

# VOTE at HOME

Higher Turnout | Highly Secure | Lower Cost

## National Vote at Home played a key role in driving great progress

- Educating legislators and elections officials, including feedback on policy objectives and seminars on best practices
- Testifying in support of bills
- Driving the national media narrative, educating journalists
- Conducting original research to provide more proof points
- Partnering with like-minded organizations for greater reach

## Growing the grass roots

While reform legislation is the big mover, progress is evident from voters' preferences, too.

In 2018, 42 million ballots were mailed-out nationally, versus 33 million in 2014. In 2020, it may break 50 million.

In 2018, a full [69% of ALL votes cast in the West](#) were from mailed ballots.

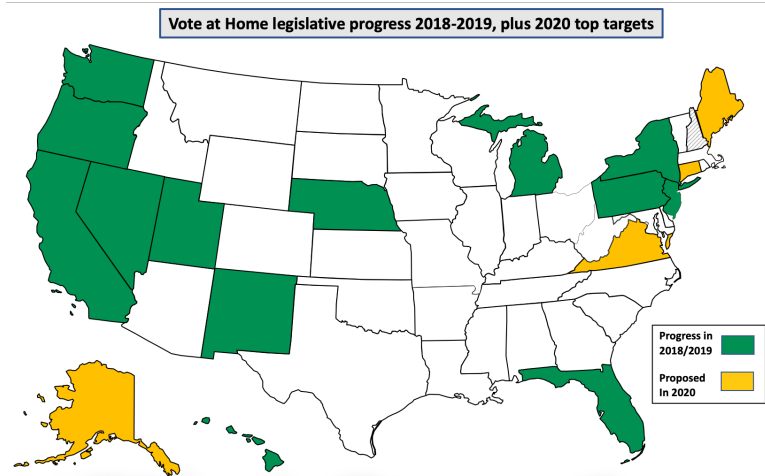
## One small step...

From Anchorage to Rockville, MD, from Tucson to Lansing, MI to Camden, NJ to Las Cruces, NM, municipalities are finding [Vote at Home works locally](#), too!

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

### Mailed-out ballot reform is happening!

The last two years (and our first two) have been exciting. **Utah** reached full VAH in 2019 and **Hawaii** passed a law that takes them there in 2020. **New Jersey** passed permanent



(single sign-up) absentee in 2018, and **Nevada** followed suit in 2019. **California** will have more than 50% of their voters in counties using 100% mailed-out ballots in 2020.

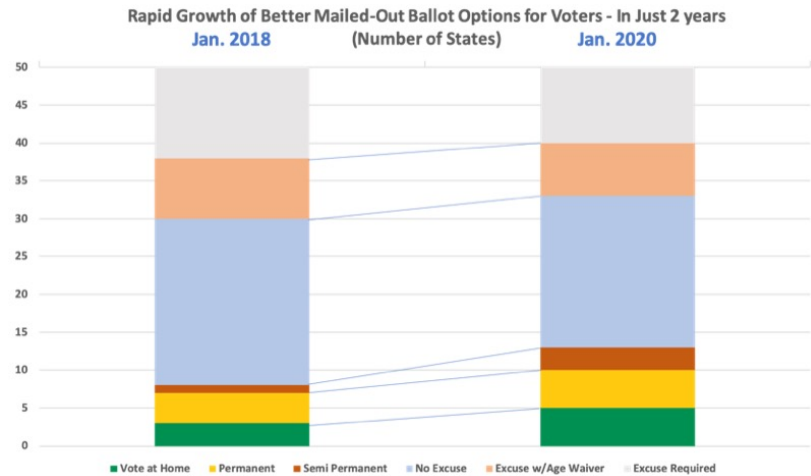
**Michigan** in 2018 and **Pennsylvania** in 2019 passed “no excuse” absentee, with a “semi-permanent” option. **New York** took the first step towards a Constitutional Amendment for no excuse. **New Mexico** passed a law requiring local elections by mailed-out ballot. **Nebraska** went to 11 counties using mailed ballots for 2020. **Florida** fixed signature curing. **CA, OR** and **WA** passed pre-paid return postage.

Likely in 2020, full VAH in **DC**, permanent absentee in **Alaska** and **Maine**, no excuse in **Virginia**, and a first step in **CT**.

