

# State of Indiana

# Senate

Senator J.D. Ford  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-9847  
[s29@iga.in.gov](mailto:s29@iga.in.gov)

Committees:  
Commerce and Technology, RMM  
Insurance  
Elections, RMM  
Family and Children Services, RMM  
Pensions and Labor  
Tax and Fiscal Policy  
Utilities, RMM

May 28, 2020

The Honorable Eric J. Holcomb  
Indiana Statehouse

Dear Governor Holcomb:

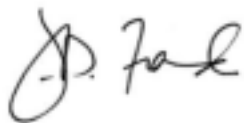
I hope this letter finds you well. I write today one last time before the June 2<sup>nd</sup> primary election with an urgent matter I'd like to bring to your attention. Due to the overwhelming strong and enthusiastic response from Hoosier voters to vote by an absentee ballot, it has been reported that county election board staff are having a hard time keeping up with processing absentee ballot applications.

Further, some folks are just receiving their ballots and if they choose to drop it in the mail, it may arrive post-election day. Now, I am seeing clerks provide guidance to voters to not mail, rather, hand-deliver the ballot. However, not everyone will receive that guidance. The voter should not be penalized for attempting to return their ballot in good faith only to have their ballots thrown out because of delays with the postal service. This is simply wrong and unfair. Therefore, I respectfully request that you issue an executive order to:

- 1.) Allow ballots that are postmarked on or before June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and arrive to the designated election office by noon 10 days post- election, to be counted. This practice is currently state law for our military service members.
- 2.) Allow voters to hand-deliver their ballots to their county election office by 6pm on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the primary election day.

Governor Holcomb, thank you for taking the time to read and consider my letter. It is my hope that every absentee ballot be counted, especially since the voter took the time to have their voice be heard safely in this unprecedented era. I firmly believe these measures will instill confidence in voters that their vote was counted.

Sincerely,



J.D. Ford  
Indiana State Senator  
District 29

CC: The Honorable Connie Lawson, Indiana Secretary of State  
The Indiana Election Commission