



**PRESS RELEASE :** Contact: Thomas Hach at [freeohionow88@gmail.com](mailto:freeohionow88@gmail.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FREE OHIO NOW ORGANIZES NOVEMBER 2020: IN-PERSON VOTING AND NO FACE MASK MANDATE RALLIES**

Cleveland, Ohio, August 11, 2020 – Free Ohio Now announces Rally Around Ohio on Saturday, August 22 at 11 am to advocate for IN-PERSON VOTING on November 3, 2020 and for no mask mandate. For rally details and specific times, go to [freeohionow.com](https://www.freeohionow.com).

**FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE AT STAKE:** One of the uniting principles throughout American history has been the belief in and support of fair and free elections. Even at this time of strong disagreement, as well as concern about medical issues, there is still [broad support](#) for VOTING IN-PERSON to ensure fair and free elections!

**IT IS A CIVIC DUTY:** Tom Hach, Free Ohio Now Core Team Member stated, “At this time of significant dissent on the future course of our country, it is critical everything possible be done to give all people confidence and faith the November 3, 2020 election will be conducted fairly and that the final results can be trusted, even by those who do not win. An essential piece in building the faith will be conducting IN-PERSON VOTING. To support the unifying goal of a free and fair election, Free Ohio Now will be working to recruit as many people as possible to operate the polls on November 3, 2020 to enable in-person voting.”

**ISSUES WITH MAIL-IN BALLOTS:** Many issues regarding mail-in ballots have been documented in recent media stories. Mail-in ballots are rejected at a higher rate because the ballots are [not signed or because they are sent too late](#). Recent primary elections have also demonstrated issues with local boards of election being able to get the absentee ballots to the [correct address](#), as well as problems with effectively processing [high volumes](#) of absentee ballots in a timely manner. The New York primary was conducted on June 23, and as of August 3, [two congressional](#) races were still undecided. Every election is important but the November 2020 is more important than usual , and Ohioans must have the option of voting in-person.

**FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS: WHAT IS NEEDED:** In order to operate the polls in all 88 Ohio counties on November 3, Ohio Secretary of State Frank La Rose has stated about 35,000 people are needed. Though this may sound like a large number, this is less than 1% (0.3%) of Ohio's 11.6 million in population. Additionally, this is not a volunteer position, poll workers are paid about \$135 for their time and effort. Too much is at stake for our state and country for there not to be an option of IN-PERSON VOTING on November 3, 2020.

### **MASK MANDATE:**

The Center for Disease Control, US Department of Health and the Surgeon General [all](#) have stated wearing masks is not effective in preventing a virus which has already infected this many. An [article](#) in the New England Journal of Medicine also makes clear face masks are of little use in a typical public setting where there is no significant face-to-face exposure. The focus of any state mandate should be on those who are most vulnerable, which includes those above 70 years with at least one health issue, and not on the healthy.

Free Ohio Now asks that all participants in the RALLY AROUND OHIO gatherings use their personal discretion in adhering to recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines. This is especially important for those who may be at high-risk.

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