## By the numbers....

- **26** - number of [policy makers, elections officials, academics and democracy advocates](#) on our Circle of Advisors, co-chaired by Secretaries of State Jocelyn Benson (D, MI) and Kim Wyman (R, WA).
- **8** - number of NVAHI staff, up from just three at the start of 2018, including having added our [CEO, Policy Director, CFO, Digital/Social Media Director and Executive Coordinator](#)
- **25** - number of states with bills up in 2019 for full Vote at Home, county option, local election option, permanent absentee or no excuse absentee. We made great progress, but more to do.
- **28** - number of states our CEO Amber McReynolds visited this year to testify, inform, educate, and assist with best practice implementations.
- **5%-7% points** - [Turnout uplift in Utah in 2016 for the counties](#) using 100% VAH policies. This original research done by NVAHI, was the first of its kind proving VAH benefits in a Presidential election.
- **2.5-5x** - [Turnout uplift in Las Cruces, NM from going to 100% mailed-out ballots.](#) An election that historically would have seen 5%-10% turnout came in at 25%.
- **100+** - For a while, we would diligently list the media articles covering Vote at Home topics in our [Reference Library](#). Lately, we've had to become much more selective. There are just too many to list them all.
- **5553** - Number of views of our [2-minute introductory video](#) (as of this writing).
- **15 million** - Number of voters in Michigan and Pennsylvania now able to vote by mailed-out ballot with "no excuse" in 2020.

With great traction already demonstrated, NVAHI is well on its way towards achieving its **three primary goals** (below). Access the [latest 50 state policy map here](#).



- **Goal 1:** Be the Nation's Leader and Recognized Authority in promoting Best Practices to ensure voter access and election security around mailed-out ballots in all states, whether or not they use a full Vote at Home System.
- **Goal 2:** Boost the safe and accessible use of mailed-out ballots in the 2020 election and beyond through voter education and outreach, and working with elections officials, political leaders of both parties, non-profit organizations, and the media, significantly.
- **Goal 3:** Assist state-level efforts to implement VAH through education, research and outreach - and where appropriate, advocacy work with the National Vote at Home Coalition (NVAHC), a 501(c)(4) organization.

## What happens when we achieve these goals?

We will see not just higher levels of voter turnout, but higher levels of voter confidence in the integrity of our election systems. By definition, mailed-out ballots are also paper ballots and not vulnerable to software hacks - and are easily subject to risk limiting audits.

In 2018, states with [full VAH systems averaged 10% points higher turnout than polling-place centric states](#). Had all 50 states used a full VAH system, and achieved the same turnout, *25 million more votes would have been cast*. Think of what that would have meant.

## Powerful Partnerships

- Collaborated with **Common Cause** to produce a [detailed look](#) at the Colorado model.
- Assisted **Nonprofit Vote** in their widely-used report titled, [America Goes to the Polls 2018](#), that showed why VAH is in the top two reforms for real impact.
- Promoted joint webinars with **Democracy Works**, the **Center for Civic Design**, and the **Center for Technology & Civic Life** on best practices. More are planned for early 2020.
- Funded joint research with the **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)** to provide a 50 state database of policy choices in mailed-ballot voting. It will launch in early 2020. The **Center for Secure and Modern Elections** and the **National Association of Letter Carriers** supported us in this project.
- Collaborated with the **State Innovation Exchange (SiX)** and **Pennsylvania Voice** to provide a roadmap for PA to help smooth their move to “no excuse” absentee voting.
- Promoted data developed by the **MIT Election Data and Science Lab** and **NCSL** showing how higher levels of mailed-out ballot access [lowers the disability voting gap](#).
- Working with the **League of Women Voters** in multiple states to educate elections officials and legislators on what they can do to increase voter engagement with security.

## Welcome new Board members!

We were honored to welcome former Michigan Governor **Jennifer Granholm**, former Maryland Lt. Governor **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**, and Common Sense Policy Roundtable CEO **Kristin Strohm** to the NVAHI Board in December.

## Funding for Vote at Home is accelerating!

From modest beginnings, National Vote at Home is attracting increased levels of funding from sophisticated donors who recognize the benefits to our democracy of engaging a larger portion of the electorate in voting.

## What will more funding deliver?

In 2020, we plan to focus on significantly expanding the use and acceptance of Vote at Home policies in 10-15 key states. This includes support and resources for “flooding the zone” efforts in states whose “no excuse” policies allow for major upticks in mailed-out ballot use. More generally, we will work across the U.S. to educate voters on their Vote at Home options. (see [90-second Nebraska video as an example](#))

We know that voters with a ballot in their hands vote at materially higher rates than those who have to make their way to a polling place and stand in line. And the higher the use of mailed-out ballots goes in individual states, the more willing those states should be to reform their policies to make voting by mailed-out ballot more accessible.

