



**NASS**  
National Association  
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of  
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

September 17, 2019

United States President Donald J. Trump  
C/O Mr. William F. Crozer  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for your willingness to work with Secretaries of State, state election directors and local election officials as your Administration discusses possible withdrawal from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on October 16, 2019.

We understand negotiations continue regarding the U.S. status within the UPU. The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) would like to inform you of the immediate impact of withdrawal on military and overseas voters.

**According to federal law, Chief Election Officials are responsible for ensuring ballots are sent to these voters 45 days before an election; 40 members of NASS and 16 members of NASED serve as their state or territory's designated chief election official. On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, approximately 35 states will have elections. This includes five states in which every voter is eligible to cast a ballot: Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey and Virginia.**

This means ballots for the November 5 elections will need to be sent by September 21, three days before the UPU's decision-making Extraordinary Congress. If the U.S. does withdraw, impacted voters will have limited and/or expensive options for ballot return.

**Beyond the 2019 elections, ballots for the 2020 presidential primaries, Congressional and other state and local races will begin going out as early as December 2019.**

NASS, NASED and their members want to ensure all eligible American citizens are able to easily cast a ballot, especially the brave men and women serving overseas in our Armed Forces.

In order to continue our critical work of sending and receiving military and overseas voters' ballots, NASS and NASED urge the Administration to ensure that, whatever decision is made regarding the UPU, military and overseas voters' access to balloting materials and ballot casting will not be impacted.



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As we wait for the outcome of negotiations, NASS and NASED are working with the U.S. Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and the U.S. Postal Service to discuss possible contingency plans.

Again, NASS, NASED and our members appreciate our continued positive working relationship with your Administration. In the interim, if you or your staff have any questions please feel free to contact Leslie Reynolds, NASS Executive Director at 202-624-3525, or [reynolds@sso.org](mailto:reynolds@sso.org) and Amy Cohen, NASED Executive Director at 240-801-6029, or [acohen@nased.org](mailto:acohen@nased.org).

Sincerely,

Hon. Paul Pate, CERA  
NASS President and Iowa Secretary of State

Keith Ingram  
NASED President and Director of Elections  
Office of the Texas Secretary of State