



2020 made clear that we need as many options to vote as possible to enfranchise everyone. Mobile voting can be one of the options voters choose to make their voices heard.

Democracy works best when everyone is able to participate. We have a history of reimagining elections and how Americans exercise their right to vote. Mobile voting can be used to increase participation, especially for those who face inherent barriers to voting, like military, overseas, and disabled voters.

Some voters need digital options now to exercise their right to vote. The pandemic exposed the risk that millions of voters would be disenfranchised without more options. Some voters need access to digital options now in order to vote independently and privately and be assured their vote will count, especially military and overseas voters, voters with disabilities, and voters in emergencies. It is time we provide a verifiable option to ensure all voters, regardless of geography or ability, can exercise their right to vote.

Digital voting options have been used for more than a decade. The technology to receive, mark, return, and verify ballots already exists and is in limited use for a mix of military, overseas, and disabled voters in 32 states. West Virginia has used mobile voting since 2018, and audits of the digital votes have not exposed any security breaches.

Mobile voting is a digital version of absentee voting. Mobile voting simply replicates the paper absentee voting process on a digital device. Voters must follow all existing requirements, including providing personally identifiable information to verify their eligibility and access the correct ballot, and completing and signing a ballot affidavit. And all votes submitted digitally are processed the same way as mail ballots. Signatures are verified by election officials, and digital ballots are printed onto paper for scanning and tabulation.

Mobile votes can be independently verified. Digital voting technology incorporates end-to-end verification techniques to provide voters with the tools to independently verify that their votes are recorded correctly and received without tampering. And the public can independently verify the system is working correctly.

Security and participation are not a binary choice. We can do both. Every voting method carries risk. But risk can be mitigated with the right precautions. End-to-end verification provides tools to detect any threats and provide a verifiable solution, especially for voters who risk being disenfranchised without more options.

Mobile voting should be an option, not a mandate. Voting methods have always evolved, and increased access to convenient options in 2020 proved that when you add more options, more voters participate. Adding mobile voting to the other available voting options helps to improve, rather than diminish, privacy, promote equity of access, reduce waiting times, and increase voter participation.

Voters are ready, and they deserve the choice. Almost everything related to day-to-day life can be done online now. The question is not if something can be done online, it's when. Faced with the pandemic, 2020 voters were forced to reconsider how they would safely cast their vote. Expanded options helped. Moving forward, mobile voting should be an added option available to a growing number of voters, in an expanded number of states, beginning with military and overseas voters, voters with disabilities, and voters in emergencies right now.