

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

A Mayors-Exclusive Discussion

Mayors Innovation Project Sep. 11, 2020

Presenter:

Matt Duffy

Local Campaign Manager & Justice Catalyst Legal Fellow

@MattLDuffy



THE CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY

Building Collective Power



The Center for Popular Democracy works to create equity, opportunity and a dynamic democracy in partnership with high-impact base-building organizations, organizing alliances, and progressive unions. CPD strengthens our collective capacity to envision and win an innovative pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial and economic justice agenda.

COVID-19 & THE 2020 ELECTION

DEMOCRACY AT A CROSSROADS

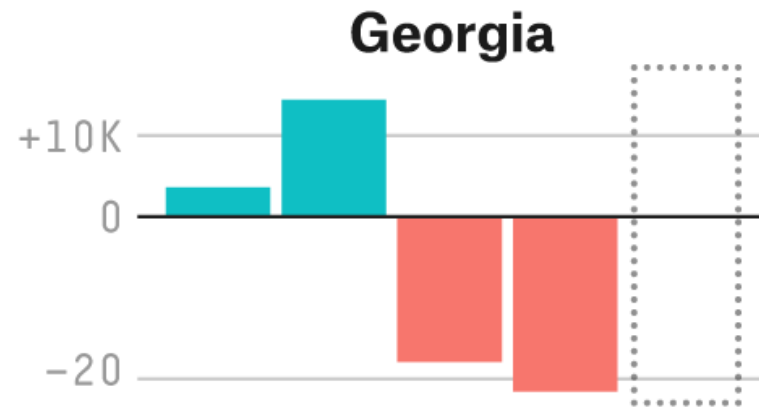
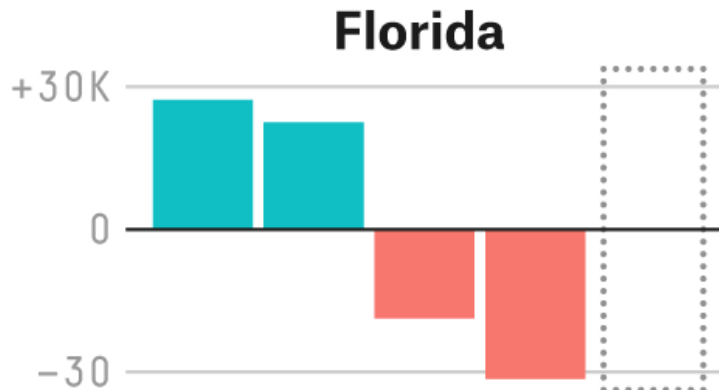
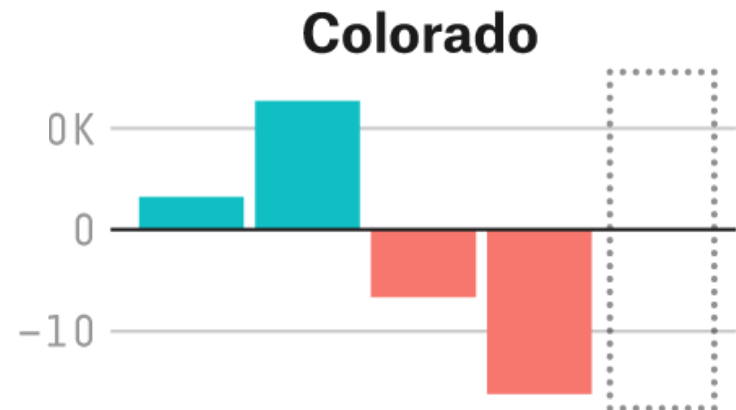
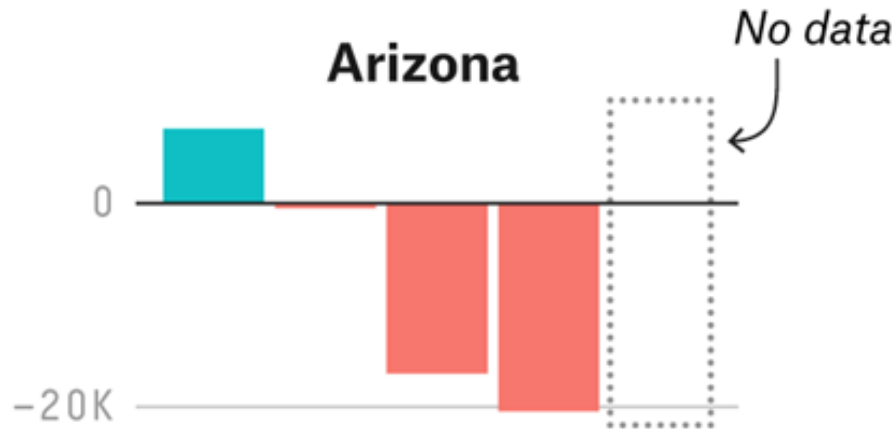
The Challenge of COVID-19



