

**Future of CA
Elections
Conference**

**Considerations for Expanding
Vote-By-Mail in California's
November Election**

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Our Focus



- urban, rural and suburban counties across the state
- new and infrequent voters
- young people
- communities of color
- poor and working-class neighborhoods

VBM is not a Silver Bullet

**NO ONE SHOULD HAVE
TO CHOOSE BETWEEN
THEIR HEALTH OR
HAVING SAY IN OUR
DEMOCRACY.**

Safe, accessible in-person voting locations are needed to support voters that:

- don't trust voting by mail
- need a replacement ballot for any reason,
- need in-person language or physical assistance,
- do not have an address to receive a vote-by-mail ballot,
- never hear or learn about the shifts to a new, all vote-by-mail model,
- are new to voting and need in-person assistance, and
- want to register and vote on the same-day.

Convergence of Factors for the November Election



- Presidential Election = higher voter turnout, esp. of new and infrequent voters
- COVID-19 Pandemic has disproportionate impact on low-income communities of color
- Government Distrust at an all-time high
- Historic Disenfranchisement

COVID-19 Impact on Communities of Color

NEWS & COMMENTARY

If COVID-19 Doesn't Discriminate, Then Why Are Black People Dying at Higher Rates?

To provide meaningful protection and support for all members of the community, a COVID-19 response must address the pervasive racial injustices at the federal, state, and local level.



USA TODAY

STIMULUS COULD BE AFFECTED
Owe child support?

PLUNGING SALES
Prices should rebound

HISTORIC LAYOFFS' BIGGEST
Minorities bear the brunt

News Sports Entertainment Life [Money] Tech Travel Opinion

MONEY

Historic layoffs take biggest toll on Blacks, Latinos, women and the young

Charisse Jones USA TODAY

Published 3:26 p.m. ET May 8, 2020 | Updated 4:08 p.m. ET May 8, 2020

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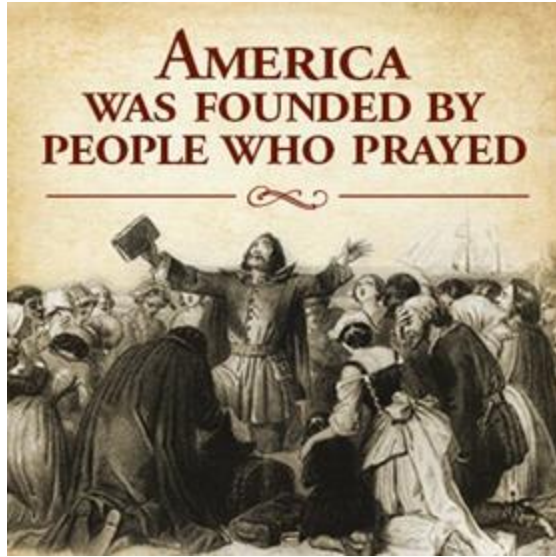
The coronavirus pandemic is hitting black and brown Americans especially hard on all fronts



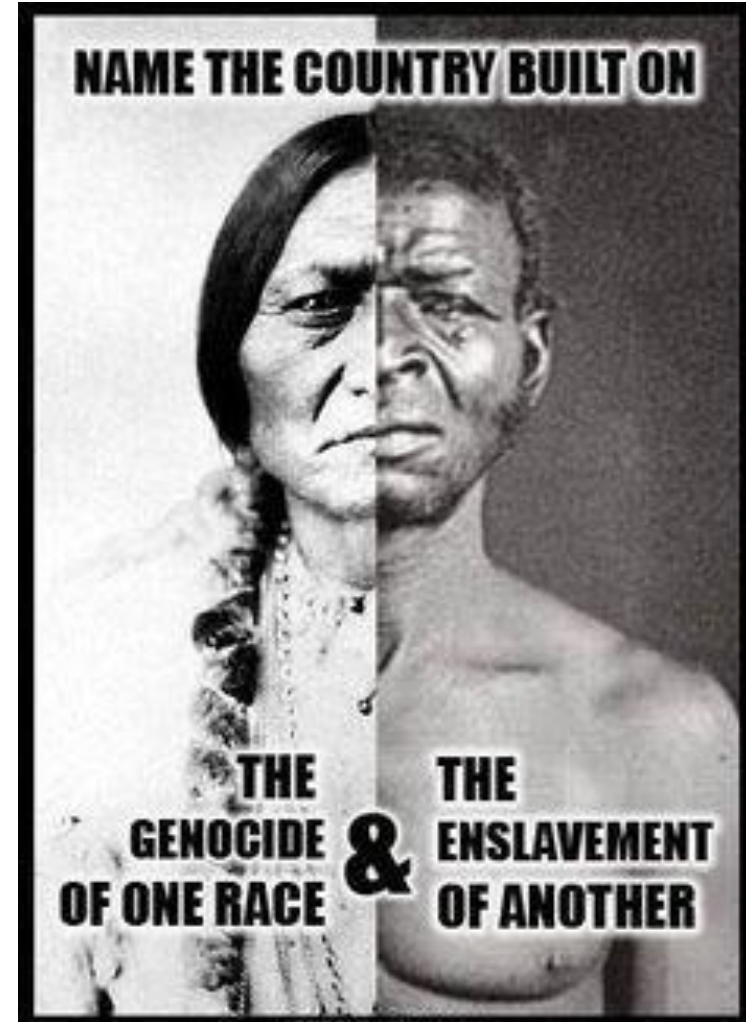
By [Harmeet Kaur](#), CNN

Updated 8:43 PM ET, Fri May 8, 2020

Two Realities = Two Americas



VS.



Historic Disenfranchisement

- 13th Amendment (1864)
- Jim Crow (1865-1965)
- Vagrancy Act (1855)
- Bisbee Deportation (1917)
- Operation Wetback (1950s)
- Voter ID laws (2020)
- Purging of voter rolls (2020)
- Misinformation (2020)
- Long lines (2020)
- Elimination of early voting (2020)
- Voter intimidation
- Voting Rights Act overturning (2013)
- Mass Incarceration

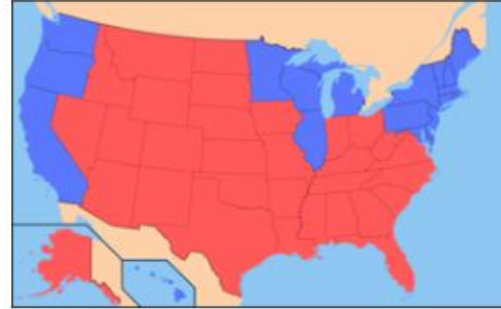


8 of the **12** states with the largest Hispanic population growth between 2000 and 2010 passed laws making it harder to vote.

7 of the **11** states with the highest African American turnout in 2008 have new voting restrictions in place.

Societal Dynamics fueling Government Distrust

- Division: political, racial, socioeconomic
- Increasing White Supremacy
- Policies targeting specific communities
- Gerrymandering



CITIZENSHIP & THE CENSUS

Implications on our Work

- Early education on and conversion to VBM
- Education on health and safety protocols at in-person voting locations
- Partnerships between election officials and CBOs re: placement of voting locations
- Trusted messenger strategies to ensure infrequent voters know about the upcoming changes and their options to cast a ballot