

14:02:54 From Darryl Perry : FYI
Trump threatens to withhold Michigan funding after state's decision to mail absentee ballot applications:
<https://www.wxyz.com/news/trump-threatens-to-withhold-michigan-funding-after-states-decision-to-mail-absentee-ballot-applications>

14:03:59 From Darryl Perry : Request for Information: location and status of pets?

14:04:00 From Kyri : Trump is erroneously saying MI is sending out absentee ballots. They are actually sending out absentee ballot requests.

14:04:29 From Darryl Perry : Kyri, that's what the headline and article state

14:04:55 From Darryl Perry : This committee should still be aware of this, as a potential issue

14:05:04 From Kyri : That's what he tweeted. It isn't true.

14:05:46 From Darryl Perry : we know that Trump's tweets have a loose connection to reality!

14:06:08 From Kyri : I agree they should be aware. Also the Texas case, where the AG is challenging the right of voters to claim "disability" because of Covid.

14:07:07 From Kyri : That legal brouhaha seems to really hit home.

14:09:00 From Louise Spencer : Trump's threats to withhold funding from states based on their decisions about how best to administer their elections is extremely concerning.

14:11:37 From Darryl Perry : and his threats very likely not actually going to be legally allowed

14:12:24 From Ruth to Orville Fitch(Privately) : Some threats result in intimidating others, long before anything reaches a court.

14:12:59 From Ruth : Some threats result in intimidating others, long before anything reaches a court.

14:16:12 From Louise Spencer : Great idea Judy Krassowski. Another way to make engage and encourage young people to vote.

14:16:56 From Louise Spencer : And to help make this class of 2020 feel seen and appreciated!

14:17:16 From Katy Cutshall : The idea of every graduating senior getting info on how to register and vote, especially absentee, would be great.

14:17:48 From Judy Strakalaitis : Great presentation, ,Judy Krassowski!

14:19:47 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Thank you, Katy Cutshall, Judy Strakalaitis, Louise Spencer - it just seems to be a very simple solution

14:20:55 From Educator Judy Krassowski : To send even a link online for cost nothing and would empower students

14:21:03 From Darryl Perry : When I lived in Keene, I never understood why KSC wasn't used as the Ward 1 polling place; instead it was about a mile away, and most students didn't have cars

14:24:22 From Kathy Seaver : Lorrie from Durham. Go to the bottom of the screen and look for yourself on participants and you can raise your hand electronically.

14:24:55 From Vicky Turner : Parking at Keene State can be an issue

14:25:52 From Judy Strakalaitis : Judy, I'm in Derry. Pinkerton hosts a voter registration event during all lunch periods before major elections. Most of

the sending towns participate by sending election officials. The Derry supervisors have 70-100 registrations depending on the time of year. The school assists by providing lists of students who are or will be 18 by election day, their address, place of birth. Many people don't know their place of birth. Their list helps us verify information for students without a document to establish a qualification.

14:25:53 From Vicky Turner : Don't forget high school juniors who will turn 18 this year

14:26:02 From Judy Strakalaitis : Keene runs buses.

14:27:05 From Darryl Perry : there's less parking at the Police Station that is the Ward 1 polling location. Ward 1 also has the lowest turnout of the 5 Wards

14:27:10 From Judy Strakalaitis : The incoming seniors could receive voter info in their orientation packets.

14:27:24 From Chuck Mitchell : Every person who registers to vote, need to be manually put into election net. if thousands of students register, wow. who is going to help process the, a

14:29:00 From Judy Strakalaitis : Chuck, it is part of the enormous task of processing elections after election day. The real crunch for supervisors is after the election.

14:29:54 From Janelle Fassi : HI Davis! It's Janelle!

14:31:57 From Judy Strakalaitis : My town gets close to 2500 registrants at presidential elections plus 300 or so making changes that cannot be made on the checklist by the ballot clerks and must come to change at the registration table.

14:32:08 From Louise Spencer : The lines to register in Durham are often extremely long (varies depending on the time of day) - sometimes snaking down and around the hallways, often with 2 or more voters abreast.

14:33:11 From Ann : Hi Louise. I have my hand up, so we'll see if I get called in. Durham is crazy.

14:33:21 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes, Louise. It is a crush in my town, very close quarters.

14:33:27 From Darryl Perry : in my experience living in Keene, KSC students would only vote if there were vans giving rides from campus to the poll and the vans are generally only available for General election

14:33:48 From Judy Strakalaitis : Ann, they didn't reach out to you to schedule testimony?