WE NEED TO INCREASE VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration dropped dramatically during the pandemic

Difference in the number of newly registered voters for each month in 2020 compared to the same month in 2016

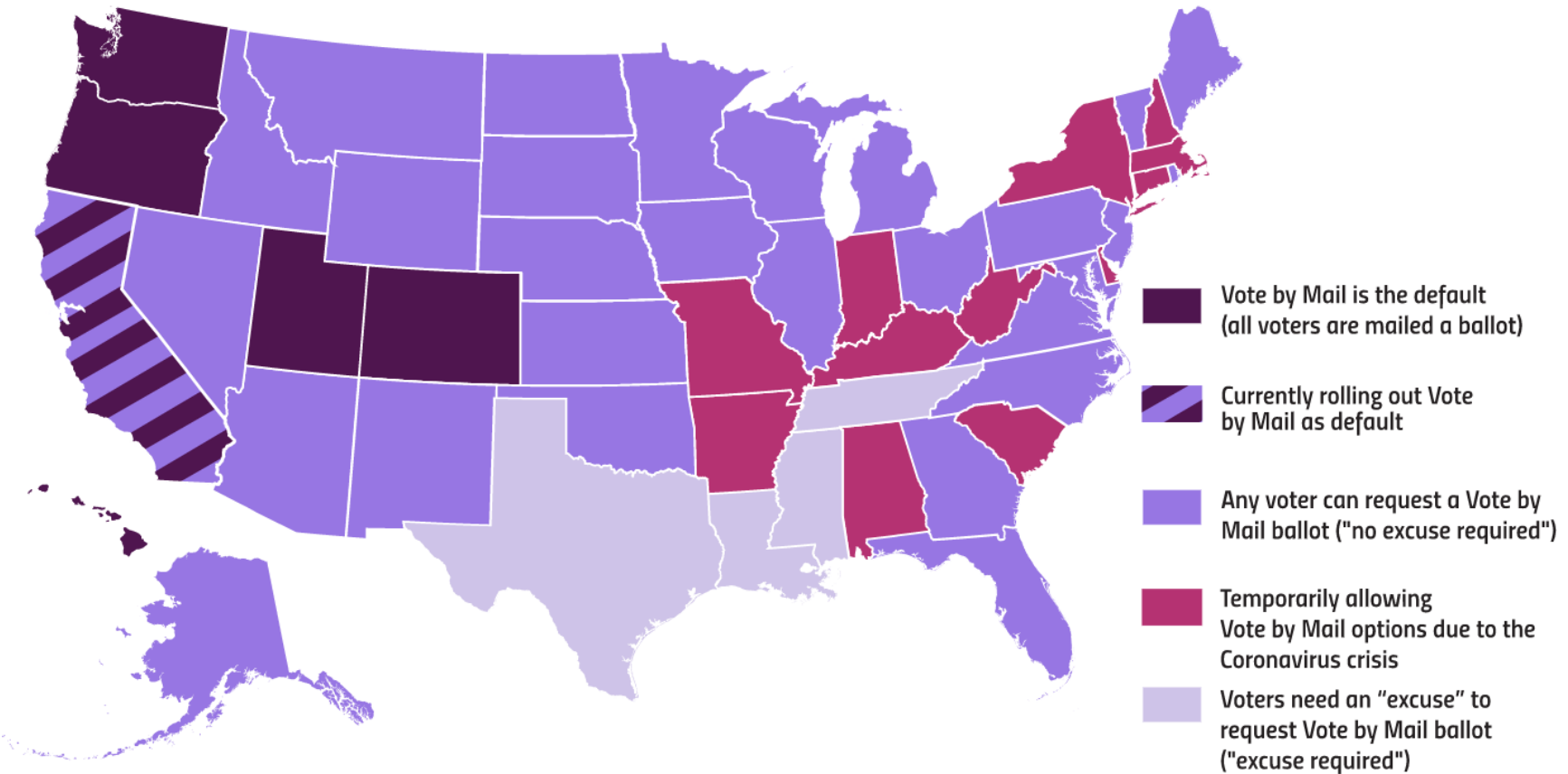


Some states treat voters who move between counties within a state as new registrants because they're unregistered from their old county and newly registered in the new one.

WE NEED TO HELP PEOPLE VOTE-AT-HOME BY MAIL

A state-by-state breakdown of Vote By Mail

SEE WHERE YOUR STATE STANDS



WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENOUGH, SAFE, POLLING PLACES FOR EVERYONE TO USE



WHAT YOU CAN DO

FRAME THE CHALLENGE

Centering the conversation around the health of voters and poll workers, not parties

- “No voter should have to choose between staying safe and exercising their/our right to vote”

This work is urgent

- Our election systems will be prepared for the election, if we do this work now

This work is *not* optional

- “Just like with our healthcare system and our economy, the state needs to act quickly to provide the resources and policy responses to protect the vote of every voter.”
- The general election cannot be postponed



WHAT YOU CAN DO ON YOUR OWN

- Host voter registration, absentee ballot, & poll worker drives
- Advertise election information and deadlines in public places — add links and info on city websites!
- Have government officials provide regular reminders about key election dates and procedures — via mail, email, and social media.
- Allow and encourage government employees to serve as volunteers
- Offer free public transit on Election Day

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH OTHERS

Partner with local businesses, non-profits, community groups

- Hold voter registration, absentee ballot, & poll worker drives
