



## **Election Preparedness ‘Must-Have’ Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis**

Based on insights and information gathered through dozens of 1:1 and group consultations with partners, allies and experts, DI staff assembled a set of guidelines for safeguarding elections and voting for all people during the COVID-19 health crisis. These principles have formed the basis for our urgent engagement in calling for at least \$2 billion in federal emergency funding to provide voters with an array of safe, fair and accessible options to make their voices heard in the 2020 elections and beyond. If you have any questions about these, please email DI Deputy Director, Jennifer Lamson

- **Expanded Vote by Mail** including:
  - Expansion of federally-funded pre-paid postage (federal \$\$ pay postage for military and overseas ballots already).
  - Acceptance of all ballots postmarked on or before election day.
  - Collection of ballots can be aided by community groups and medical personnel.
  - Voters must be given the opportunity to cure any signature mismatch issues before their ballot is not counted.
  - Voters must be allowed to request an absentee ballot online with no excuse.
  - Extended processing and certification period (eg count may begin before election day).
  - A voter may return ballot to a polling place on election day or deliver to designated drop-off location.
- **Expanded Early Voting** including:
  - Minimum of 15 consecutive days of early voting prior to a Federal election, including weekends.
- **Safe In-Person Voting** including:
  - Cleaning supplies and procedures and disinfected, gloves, physical spacing.
- **Increased access to voter registration** including:
  - Online voter registration and correction of existing registration information.
- **Same day voter registration** including:
  - Eligible citizens can register to vote and cast ballots on the day of a Federal election, including on early voting days.
- **Strengthen the Election Assistance Commission** including:
  - Increased funding, compliance enforcement on policies, and ability to provide guidance on conducting elections during natural disasters and health crises.
- **Accommodations for voters residing on Indian lands** including:
  - Allow Indian Tribes to designate buildings as ballot pick-up and collection locations, at no cost to the Indian Tribes and expand language protections.