

I am submitting this testimony in support of allowing Covid 19 as a valid reason to request an absentee ballot for the general election in November, as has been done for the primary election next month. Several states already conduct all their elections by mail and the occurrence of fraud is negligible. See the following link: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/mail-in-vote-fraud-ballot.html>

At a time when social distancing is strongly recommended, requiring people to stand in line at a polling place, sometimes for hours, is not good health practice. Because many poll workers are elderly, they are at increased risk for the virus, so may choose not to participate in election work. A reduction in their numbers means more time to verify voters and give them their ballots, resulting in longer waits than normal. We saw what happened in Wisconsin, where over 50 voters and poll workers contracted Covid 19 as a result of the primary election being held in person. <https://www.wpr.org/52-who-worked-or-voted-wisconsin-election-have-covid-19>

We have a good record of containing Covid 19 so far. Let's keep it up by allowing voters to use it as a reason to request an absentee ballot for the general election.

Thank you,

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