- Allow employees to take time off to vote and serve as poll worker
- Display key election information

Create an election protection plan with groups spearheading election protection in our community (e.g., Common Cause, Lawyer's Committee)

- How will you support voters waiting in long lines during voting periods?
- How will you get time-sensitive information out to voters on election day?

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR

Many titles for the same role

- Board of Registrars of Voters, Supervisor of Elections, City/County Clerk, Tax Assessor, or Recorder

Responsibilities are the same

- Receive voter registrations and applications for mail-in ballots
- Maintain lists of voters
- Decide where polling places, early voting locations, and drop-boxes will be placed
- Prepare for in-person elections (rent space, train poll workers, buy equipment, etc.)
- Administer in-person elections, including early voting
- Count and track ballots (including absentee ballots)
- Report election results and conduct post-election audits

WHAT TO ASK YOUR LOCAL ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR

Hold these local election officials accountable

- Schedule regular 1-on-1 calls
- Push for a joint virtual town-hall
- Share resources with them (like the Toolkit!)

But also find ways to support them

- Funding
- Collaboration
- Staff / volunteers

Connect others to information

- Be a bridge between election administrators and the community
- Work together to provide consistent messaging

THANK YOU!

CHECK OUT THE TOOLKIT



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WRITTEN BY
MATT DUFFY & TAM DOAN



WHERE YOU CAN FIND US



@populardemocracy
@cpdaction



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KEEP IN TOUCH!

Contact Information

Matthew L. Duffy (*he/him/his*)

Email: mduffy@populardemocracy.org

Phone: 347-985-2220 ext. 259

Twitter: @MattLDuffy