

## AB 321 FACT SHEET:

# Solving Voting Access Problems for Nevadans



**In 2016, only 7% of Nevada voters cast a mailed ballot. In 2020, 48% of Nevada voters cast a mailed ballot.**

**Native American voters in Nevada had the highest turnout of all demographic groups in 2020. The turnout rate was up 25% from 2016.**

**Voters living in rural Nevada utilized voting by mail the most of voters in any area in the state, with 53% using vote-by-mail.**

**Increasing safe options for casting a ballot helped increase turnout among EVERY demographic group in Nevada, despite the pandemic.**

Last year, for the first time, Nevada mailed a ballot with prepaid postage to every active, registered voter, and the legislature instituted key election reforms in order to hold a safe and fair election by passing AB 4. A new data analysis by Dr. Megan Gall and Dr. Kevin Stout with All Voting is Local showed that these election reforms were hugely successful for all Nevadans, helping to ease access barriers and increase turnout among every demographic group.

This year, Nevada has a chance to build on the success of the last election, and enshrine the reforms of last year into law. It shouldn't take a public health crisis to protect Nevadans' right to vote. The legislature must pass AB 321 to protect Nevadans' access to the ballot and permanently solve long standing problems with our election system.

### **AB 321 REMOVES DELIBERATE BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT BY ENSURING THAT:**

- County election officials mail every Nevadan a ballot with return postage so voters can choose how they want to vote
- Local officials install secure ballot drop boxes and locate them in accessible places
- Native American Tribes can request a polling place within a fairer and more workable deadline

# It shouldn't take a public health crisis to protect Nevadans' right to vote.

## EVERY NEVADAN SHOULD BE SENT A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT IN EVERY ELECTION.

In 2020, voting by mail was the most popular method of casting a ballot. AB 321's provisions ensure that every active registered voter will receive a mail ballot with return postage, gives Nevada's voters what they want, and are familiar with. Forty-eight percent of Nevada voters cast their ballots by mail, up from roughly 7% in 2016.

Furthermore, the broad popularity of vote-by-mail increased turnout and access for many demographic groups. For example, Native American, Hispanic, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Black voters showed a preference for voting by mail, and voters living in rural Nevada voted by mail more than voters in any other area of the state, with 53% using vote by mail. Mailing a ballot with prepaid postage to every eligible voter helped bridge geographic access gaps to voting locations often found in rural and Native American communities, while also proving itself to be broadly popular.

## EXPANDED ACCESS TO BALLOT DROP BOXES AND POLLING PLACES ENSURES ALL VOTERS THE FREEDOM TO VOTE

Increased voting options helped contribute to record turnout in Nevada, with all demographic groups showing turnout growth in the 2020 election. Keeping ballot drop boxes around for good is the right solution to give Nevada voters options.

Nevada must mail every registered voter a ballot, and then allow voters to deposit their ballot at a ballot drop box. Doing so reduces reliance and strain on the post office while still allowing voters to vote in a safe and convenient way. In particular, ballot drop boxes are crucial for those without reliable postal service, like some Native American reservations, colonies, and bands.

Native American and Asian American and Pacific Islander voters had expanded turnout in 2020 compared to 2016. Voting barriers affecting these voters were eased, such as shortening or eliminating the driving to polling places or drop off location by hours and providing language access materials and resources no matter how a voter wanted to vote.

Native American voters saw a 25% increase in turnout rate from 2016 while Asian American and Pacific Islander voters saw a 14% increase. Voting by mail was the preferred method of casting a ballot within both groups, with 57% of Asian American and Pacific Islander and 56% of Native Americans either returning their ballots through the mail, or depositing them in a secure ballot drop box.

AB 321 doesn't only provide options to vote by mail. It removes barriers to the ballot for Native American voters who want to vote in person. The bill allows more realistic timelines to put polling places on tribal lands, making sure that voters who want a polling place near them can get one. AB 4 extended this same polling place deadline last election, helping ensure that 12 Tribes last election had access to a drop off location or polling place, or were able to vote by mail.

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Sources: Analyses are based on data from a third party voter file vendor. Calculations are based on voters for the 2020 general election data collected on March 2, 2021, then tallied by race and voting method.

2016 data from NV SOS (<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=4567>) 2020 data from NV SOS (<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=9054>) Overall turnout, percent early, percent mail and percent Election Day by county reported by NV SOS (<https://silverstateelection.nv.gov/vote-turnout/>)



**“I think voting by mail in my community is huge. I love that I was able to [vote] by mail this year... When I usually vote, I have to worry about things like childcare and being in lines with hostile people, but this year, I was able to fill out my ballot in the comfort of my home with the people I love and just drop it off.”**

— Asia Duncan, Las Vegas, NV

**“I was a first time voter in 2020 and my experience was pretty great. I dropped off my mail ballot...[but] voters need to see information from officials at the state level with reassurance that the system is safe and secure.”**

— Ryan Boone, Las Vegas, NV, First-Time Voter



**“No one should be telling you how to vote. It is everyone’s glory, not just mine, to vote! The last vote I made was the mail vote [in 2020] - it was out of this world wonderful. I sat at my kitchen table. It was precious, and I felt so good voting this last time. It was a vote that I knew was crucial to our society, to America. This was the most important vote I ever made.”**

— Ora Washington, Pahrump, NV

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This report was created by All Voting is Local Nevada, as a part of the Let Nevadans Vote coalition. Analysis by Alex Ault, Policy analysis by Alex Ault, Policy Consultant, and data analysis by Dr. Megan Gall, Senior Data Director, and Dr. Kevin Stout, Data Consultant, of All Voting is Local. For questions, please contact All Voting is Local Nevada State Director Kerry Durmick at [Kerry@AllVotingisLocal.org](mailto:Kerry@AllVotingisLocal.org).

All Voting is Local fights to eliminate needless and discriminatory barriers to voting before they happen, to build a democracy that works for us all. It is a collaborative campaign housed at The Leadership Conference Education Fund, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation; the American Constitution Society; the Campaign Legal Center; and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. For more information about All Voting is Local, visit <https://allvotingislocal.org> and follow us on Twitter @votingislocal.



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