giving them back to county for counting. This breaks down any chain of custody rules that may have been in place, and privatizes another link in the chain.” From The No Vote by Mail Project

(<http://novbm.wordpress.com/why-not-vbm/>).

- b. “The Postal Service of 2016 does not operate under the same service standards as it did even one or two presidential cycles ago. Mail volume is down, and the USPS has adjusted its infrastructure accordingly. A restructuring of the USPS’s backbone – called “rationalization” – has resulted in the closing of many smaller processing plants across the country. Mail is now routed to larger plants equipped with sophisticated automation equipment that allows for ballot tracking. Delivery standards have also changed... “
“The New Realities of Voting by Mail in 2016,” Bipartisan Policy Center, June 2016.

Fraud

1. The remote nature of the mail-in ballot means there’s a lack of transparency that can lead to abuse. “Election fraud is rare, but it usually involves absentee or mail ballots...” says Paul Gronke, Reed College Political Scientist, who directs the Early Voting Information Center in Oregon (investigations.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/25/14092264-the-real-vote-fraud-opportunity-has-arrived-casting-your-ballot-by-mail)
2. Googling mail vote errors or fraud brings up problems nationwide.

The Polling Station Works (I served as an election official in 2016):

Polling Station adds an extra layer of security by encountering the voter person to person, ensures voter’s privacy and security when voting and provides special equipment and assistance to the disabled.

1. Polling place offers a social meeting place to exercise civic responsibility not enjoyed by HI voters whose precincts are too small for a polling place and who complain of isolation. According to one authoritative source, millennials prefer the polling place to mail in voting, whereas boomers and X-geners prefer mail (Governing, By Paul W. Taylor, 3/2011).
2. Poll official processes voter and ballot, solving problems on the spot:
 - a. Sees the voter person to person, checks ID, checks voter signature for ballot.
 - a. Checks the voter’s identity against his/her identity card and can see if it’s the right person, can check to see if the person is trying to vote in the correct polling place, and if not, send them to the correct polling place.
 - b. Checks the voter’s signature to receive a ballot against the provided identification card.
 - c. Answers questions in a helpful, unbiased way.
 - d. Issues new ballot(s) in case of voter error(s). There’s no limit.
 - e. Issues a provisional ballot in case of some type of questionable identification (wrong address, etc.).
 - f. Gets informational support from the Precinct Chairperson in touch with a help team offering phone support for difficult or ambiguous issues.
 - g. Receives critical/evaluative support from the Polling Precinct Chairperson.
 - h. In general, the polling place resolves problems on the spot. There may be some questionable/provisional ballots sent to another level for disposition.
2. **The voter votes in privacy – in a booth – and without pressure from other people including family, co-workers and employers, and political/computer/television ad edicts.**
3. **ADA voters receive special instructions and equipment help with one-on-one assistance. A cut-back on polling places would be a hardship for many.**