

**House Resolution**

**No. 105**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer**

August 24, 2020

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House Resolution No. 105—Relative to vote by mail and the November 3, 2020, general election.

1 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 global pandemic has taken the  
2 lives of over 160,000 people in the United States and over 11,000  
3 in California, including 5.2 million confirmed cases nationwide  
4 and over 600,000 in California; and

5 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic severely limits the  
6 public’s ability to do in-person activities, so providing vote by  
7 mail as an alternative to voting in-person for the November 3,  
8 2020, general election is critical to protecting public health and  
9 safety; and

10 WHEREAS, California will mail every registered voter in the  
11 state a vote by mail ballot for the November 3, 2020, general  
12 election to allow voters to safely exercise their constitutional right  
13 to vote; and

14 WHEREAS, California and states all across the nation are  
15 encouraging voters to mail their completed ballots via the United  
16 States Postal Service in order to avoid long lines, extended waiting,  
17 and most importantly person-to-person contact; and

18 WHEREAS, Voting by mail is a standard and reliable practice  
19 in elections in California and all across the nation by voters  
20 including the current President of the United States and his senior  
21 staff; and

22 WHEREAS, The survival of our democracy and national security  
23 relies on fair and free elections for all eligible voters; and

1 WHEREAS, The federal administration runs the risk of a  
2 compromised election if the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate  
3 refuses to provide adequate relief funding to the United States  
4 Postal Service, on which we will rely to deliver vote by mail ballots  
5 to county elections officials; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service cannot support  
7 the delivery of millions of ballots nationwide without immediate  
8 adequate relief funding and support from the federal administration;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The federal administration has undercut the  
11 viability of our elections system by underfunding the United States  
12 Postal Service, threatening to end overtime delivery of mail, and  
13 removing mailboxes and sorting machines from communities all  
14 across the country ahead of the election; and

15 WHEREAS, Mailboxes in California have been removed or  
16 locked in numerous communities across the state; and

17 WHEREAS, The Postmaster General's recent announcements  
18 to limit postal worker overtime, close mail sorting facilities, and  
19 reduce retail hours at some post office locations perilously erode  
20 public trust in voting by mail and our elections systems, and would  
21 needlessly increase the threat of COVID-19 exposure from voting  
22 in-person; and

23 WHEREAS, The federal administration's limitations to the  
24 United States Postal Service will increase the demand for in-person  
25 voting in California counties unprepared to deal with the challenges  
26 of an election during a global pandemic and dangerously  
27 disadvantage communities of color by creating unnecessary hurdles  
28 to voting; and

29 WHEREAS, It is imperative to fully protect and support the  
30 operations and postal carriers of the United States Postal Service  
31 in order to facilitate a safe, secure, and uncorrupted national  
32 election on November 3, 2020; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
34 Assembly urges the federal administration and the  
35 Republican-controlled U.S. Senate to cease and desist from all  
36 efforts to reduce the ability of voters to cast their ballots by mail  
37 or diminish public confidence in the vote by mail program as it  
38 relates to the November 3, 2020, general election; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Assembly urges United States Postmaster  
40 General Louis DeJoy to immediately restore all mailboxes and

1 mail sorters back to the communities from which they were  
2 removed in order to guarantee the timely and efficient delivery of  
3 vote by mail ballots in the November 3, 2020, general election;  
4 and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
6 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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