14:34:24 From Judy Strakalaitis : Turnout is far lower at state primaries, Daryl.

14:35:33 From Ann : The committee only actually invited town clerks. Our town clerk invited me. Obvious they still don't realize the supervisors are In charge of voter registration in the towns.

14:35:42 From Louise Spencer : It would be very helpful for the Committee to hear from Ann from Durham. I am hoping she will be given an opportunity to speak.

14:36:43 From Darryl Perry : I'm well aware of that, Ann. And as a Libertarian, I have a major issue with taxpayers funding the nomination process of political parties.

14:37:00 From Judy Strakalaitis : Thank you for your efforts to ensure everyone qualified is able to vote, Davis.

14:37:30 From Judy Strakalaitis : Colleges can provide voter info packets at orientation. It's close to election.

14:37:39 From Vicky Turner : Labor Day is late this year

14:38:22 From Katy Cutshall : I wouldn't worry about primary vs general. The goal should be to get the message out to register to vote early and often!

14:39:20 From Katy Cutshall : Doing it during the beginning of the school year and registration time would sound ideal.

14:39:23 From Judy Strakalaitis : Ann Shump, that oversight reinforces the need for members who understand how the process works and/or provide a formal role for local elections in vetting recommendations.

14:40:19 From Judy Strakalaitis : Mr Cook, why were town clerks invited to participate but supervisors of the checklist--who actually do same-day registration--were not?

14:41:11 From Kyri : Judy is right. Supervisors register voters on election day, not clerks.

14:42:01 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Judy S, my sons graduated from Pinkerton 2004-2008 :) very strong political education from Derry. Some of the larger public school districts do take care of their own, but many do not, and the private schools are often not covered at all due to being tuition-based (no one wants to "rock the boat" by appearing to be partisan, even though the very idea of voting is nonpartisan. Having that absentee ballot application sent home, taking advantage of graduation time to do that, does several things - it acknowledges the student's accomplishments, it gets an absentee ballot application into their hands, it gets them thinking more about what all this means (if they haven't been immersed in this already), and it gives the Governor some concern about the future citizens of New Hampshire (or it should).

14:42:07 From Kyri : A good voter education campaign would be intended to help voters change habitual behaviors, such as reliance on same-day registration

14:42:12 From Vicky Turner : That's why downloadable forms or forms fillable online would be less wasteful

14:43:07 From Kyri : Pandemic voting will, hopefully, inspire new, safer behaviors.

14:43:46 From Judy Strakalaitis : Is it not clear to everyone at this point that supervisors of the checklist handle registration? Same-day registration is where contact is sustained for 5-10 minutes, documents are exchanged between 3-4 individuals for each registration. Registration is where mitigation of exposure will be most difficult to achieve. We should be represented on the committee. The supervisors from Durham should have been asked to present.

14:43:48 From Kyri : Non-college adults don't want to be burdened with a lot of paperwork either.

14:44:31 From Judy Strakalaitis : Supervisors do not work for the clerk. We are independent election officers. We work collaboratively. But our responsibilities are very different.

14:45:54 From Melanie Levesque : Good idea to make it like the same day process. What about early registration?

14:46:02 From Kyri : We should perhaps develop a letter to the committee with feedback from supervisors' POV.

14:46:18 From Jean Lightfoot : Even that remote registration will be the same problem as same day registration for the Supervisors.

14:46:50 From Judy Strakalaitis : Senator Sherman, allow colleges to verify qualifications (domicile, citizenship and age) and identity on the absentee registration forms. Reduces risk of rejection. Can be done in advance.

14:47:16 From DEE ANN DECKER : Please please if you have questions about registering voters at UNH Talk to Ann!

14:47:48 From Darryl Perry : Supervisors of Checklists as well as Moderators were invited to provide input to the Committee on May 7

14:47:59 From Judy Strakalaitis : There is no downside. No one is added to the checklist until supervisors examine the application and approve it.

14:48:00 From Robin Burroughs Davis : I don't want to take opportunity away from others who have questions, so I will just add my comment here. Colby-Sawyer has a good partnership with New London and welcome the supervisor to campus regularly to register students. I will work to continue this in a way that involves distancing and perhaps plexiglass. We will encourage students to register early, as we generally do but can make an extra push. I'm also interested in how we can spread out voting - early voting? I will also encourage absentee voting for my students who could pick up a ballot while they are home this summer.

