Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Town Hall
with Special Guests from the Contra Costa County Elections Division

FEBRUARY 18, 2022
U.S. Election Process

1. Laws, Rules, Policies, Procedures
2. Registration
3. By-Mail and In-Person Early Voting
4. Election-Day Voting
5. Ballot Counting
6. Final Results and Auditing

Source: U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Voting in the U.S.

- Ahead of the 2020 General Election, **nearly 88% of eligible Californians** were **registered to vote** – the highest percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote heading into a General Election in the past 80 years.

- **Nearly 67%** of US citizens 18 years and older voted in the 2020 General Election.

- **Almost 17.8 million Californians** cast ballots in the 2020 General Election.

- **46% of voters** said they **voted by absentee or mail-in ballot** in the U.S. 2020 General Election.

- **Nearly 87%** of all votes cast in California for the 2020 General Election were mail-in ballots.

- The Brennan Center for Justice, reviewed elections that had been meticulously studied for voter fraud, and found incident rates **between 0.0003% and 0.0025%**.

- An Associated Press investigation into the 2020 election found **fewer than 475 cases** of voter fraud in six battleground states.
The House has passed:

- **For the People Act (H.R. 1)**
  - Package of *anti-corruption* and *pro-democracy reforms*, including improving access to the ballot box; promoting integrity and security in our elections; guaranteeing disclosure of “dark money” contributions; and strengthening oversight of the campaign finance system.

- **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)**
  - Restores some of the provisions of the original Voting Rights Act that prevent discrimination at the ballot box.

- **Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act (H.R. 5746)**
  - Improves access to the ballot for all Americans, advances commonsense election integrity reforms, protects our democracy from emerging threats, restores the Voting Rights Act to its full force, and protects the rights of Native American voters.
Voting Rights Legislation

Where We Are Now:

- In 2021, Senate Republicans blocked action on 3 major voting rights bills (H.R. 1, H.R. 4, and the Freedom to Vote Act).

- In January 2022, Senate Republicans blocked the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act (H.R. 5746).

- Senate Democrats tried to move ahead with an effort to modify the filibuster, which would allow for the passage of voting rights bills with a simple majority, however, Sens. Manchin (D-WV) and Sinema (D-AZ) joined Republicans in opposition.

- The filibuster has been modified over 160 times before, and it can be modified again to restore the Senate to a place of robust public debate as well as to pass crucial voting rights legislation.
Voting Resources

- California Secretary of State’s Office, Elections Division
  - Elections and Voter Information: [https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections)

- Contra Costa County Elections
  - Registration and Voting Options: [https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/](https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/)

- Mail-In Voting
  - See where your ballot is after you mail it in: [http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov)
  - Or return it to a secure drop box. See the list of Contra Costa County locations: [http://cocovote.us/drop-boxes](http://cocovote.us/drop-boxes)