

Writing a Letter to the Editor on Why We Need to Protect Our Vote

Even as the country faces the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, many communities are also struggling with the threat the pandemic poses to our democracy. From the last minute decisions to postpone election dates, to the Supreme Court ruling that essentially forced voters to put their health and safety at risk in order to vote in Wisconsin— it is important that we recognize and protect our ability to vote safely and to hold free and fair elections.

As scientists and advocates, it's not enough to push for science-based solutions to public health and environmental challenges—we also need to protect, and sometimes even fix, our democracy so those solutions become more achievable.

That's why **we're calling on you to embrace your role as a scientist and/or a constituent to join the movement to build a healthier democracy**: one that represents the people and allows science to better serve the public and develop informed, equitable policy. One way to spark public dialogue on how this global crisis affects the election is to [write a letter to the editor \(LTE\)](#) of your local newspaper that **highlights the infrastructure that we need to have in place to make sure voters are safe at the polls this November**.

Be sure to [let us know where you submitted your letter](#) so, we can bring published letters with us when we meet with legislators. Check out [more information on our elections work](#) and [how COVID-19 is changing the landscape of this election](#).

Sample Talking Points:

- Include a short “story of self” (one to two sentences) that connects you to the specific issue, so that people know who you are and why you're writing.
- As scientists and advocates, it's not enough to push for science-based policy solutions to public health and environmental challenges—we also need to protect, and sometimes even fix, our democracy so those solutions become more achievable.
- The Senate must act today! We have a real opportunity to protect the vote this election by taking measures to make sure voters are safe as they vote.
- There are important measures needed to protect voters from COVID-19 this election: online voter registration, same-day registration, two weeks of early drop-off voting, vote-by-mail, no-excuse absentee voting, and more can improve access to the ballot and strengthen our democracy.
- Include your ask (*e.g. I am asking all candidates [give their names] running for [include office title here] to share their response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to voting and what they propose should happen to ensure the safety of voters and the protection of voter access, representation, and turnout through primary season and this November*).