



# SUSTAINING CAPITALISM

A series focused on nonpartisan reasoned solutions in the nation's interest to the central challenges we face in order to provide prosperity for all Americans.

## Four Actions Business Leaders Can Take to Help Achieve an Accessible, Safe, and Credible Election

Transparent, safe, accessible, and credible elections are fundamental to the confidence of US citizens in their government and its leadership, and to the long-term health of the US economy. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, business leaders can take several concrete steps to assist with the elections, better serving their employees, customers, neighbors, and the nation.

### 1 Communicate new voting rules, options for voting, and voting procedures to employees and customers, including providing reminders to help employees vote early

Getting accurate information to would-be voters will be critical, especially as the pandemic has driven changes in how and where many Americans will vote, while increasing concerns about whether public health risks are being addressed. Businesses may be uniquely positioned to provide trusted, nonpartisan, locally accurate information to their employees and customers, including highlighting critical deadlines for registering to vote and requesting or returning absentee ballots and promoting up-to-date information on local polling locations and early voting hours.

### 2 Support other election needs, including through the donation of needed infrastructure, technology assistance, supplies, and services

The changing physical requirements in polling places will likely drive new or increased demand for items like personal protective equipment (PPE), Plexiglas dividers, and printing services. In the unusual

circumstances of 2020, businesses able and willing to donate in-demand supplies could be a critical component of the election effort. Businesses can also consider donating needed infrastructure and technology assistance, to ensure the efficient and timely conduct of the election.

### 3 Offer employees time off to serve as election volunteers

Election officials will need an unprecedented number of poll workers to successfully staff polling places this fall, instituting new pandemic-related procedures and helping to replace older volunteers or others who are at higher risk. Companies that cannot afford to pay employees to volunteer at the polls should still consider providing protected unpaid leave for workers who are willing to volunteer, including during early voting.

### 4 Offer paid time off to help employees vote safely, including for early voting or to drop off absentee ballots

Businesses can help meet the critical challenge of reducing crowding at polling sites by granting employees time and flexibility to vote. Businesses should seek to expand on the estimated 44 percent of employees who were offered paid time off to vote in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

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For more details on these recommendations, see: [2020 Election: Achieving a Safe, Accessible, and Credible Election during COVID-19](#)

<sup>1</sup>"2018 Employee Benefits: The Evolution of Benefits," Society for Human Resource Management, June 19, 2018.



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