



June 29, 2020

Dear Senator,

As our country moves toward holding fall elections in the midst of a continuing global pandemic, one thing is clear: states and localities need more emergency federal funding to ensure they can hold safe, secure, and credible elections. Voters in Georgia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, and other states have [faced hours-long lines](#) and [closed or understaffed](#) polling locations. Thousands of voters who requested their ballots in a timely fashion [never received them](#). These problems can be alleviated in November with additional funding assistance, but time is running out.

Issue One strongly urges you to support legislation to provide additional emergency funding to states and localities to ensure safe, secure, and credible elections in 2020 and to ensure that legislation is enacted in July before the August recess.

[Scientists predict](#) that the United States is likely to face a second COVID-19 wave in the fall. The chaos and unpreparedness that has plagued the primaries will play out across the country for the general election unless Congress takes action immediately. **Reports from state and local election officials clearly indicate that the money states received from the CARES Act earlier this year is simply [not enough](#) to ensure that every eligible voter can vote safely.** Bipartisan surveys and reports indicate that election officials have received just 10-20% of what they need to effectively administer the upcoming election. Because of the current recession and budget crises at the state and local level, federal support is the only option.

Further delay in providing states and localities with the money they need is unnecessary and dangerous to our democratic republic. Elections officials are preparing for November elections now. They face purchasing equipment and putting systems in place to deal with the inevitable deluge of absentee ballot requests. They must recruit and train poll workers and purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for them. Many of you, both Republicans and Democrats, have already spoken favorably of alternative voting methods, including temporarily expanding absentee voting. Elections officials also must pay to keep polling places open longer to avoid long lines and to undertake robust programs to educate voters about the voting options in their state — whether absentee ballots, early voting, and/or in-person voting.

### **Inaction on additional emergency funding by Congress risks a debacle in November.**

States and localities need additional funding to respond to the increased costs they face because of the pandemic, no matter how each state chooses to administer the election. It serves no party and no candidate to disenfranchise eligible voters or make them choose between their health and voting.



[issueone.org](http://issueone.org)

Issue One strongly urges you to act in early July to provide urgently needed emergency funding.

Sincerely,

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