

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
1020 N Street, Room 365
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 860 (Berman) All Mail Ballot Elections -- SUPPORT as amended June 4, 2020

Dear Chair Berman,

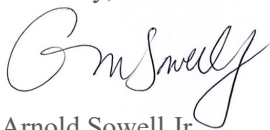
NextGen California is pleased to support your AB 860, which would require a county elections official to mail a ballot to all registered voters as specified before the statewide general election on November 3, 2020.

It is uncertain when the coronavirus pandemic will subside and health experts warn of a second wave of outbreaks in the fall. To ensure a safe and accessible election, California should take steps to allow for voters to vote from their homes, or safely cast a ballot in an in-person polling location if they are unable to vote by mail. In addition, voters with disabilities or non-native English speakers often rely on in-person polling locations to receive assistance to cast their ballot. To protect the safety of these voters and poll workers, AB 860 requires county elections officials to mail ballots to all registered voters and allows for all voters to vote by mail.

AB 860 provides for additional options for voters to cast their ballot in November, thereby allowing California voters to participate in our democracy without having to risk their health.

NextGen California strongly believes that we must remove barriers to voting this November, given the backdrop of the pandemic. We commend your work on this important legislative measure and for the above reasons strongly support AB 860.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sowell Jr.

Executive Director, NextGen California