

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2021 PETITION on VOTING BY MAIL

The MCW is concerned about the challenges for the next 2021 municipal elections and offers an opportunity for you to exercise your voice.

There is a realistic possibility of COVID-19 being with us for some time. Our next municipal elections will be held in the month of November 2021. Voting in person presents a number of risks in a COVID-19 environment.

- Many polling stations where voting takes place are in senior residences or schools
- As distancing cannot be guaranteed, line-ups to vote pose health risks and contribute to spreading the virus with crowds of people
- Given the risks posed to their health with in-person voting, senior citizens, single-parent families, and the disabled are less likely to exercise their right to vote

Voting by mail is already allowed in the majority of 50 states of the United States and in many countries. It gives those who are uneasy about congregating in what might be a crowded voting station, another way to cast their ballot. Voting by mail however is not just a health measure, it is also a proven, convenient and safe way to boost participation in elections by making it easy to vote.

In order to permit voting by mail for the next municipal election in 2021, the Quebec Election laws will need to be amended.

MNA David Birnbaum, representing D'Arcy-McGee in the National Assembly has provided an official government petition for people to sign urging the government of Quebec to permit voting by mail. The online petition is cogent, well-written, and the procedure is easy.

Please use either the English or French link and follow the instructions. It only takes a few minutes. The more signatures that are gathered the more influence we will have in convincing the government to modify the electoral law to allow this voting option.

ENGLISH: <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-8431/index.html>

FRENCH: <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-8431/index.html>

I thank you for signing this important petition and urge you to share this information with all your networks. In the era of COVID, voting by mail is an important health measure that protects our seniors and the most vulnerable.

Maria Peluso, VP Government Affairs