14:48:53 From DEE ANN DECKER : Come on Darryl! We did!! But they are asking a CLERK about Supervisor questions. ASK THE SOURCE! We do not work for the clerks!

14:49:28 From Judy Strakalaitis : Registration events are in-person with an election official. They use in-person forms and affidavits.

14:49:43 From Ann : Thanks, Lorrie. I have my hand raised, but who knows if I will be called on.

14:49:54 From Louise Spencer : Although 3rd party voter education efforts by student groups, LWV, etc are vitally important and greatly appreciated they cannot relieve the responsibilities placed on the state to make sure that voting laws/procedures are do not unduly burden the fundamental right to vote.

14:50:33 From Judy Strakalaitis : Darryl, supervisors and moderators shared time. Most time was towns under 10K.

14:51:53 From Judy Strakalaitis : But the issue is that we did participate and supervisors continue to participate here. But supervisors were not invited to testify on REGISTRATION in college towns. It indicates our expertise is being overlooked. Starting to think it is by design.

14:51:58 From Jean Lightfoot : Ann from Durham is Supervisor

14:52:11 From Judy Strakalaitis : ANN SHUMP!!!

14:52:43 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes Patty. It should be done in a cafeteria.

14:52:45 From DEE ANN DECKER : ANN has her hand raised!!

14:52:57 From Educator Judy Krassowski : EXACTLY right - food is indeed a good combination!

14:53:08 From Ellis Robinson : The new form released last week for requesting to change party only have to have a witness.

14:54:59 From Melanie Levesque : I like the idea of students working as supervisors. they must go through the required training. What a great way to get students involved in civics and be our future poll workers.

14:55:27 From Darryl Perry : parking is horrible at the Police Station as well!

14:55:45 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Patty from Keene is very much right on the money - particularly this year, reaching people - students - with things that are relevant to them is important. That would work - I wouldn't be surprised if her recommendations are echoed

14:58:21 From Jean Lightfoot : Ann is from Durham!!!!

14:58:55 From Lauren Starks, SNHU : Lauren Starks is on for SNHU
14:59:07 From Connie Lane : Are the minutes available to the public?
14:59:15 From Judy Strakalaitis : As a supervisor in towns with districts and multiple polling places, any place considering polling places on campus must be aware of the inefficiencies and potential for violations of election law. I don't think those issues are not well-known or acknowledged. Towns have one elected clerk, one elected moderator and 3 supervisors. Which means in most of the time one polling place has one supervisor as the sole elected official at a polling place. I work at the poll handling half of Derry--12000 voters and 1400 same-day registrants as the only elected official. We have had problems arise, noted by the AG, when the team of election officials is diluted across multiple polling place. .
15:00:33 From Judy Strakalaitis : Students who submit an absentee ballot request will trigger the absentee registration process under current procedures.
15:04:11 From Educator Judy Krassowski : If you go to your Zoom Settings, you can enable Screen Sharing
15:04:20 From Ann : I don't understand the satellite polling place. Is that like another ward? In spite of having some nice big places at UNH, parking is a real issue along with handicapped accessibility.
15:04:24 From Louise Spencer : Not sure why we didn't hear from Ann Schump before moving on?
15:05:14 From Darryl Perry : This is allowed in most other states!
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx#request>
15:06:02 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Seems to me like that could definitely be easily replicated statewide - fantastic job, Luke!
15:06:06 From Ellis Robinson : THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!! This is terrific!
15:06:11 From Melanie Levesque : Nice work Luke and Team!
15:06:14 From Louise Spencer : This is fantastic Luke Cuomo! Thank you...a necessary step forward!!
15:06:32 From Judy Strakalaitis : Issue is accepting an electronic signature.
15:06:34 From Jean Lightfoot : Thank you, Luke! Easy!
15:06:40 From Liz Tentarelli : This looks great. Easy, and still follows NH law by going to the town for processing.
15:06:44 From Vicky Turner : We need the same for the absentee voter registration application.
15:06:48 From Judy Strakalaitis : Appreciate your presentation, Luke
15:06:51 From Sam Rounds : go for it. great work Luke
15:07:36 From Judy Strakalaitis : SOS revised the brand new party change form to exclude electronic signatures.
15:07:37 From Darryl Perry : Gov has allowed electronic notary... not sure why there would be an issue accepting absentee ballot application electronically
15:07:39 From Educator Judy Krassowski : There's your answer - high school students could be pointed in that direction. This could establish an online database - if you need a print out - print it out
15:08:19 From Educator Judy Krassowski : ANYONE could do this - this is such a good beginning with a possible paper trail - please pay attention to what Luke Cuomo has here
15:08:33 From Katy Cutshall : If the IRS allows electronic signatures,

should be good enough for NH SOS.

