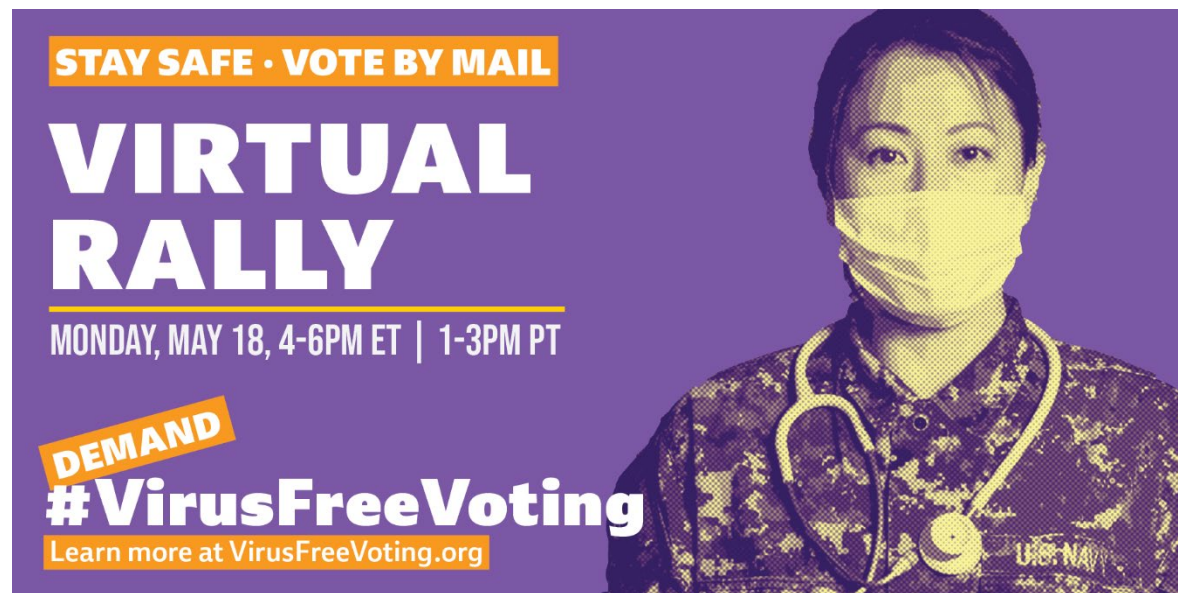


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colleen Toumayan/ 818-800-8836/ colleen@trnindivisible.org

A graphic for a virtual rally. On the right is a photograph of a woman wearing a white surgical mask and a stethoscope around her neck. She is wearing a dark, patterned scrub top with a name tag that says "US: NAV". The background of the graphic is purple. On the left side, there is white text: "STAY SAFE · VOTE BY MAIL" in a yellow box, "VIRTUAL RALLY" in large bold letters, "MONDAY, MAY 18, 4-6PM ET | 1-3PM PT" below it, "DEMAND" in a yellow box, "#VirusFreeVoting" in large bold letters, and "Learn more at VirusFreeVoting.org" in a yellow box at the bottom.

**Grassroots Organizations Across the Nation Launch May 18 Virtual Rally
Urging Congress to Fund #VirusFreeVoting for All**

Greater Los Angeles, CA May 14, 2020- Grassroots organizations announced a nationwide virtual rally to call on Congress to fund **#VirusFreeVoting** for all Americans, planned for **Monday, May 18, 4-6 pm ET and 1-3 pm PT**. The organizations assert that voters should not have to choose between their health and their vote. To highlight their virtual rally, more than 70 concerned voters crowdsourced a [90-second video compilation](#) speaking directly to Congress. In the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic, state governments must institute reforms allowing voters to safely cast their ballot, and states will need extra funding to run safe and secure elections. The [grassroots organizations](#) are calling on Congress to stand up and protect their right to vote by funding \$3.6 billion in the **Heroes Act** relief bill to help states shift all Americans to vote-by-mail. They are also demanding funding for the United States Postal Service to carry out the elections.

