

COMMON CAUSE DELAWARE TESTIMONY

Senate Elections & Government Affairs Committee
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June 15, 2022

Our democracy is stronger when everyone participates. That is why expanding access to the ballot box has always been one of Common Cause Delaware's top priorities.

SB 320 would lead us closer to that ideal by allowing every voter the option to vote safely from home, if they so choose.

Common Cause Delaware applauds the Delaware Sen. Gay and other state legislators who support this [bill to establish Vote by Mail](#) in the First State, so that people can vote safely from home.

We've seen how strong vote-by-mail programs lead to more participation -- just look at 2020, where we saw record-breaking turnout thanks to added accessibility protections.

And establishing Vote by Mail is clearly within the power of the General Assembly. That is, Article V, Section 1 of the Delaware Constitution provides that "the General Assembly may by law prescribe the means, methods and instruments of voting." Thus, we urge the state legislature to pass this bill, and use its constitutional authority to provide a Vote By Mail option for voters to cast our ballots and have our voices heard.

Passing Vote by Mail would place us alongside the other [34 states that currently allow voters to cast ballots by mail](#).

Vote-by-mail programs have been under attack in the past year -- by anti-voter zealots who want to make voting harder in order to advance their extremist agenda.. But for a strong, healthy democracy, we need to remove unnecessary barriers to participation, and make sure every voter has the option to vote safely and securely by mail.

Vote-by-mail is tried and tested -- and it's a safe and secure option that's critical to ensuring the health and safety of every eligible voter, especially during this pandemic.
With the election process starting up again in just a few months, it is vitally important for the General Assembly to act now, so people can vote safely and smoothly in the upcoming elections.

Adding vote by mail to early voting and in-person election day voting will greatly enhance the freedom to vote for all Delawareans and so strengthen democracy in the First State. We urge all legislators to vote yes on SB 320.