15:08:38 From Vicky Turner : Make sure the pains and penalties of perjury are visible somewhere on the fill in form

15:08:51 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Ditto, Katy Cutshall :)

15:09:01 From Darryl Perry : SOS website already has a way to check your voter registration, and find your polling place... could easily add this!

15:09:05 From Judy Strakalaitis : We have been discussing that. Pleased Luke was able to make the point in a big way.

15:10:07 From Judy Strakalaitis : Coordinate with the SUPERVISORS

15:10:25 From ab : the name on ballot application must go to the address with the SOC registration address

15:11:07 From Judy Strakalaitis : THANK YOU, GENE!!!! My hero.

15:11:19 From DEE ANN DECKER : Yes Gene!! Thank you!

15:11:22 From Judy Strakalaitis : Gene is correct.

15:11:47 From Sam Rounds : But it is the Supervisors' job to approve and enter data.

15:11:55 From Judy Strakalaitis : You DO NOT REGISTER PEOPLE. YOU ACCEPT APPLICATIONS. ONLY SUPERVISORS REGISTER SOMEONE.

15:12:08 From Marcia Schmidt Blaine : Need to talk with the moderators who technically run the election day.

15:12:10 From Rose Zacher : not all towns allow town clerks to do the voter registration

15:12:12 From Judy Strakalaitis : WRONG

15:12:32 From bonniewinonamackinnon : The final decision about putting a requester on the checklist is that of the supervisors.

15:12:47 From Judy Strakalaitis : Clerks have an ADMINISTERIAL function only

15:12:55 From DEE ANN DECKER : NO not all town clerks enter the data the supervisors so

15:13:07 From DEE ANN DECKER : WE DO WAY MORE THAN APROVALS

15:13:39 From Jean Lightfoot : Supervisors enter the data in Hopkinton. The Town Clerk acts merely as a conduit - checking IDs, etc., but data entry and approval is the Supervisors' job.

15:13:56 From Judy Strakalaitis : Clerks do not examine absentee registrations returned. They pass them along to the supervisors. That is why the applicant has no opportunity for cure, while those applying in person with the TC do.

15:15:08 From Judy Strakalaitis : Supervisors maintain the database. It town clerks are creating and updating records, they are not following the law and the separation of functions.

15:15:28 From Jean Lightfoot : Exactly, Judy.

15:15:41 From DEE ANN DECKER : Correct Judy, and even when done in person information like DOB and DL is frequently missing

15:16:05 From Judy Strakalaitis : I am appalled 3 weeks into this that the role of supervisors is still not understood.

15:16:22 From Ann : Giving credit for voting is bribery!

15:16:24 From ab : that's been done already at CSC in 2016 election

15:17:03 From ab : a quiz grade not a credit

15:17:31 From Melanie Levesque : Good idea Senator Sherman. Credit for Civic activity. That's a bill I put in this year. Maybe not a full college credit

but credit. We need our young people to be invested. After all this is the world they will inherit.

15:17:46 From Judy Strakalaitis : Registration is THE major issue. Absentee voting will require scaling up existing processes. Absentee registration is essentially a new process bc it has been so rare. Registration at the polls presents most risks and will be most difficult to address.

15:17:57 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Senator Sherman, could that be a question then for the NH DoE as well? Could there be a .5 high school credit be applied to seniors or just reserve this for college?

15:18:16 From Educator Judy Krassowski : (Sorry, sticky keys)

15:18:41 From Ann : How does a student get proof that they voted and what about out of state students who want to vote back home?

15:19:16 From Judy Strakalaitis : Appreciate the current presentation. But it reiterates what we have been proposing and our suggestions have not been acknowledged.

15:19:17 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Could a .5 high school credit be applied to seniors participating in a similar course?

15:20:37 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes Betsy. That is why automated voter registration through DMV would lead to a better quality of data and reduce supervisors onerous task of entering registrations as well.

15:21:00 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yay, Betsy!

15:21:34 From Ann : Betsy is right. However, no proofs at all are needed.

