



**Latino Policy &
Politics Initiative**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMENTS ON VOTE BY MAIL FRAUD**

Statement from Matt Barreto, founder of the [UCLA Voting Rights Project](#), an advocacy research arm of the [UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative](#):

“The pillar of American democracy is a citizen’s right to shape the future of the country through their vote. In a year of unprecedented challenges amid a deadly and contagious pandemic, vote by mail is a safe and secure way of ensuring that all Americans can exercise their constitutional right.

There is data-backed evidence proving that concerns over voter fraud are unfounded. As COVID-19 continues to spread, every decision we make to protect our institutions and processes should be founded on facts and not fear-based politics.

This year promises to bring us closer to the American promise of a participatory and representative democracy by drawing out historically disenfranchised voters, including people of color and young voters. Now is the time to ensure all American will be able to effectively and safely cast their vote, and make sure we are ready for November.”

In April, the UCLA Voting Rights Project released a report, “[Debunking the Myth of Voter Fraud in Mail Ballots](#)”, that compiles existing research on vote-by-mail fraud and confirms that fraud is a rare occurrence. A second report authored by the UCLA Voting Rights Project, “[Protecting Public Health in the 2020 Elections](#),” along with the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Voting Rights Lab, provides detailed policy

recommendations on safe and health elections that can be administered during the COVID-19 crisis.

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About the UCLA Voting Rights Project

The UCLA Voting Rights Project (VRP) is the marquee advocacy project of the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative (LPPI) at the University of California, Los Angeles and is focused on voting rights litigation, research, policy, and training. The UCLA Voting Rights Project addresses monumental and overlooked gaps in the field of voting rights: how to train young lawyers and researchers, support the development of new legal and methodological theories for voting rights cases, and how to advance policy work to ensure that there is a new generation of leaders who are pursuing efforts to guarantee all citizens have equal and fair access to our democracy. The project was founded by Chad W. Dunn, J.D. and Matt Barreto, Ph.D. The UCLA Voting Rights Project is located within the Luskin School of Public Affairs.

To learn more about the UCLA Voting Rights Project, please visit <https://latino.ucla.edu/votingrights>.