



Why Delaware needs voting by mail

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. The LWV of Delaware bases its action on the LWVUS position.

The League of Women Voters supports HB 175, which allows for voting by mail.

The biggest reason we support this bill is that it increases voting. By providing the opportunity to cast ballots in the mail, voters will be able to avoid long lines at polling stations, and won't have to take time off from work to exercise their right to vote. Oregon, the first state to have all-vote-by mail, has consistently ranked among the states with the highest voter turnout. Oregon voting rates are especially high among young voters and in midterm elections when turnout traditionally lags. In 2016, 68% of Oregon residents voted, which is 8% above the national average, and 45% of voters under 34 voted, which is twice the national average.¹

Another reason for supporting this bill is vote by mail makes the ballot box accessible to voters who have difficulties getting to the polls, such as working families, students, and individuals with disabilities. It makes sure that every eligible American who wants to vote is able to make their voice heard.

Voting by mail may also reduce costs by reducing the number of poll workers and polling places. A Pew study cited that in Colorado, costs decreased an average of 40%.²

Those that are against vote by mail cite security issues as a major problem. Oregon and Washington have addressed this by creating secure drop off sites and a centralized ballot review. They also have implemented a signature verification process, that checks the ballot to the registration form. It has been reported that Oregon has mailed out more than 100 million ballots since 2000 with only about a dozen cases of proven fraud.³

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/you-can-t-hack-paper-how-oregon-fights-election-meddling-n930481>

² <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/all-mail-elections.aspx>

³ <http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2018/05/voting-by-mail-is-growing-and-should-grow-more.html>