Safe, fair, and accessible elections are a nonpartisan priority for elected officials nationwide—especially in light of the threats posed by COVID-19. After listening to recommendations from policy experts and nearly 100 legislators in the Future Caucus Network, MAP developed a set of strategies for policymakers to mitigate public health risks while building election resiliency.

1. **ENABLE VOTERS TO VOTE-BY-MAIL**
   - No Excuse: States that require a valid excuse to cast an absentee ballot should remove the need for an excuse OR declare the COVID-19 public health crisis a legitimate excuse.

2. **ACCOMMODATE SOCIAL DISTANCING**
   - Set up online portals for mail-in ballot requests.
   - Expand early voting: Maintain in-person voting options, and expand early voting dates to reduce voter concentration at polling places.
   - Extend deadlines: Plan for increased mail-in ballot processing time and other potential disruptions.
   - Provide prepaid, pre-addressed return envelopes.
   - Expand ballot drop locations: Ballot drop boxes are a low cost, highly accessible option for ballot returns.

3. **ENHANCE BALLOT SECURITY**
   - Implement ballot tracking to provide legitimacy, ensure voter confidence, and eliminate potential for fraud.
     - Use electronic scanners to count absentee ballots. Any signature review should be conducted by a bipartisan or nonpartisan authority.
     - Develop audit procedures: While incidents of fraud are markedly low, protocol should exist.
     - Provide ballot replacement guidance: Include with mailed ballots and have available online.
     - Add security: Consider background checks for workers processing absentee ballots. 24-hour live-streamed surveillance is a lower-cost option for election watchers to monitor ballot drop, and ballot processing location.

On his plan to ensure every Ohioan who desires can vote at home:

A plan that does not afford every Ohioan an opportunity to vote free of charge would be unconstitutional.

OH SOS Frank LaRose (R)
Founding Future Caucus Co-Chair, OH

“Vote-by-mail isn’t a Democratic or a Republican issue in Oregon, it’s just... the way things are and the way they’ve been for about 30 years now.”
Rep. Julie Fahey (D)
Founding Future Caucus Co-Chair, OR

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**Vote at Home Rules by State as of April 3, 2020**

- **Automatic vote-by-mail**
- **No excuse needed**
- **Excuse required**
- **Temporarily allowing it due to COVID-19**
- **Automatic in some counties**