We will also continue to drive best practices such as ballot tracking, increased use of drop boxes and vote centers, proper signature verification and cure processes, prepaid return postage, and risk limiting audits since “Vote at Home” election reform involves more than “mailing out ballots.”

## Increased funding will allow us strategically to do more:

- Policy Design and Advocacy, across the country
- Implementation Support for Elections Officials (State & Local) and Stakeholders, nationwide
- Communication, Education and Voter Outreach
- Targeted Research to feed the education effort

**Your ongoing financial support is deeply appreciated.**

## Fun Facts from Research

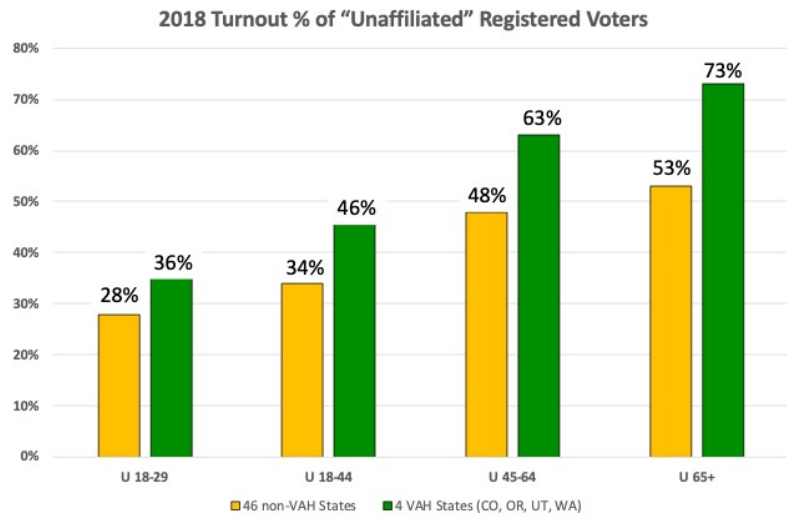
NVAHI conducts both original research, and monitors others to provide a clearinghouse of important data in this field. Here are some we find interesting.

- We discovered that in Utah in 2016, VAH counties saw [5.5% greater "down ballot" voting](#) vs. polling place counties.
- The Analyst Institute found that the two most impactful reforms to lift turnout were Election Day Registration and Vote at Home. Not so impactful were Election Day as a holiday and Early In-Person Voting, especially on weekdays.
- Our research showed that 2018 absentee voters in five states had a [43%-67% "repeater" status](#) with the 2016 election. It spoke volumes about the efficiencies available with a "single sign-up" policy in place.
- Our research, using L2 and Census data, shows 2018 eligible voter turnout [averaged 11% points higher](#) among 18-29 year olds the nation's four full VAH states (37% vs. 26%). Separately, 18-44 turnout among unmarried female reg. voters averaged 7% points higher in VAH states in 2018
- Research done by PEW Trusts showed [Colorado saved \\$6 per voter per election](#) going to VAH. Separately, [Orange County, CA estimates they will save \\$29 million](#) by moving to 100% mailed-out ballots.

[www.voteathome.org](http://www.voteathome.org)

## A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats...

But some boats rise faster than others. As part of our access to the L2 voter mapping tool, we discovered that Unaffiliated voters tend to react even more positively to having a ballot in their hands than others. This makes sense because those on either end of the partisan scale will likely be more motivated to vote than those who may live closer to the center.



Source: L2 Mapping Tool, November 2019

Note: Unaffiliated voters' "lift" increases with rising age. In contrast, VAH lift among registered Republicans and Democrats gets smaller. This indicates a large opportunity across all ages to increase voter engagement with VAH.

## A final word

Having been in this role for 16 months or so, I realize more every day how fortunate we are to have the support of our Donors, Board Members, Circle of Advisors, Partners, Volunteers and Staff, not to mention hundreds of elections officials and policy makers across the country who remind us every day that what we are doing matters to them, and to the health of our democracy. Thanks to all of you for your words of encouragement, your pointed questions, and your input. We look forward to 2020 with enthusiasm and hope.



Regards,  
Amber McReynolds  
Chief Executive Officer

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