15:22:13 From Judy Strakalaitis : Please hear from Durham supervisor ANN SHUMP.

15:22:27 From Jean Lightfoot : I agree, Ann. The no proof is really distressing to us as Supervisors as we input the data.

15:22:36 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Ditto for Betsy as well. There's some really great progress coming out of today's session - Luke, Betsy - thank you!

15:23:39 From Judy Strakalaitis : We have to use a fake Beans Grant place of birth with the overseas voters bc it is not on the form. Otherwise, the applicant cannot be added to the database.

15:24:08 From Darryl Perry : If there's an online form for registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot, there needs to be a button that allows sharing the link on social media with a message "I just registered/requested an absentee ballot"

15:24:23 From Ann : There are certain places in ElectionNet that we can't even continue without certain information that is not on the FPCA.

15:25:20 From DEE ANN DECKER : Fake Place of birth and fake DOB when it's not provided with ANY voter registration where info is missing. And there is NO follow up to collect this information by the state.

15:25:59 From Judy Strakalaitis : Exactly Ann. We are instructed to use "default" info in fields required by the database and may or may not be required by state law.

15:28:09 From Judy Strakalaitis : Town clerks are familiar with the application process. That's routine. They are not familiar with the process of registering or the deficiencies common in evaluating applications.

15:29:09 From Judy Strakalaitis : Thanks, Lauren.

15:29:40 From Judy Strakalaitis : Actually we do want them to help on election day. We will need people to staff registration desparately.

15:30:22 From Judy Strakalaitis : Lauren, please encourage students to

work at the polls. I am certain your district would welcome your assistance at the polls.

15:30:55 From Robin Burroughs Davis : Thank you Brad. Sorry I need to leave for another meeting.

15:31:04 From Judy Strakalaitis : We will have great difficulty recruiting sufficient pollworkers. Please don't say we don't need their help on election day.

15:32:07 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes, Neil. Good info from clerks. Let's hear from supervisors in college towns. They are the ones in charge of registration.

15:33:24 From Ellis Robinson : Does anyone have a record on how many challenges -- to absentee ballots, registration forms, or anything else -- are submitted each year? I appreciate the sincere and dedicated work that everyone involved with elections is doing to assure the integrity of our elections. However, the number of illegal voters each year is regularly less than a handful. I encourage the Committee to keep in mind the value of establishing systems that make sure every eligible voter can vote without barriers. Many thanks for the work of this committee.

15:33:30 From Judy Strakalaitis : Town clerk can appoint assistant town clerks. Can be a college employee. It would be an election-day worker anyway.

15:34:34 From Educator Judy Krassowski : Thank you, everyone - very productive day!

15:36:38 From Judy Strakalaitis : Ellis, the only documented fraud Derry had was with an absentee ballot application, voter admitted signing one on son's behalf and submitting it. Son was out of state grad student. He submitted abs ballot request for himself. Derry TC referred to AG. Parent admitted fraud. AG declined to prosecute.

15:37:25 From Judy Strakalaitis : Please note the fraud was caught and involved an application only. Only one ballot was sent out or cast.

15:38:55 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes Ann!!!

15:39:14 From Judy Strakalaitis : And supervisors register at the polls.

15:40:11 From Judy Strakalaitis : UNH should assist students filling out absentee registration forms.

15:42:14 From Judy Strakalaitis : Thank you, Ann. The issues with the EO last week (not comprehensive, increases risks at the polls) show the need for supervisors of the checklist to have a pro-active formal role before decisions are announced.

15:43:27 From Darryl Perry : are absentee ballot requests normally public?

15:43:28 From Judy Strakalaitis : Internet Explorer is not secure. That's what the state voter database is on.

15:43:44 From Judy Strakalaitis : Organizations already buy checklists, including voter history.

15:44:39 From Darryl Perry : the only way this would be automatically available online is if the website isn't created properly

15:45:01 From Judy Strakalaitis : No they are not, Darryl.

15:45:12 From Darryl Perry : I didn't think so

15:45:26 From Judy Strakalaitis : Dave is spot on. We are not allowed now to accept electronic signatures.

15:45:33 From Melanie Levesque : Can we pass a law to allow this if not in statute?

15:46:04 From Darryl Perry : you could try to pass such a law; don't know

if Sununu would sign it

15:46:32 From Darryl Perry :
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx#request>

15:47:04 From Melanie Levesque : This is just to request an absentee ballot.

