

A Veteran Voter's Perspective on the Benefits of Mail-In Voting

As someone in my mid-70s, I can confidently say that voting from home is not only a secure option but a convenience I've trusted for over five decades. I have voted by mail in both Colorado and Oregon for a total of 54 years, and during that time, I have never missed an election. Voting from home provides me with peace of mind, especially when health challenges may arise, as I can cast my ballot even if I'm bedridden.

Mail-in voting offers unparalleled safety and security for all voters, particularly those with disabilities or aging citizens who may struggle with long lines and physical barriers at polling stations. Here are some key reasons why I firmly support the continued use of mail-in ballots:

- **Safeguarded Privacy and Security:** Every mail-in ballot is processed securely, with tamper-proof envelopes and signature verification to ensure authenticity.
- **Convenience and Accessibility:** There are no long lines, and no need for poll workers, making the process more efficient and cost-effective. Additionally, the elimination of polling stations reduces expenses related to leasing spaces, machine maintenance, and staffing.
- **Increased Voter Participation:** By providing a convenient, secure option, mail-in voting encourages more people to participate in the democratic process, including those who may face physical, health, or logistical challenges.
- **Enhanced Trust in the System:** The ability to track ballots online offers transparency, allowing voters to monitor the receipt and processing of their ballots, which fosters trust in the system.
- **Better Informed Voters:** Voting by mail allows individuals to carefully consider their choices without the time pressure often associated with in-person voting.

Mail-in voting is a tried and tested practice that not only benefits voters like me but also ensures the integrity and accessibility of the voting process. Let's continue to safeguard this option for future generations, ensuring that every voice is heard.