Leaders across the nation have voiced how critical #VirusFreeVoting is to our country to ensure that our fundamental rights as a democracy are safeguarded.

"Congress must act so every citizen can vote safely from their home *and* ensure that the United States Postal Service is fully funded. It is absurd that there are already so many obstacles to be able to cast your vote in America. This is a matter of principle." –

Michelle Fowle, Founder & Chair of The Resistance – Northridge, Indivisible; Field Team 6 trainer for California & Maine

"50 million unregistered Americans will need online registration to be able participate in this critical 'Vote at Home' moment. We need Congress to fully fund election support immediately." – **Patti Crane, Field Team 6 leader; Steering Committee member, Indivisible Beach Cities & Indivisible South Bay LA**

"Vote by Mail is the best way to ensure that rural voters and voters with transportation issues can participate in elections. The USPS is vital to these communities for VBM and all other forms of vital communication." – **Martha Shockey, Founder, Indivisible GA-04**

"In Wisconsin, we know all about having to choose between your vote and your health, maybe even your life. Now 67 COVID cases are tied to in-person voting. It must not happen again." - **Linda Kessel, Lead Organizer, Indivisible Madison**

"The majority of my Detroit Indivisible group members come from union households, so we were already standing up for the Postal Service. We are happy to join in this virtual protest to keep them funded and to expand access to vote by mail to everyone. We shouldn't have to choose between our health and our vote!" – **PJ Edwards, leader, LP Indivisible, Detroit**

"We must ensure a fair and safe election. No voter should risk their life to do their civic duty. That is why DemCastUSA is calling for expanded vote by mail, expanded early voting, and making voter registration more accessible to all. We must act now to ensure that every voter can safely cast their ballot and participate in our democratic process." – **Jamie Carter, Director of Partnerships and Outreach for DemCastUSA**

Logistics:

Date: Monday, May 18

Time: 4-6 pm ET | 1-3 pm PT

Action: Organizers ask voters to [call their Senators and Representative](#), [post graphics and videos](#) with the hashtag #VirusFreeVoting on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram during the Virtual Rally hours on Monday, retweet and share the [video compilation](#), repost any items calling for #VirusFreeVoting, send letters to electeds via the Action Network [link](#), and make and share a personal video using this link: FlipGrid.com/VirusFreeVoting. The full digital toolkit is here: VirusFreeVoting.org/Toolkit.

Grassroots Organizations Sponsoring the #VirusFreeVoting Virtual Rally as of May 14, 2020:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 350 South Bay Los Angeles2. Action for a Better Tomorrow Sauk Valley3. Bend the Arc: Champaign-Urbana4. Blue Future5. CBFID Indivisible San Diego6. Code Blue Washington7. Democracy Labs8. Field Team 69. Flip the West10. Heartland Resistance Coalition, an Indivisible group11. Indivisible Beach Cities12. Indivisible Bellingham13. Indivisible CA-3314. Indivisible CA-715. Indivisible Clackamas District 516. Indivisible Columbus District 317. Indivisible Ga 0418. Indivisible Hawaii19. Indivisible IL920. Indivisible Illinois21. Indivisible Madison (WI)22. Indivisible Martha's Vineyard23. Indivisible Media City Burbank24. Indivisible Nob Hill25. Indivisible Petaluma26. Indivisible San Jose27. Indivisible San Pedro28. Indivisible Sonoma County29. Indivisible South Bay LA30. Indivisible St Johns FL31. Indivisible St Johns FL32. Indivisible Vashon33. Indivisible Western Springs and surrounding communities34. IndivisibleKC35. IndivisibleSF36. Livermore Indivisible37. LP Indivisible38. Mainers for Accountable Leadership39. Metairie Indivisible	<ol style="list-style-type: none">40. MoveOn Sacramento41. No Dem Left Behind42. Ohio Progressive Action Leaders43. Our Next 4 Years44. People For the American Way45. Rogan's List46. Secure Elections Network47. SoCal 350 Climate Action48. South Puget Sound Action Network49. The Democratic Coalition50. The Resistance - Northridge, Indivisible51. Venice Resistance <p style="text-align: center;">###</p>
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