15:47:27 From Judy Strakalaitis : Simply suspend the written signature requirement.

15:48:10 From Judy Strakalaitis : Same as suspending in person requirement for party changes.

15:48:52 From Kyri : Is your absentee ballot application request on the open internet?

15:49:01 From Kyri : Is that the question?

15:49:38 From Darryl Perry : Senator Levesque, NCSL says "Twelve states have an online portal that permits voters to request an absentee/mailed ballot: Delaware, D.C., Florida, Louisiana, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Virginia."

15:50:13 From Darryl Perry : West Virginia and D.C. allow voters to download an application form and then return it as a scanned document.

Wisconsin permit voters to send an email with a scan of an absentee ballot request form and proof of ID to their county registrar.

In Arizona many counties provide an online portal, though it is not available on the state level.

Arizona, Florida, Maine, Mississippi, Vermont and Wyoming also accept phone requests.

15:53:59 From Judy Strakalaitis : Providing a secure way for people to return absentee ballots --monitored drop location/times--in the last few days before an election--would reduce need for voters to mail back ballots. The volume of mailed back absentee ballots is in the week before the election.

15:56:27 From Ruth : To Kyri: My understanding is that the application form is available on line, but the voter then has to print it, get a witness to signature, and mail it back. I.e., no way to complete it online and submit it online.

15:56:28 From Kyri : I believe the USPS offers services that make mail voting secure. Is this correct?

15:57:08 From Kyri : Ruth, I was referring to if we used that Dartmouth student's online application request.

15:57:22 From Kyri : Not the current way we do it.

15:57:24 From Judy Strakalaitis : Thanks for the concrete info. Important part of deciding size of ballots and costs.

15:58:13 From Ruth : To Kyri. Luke's idea was great, but I don't think it could be used totally online under current rules.

15:58:36 From Kyri : Do you think it would require a change in statute?

15:58:51 From Judy Strakalaitis : Good questions. Excellent answers. Thank you Anne Cordero for testifying today.

15:59:33 From Trina Stokes : Sorry I am unable to unmute

15:59:38 From Trina Stokes : I do not have the 123

15:59:47 From Ruth : Excellent question, Kyri. Change in statute needed (i.e., legislature, or just new E0)?

16:01:10 From Kyri : Senator Levesque may have thoughts on this, if she's still on.

16:01:28 From Darryl Perry : Could we also change the statute to allow electronic signatures on ballot access petitions?

16:02:15 From Kyri : I think the question is do we need to change statute to use Luke's online absentee ballot application..

16:03:29 From Vicky Turner : Kyri, I would expand that to the absentee registration application. If you can do one, you should be able to do both

16:04:10 From Kyri : Exactly, Vicky.

16:05:00 From Katy Cutshall : Expensive postage but just shows that requiring the voter to pay the costs of postage, would be a big burden for some. I don't think voters should be incurring costs to vote.

16:05:04 From Ruth : IRS has been doing online filings for years.

16:06:37 From Ruth : To Katy: I believe courts in at least some states have invalidated requiring voters to pay for the postage, but I don't remember where this was. It was in an early chat comment.

16:07:52 From Katy Cutshall : It would make sense, Ruth. Seems like a form of poll tax.

16:08:42 From Ruth : Katy: Exactly.

16:12:52 From Vicky Turner : Not all towns have Post Offices

16:13:48 From Megan Brabec : Secure drop boxes are used in a lot of other states, either state-wide or in specific counties.

16:13:50 From Kyri : The USPS is not in a position to offer free services at the moment.

16:16:26 From Judy Strakalaitis : Cost of postage is less than the cost of staffing the polls.

16:19:02 From Vicky Turner : If there is more than one voter at each address, they would still have to make copies of the requests (unless you know how many potential voters are at each address)

16:21:13 From Judy Strakalaitis : The great thing with mass mailing of absentee ballot requests is that anyone who returns it but is not registered is sent the absentee registration packet along with the absentee ballot. The ballot is not counted at the polls until the registration is processed and accepted. If the abs reg is rejected, the ballot must be rejected. If the abs registration is accepted, the absentee ballot goes through the regular processing by moderators. They determine whether to accept or reject the ballot returned from those who are new registrants based on their usual criteria.

16:25:54 From Judy Strakalaitis : You provided fantastic info, Anne Cordero.

16:29:45 From Adam Crepeau : Can you post the new decision making matrix?