

OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES

2020

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

**Voter Mobilization Part 1:
Early Voting and Vote-by-Mail**

August 20, 2020

General Logistics



- We will allow for time at the end of today's webinar for questions. If you have a question, please use the Q&A box in your webinar browser.
- We will provide access to both a video recording and a copy of today's slides to all participants following the webinar.
- If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, please send an email to Brooke Schipporeit at bschipporeit@nlihc.org.

Agenda



1. Introduction
2. Overview of Our Homes, Our Votes
3. Update on COVID-19 Advocacy
4. Become an Affiliate of Our Homes, Our Votes
5. Housing Providers Council
6. Early Voting
7. Vote-by-Mail

Presenters



Joey Lindstrom
Field Director
National Low Income Housing Coalition
@JosephLindstrom



Maria Bruno, J.D.
Civic Engagement Coordinator & Policy Analyst
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
@COHHIO

INTRODUCTION

Automatic voting machines with privacy
screens. Introduced in June, 1998
by the Oakland Municipal Clerks

**VOTE
HERE**

Engaging Voters and Candidates



Our Homes, Our Votes is NLIHC's voter engagement effort focusing on increasing voter registration and turnout among low-income housing renters and advocates.

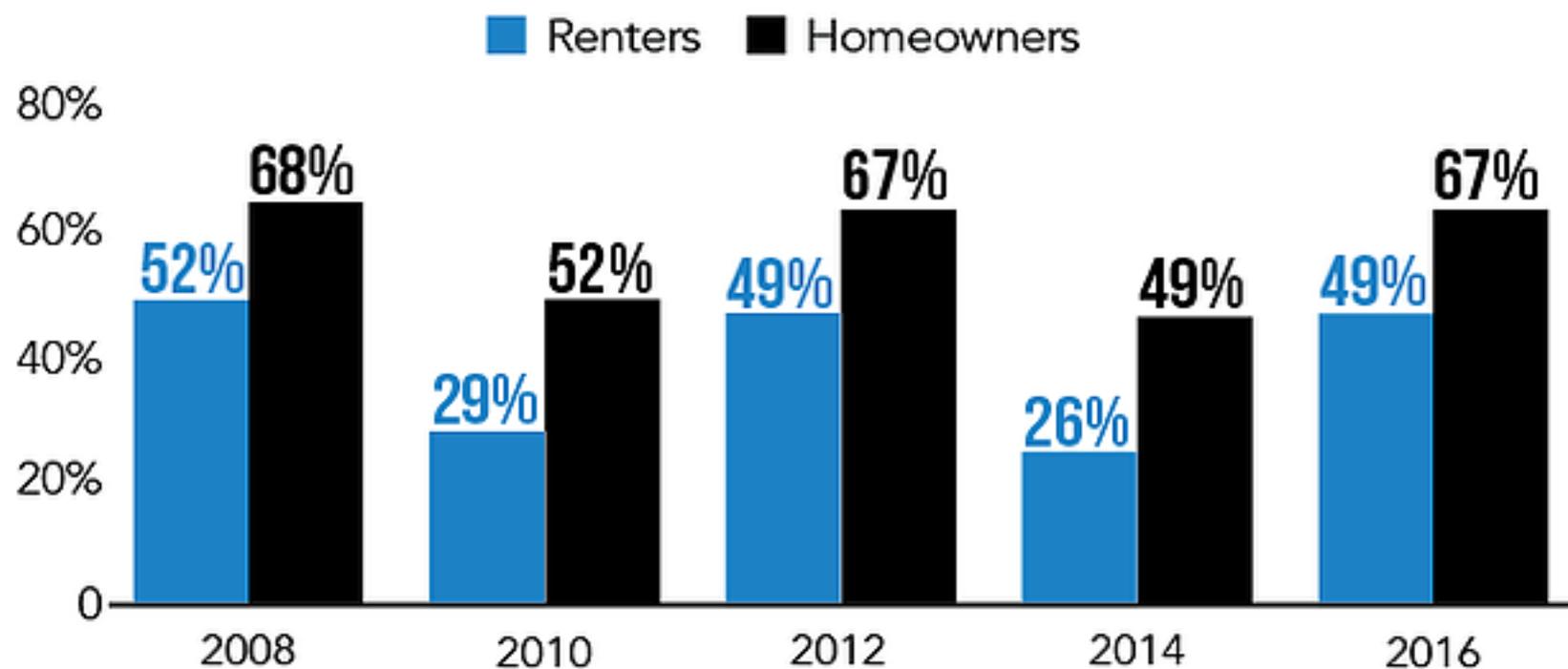
REGISTRATION

MOBILIZATION

I AM A
RENTER
AND
I VOTE

EDUCATION

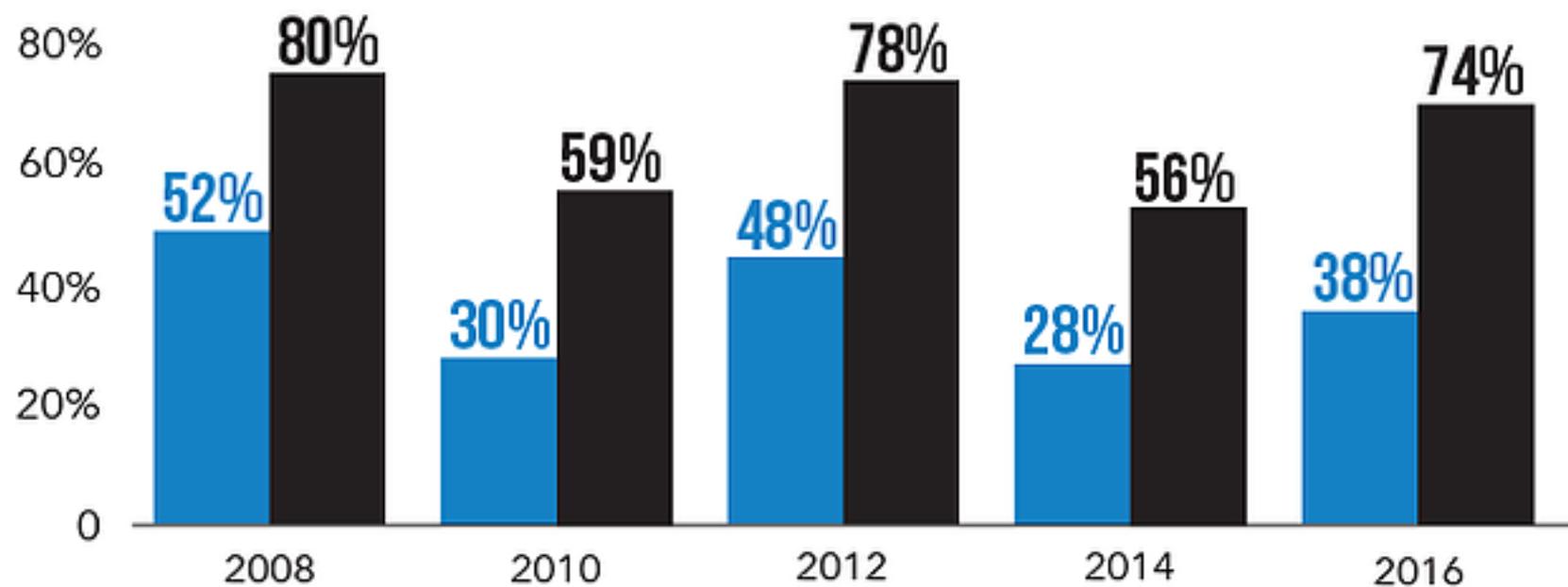
U.S. CITIZENS WHO REPORTED VOTING IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS BY HOUSING TENURE (2008 TO 2016)



Source: November 2006-2016 Current Population Survey data

U.S. CITIZENS WHO REPORTED VOTING IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS BY FAMILY INCOME (2008 TO 2016)

■ Under \$20K ■ Over \$100K



Source: November 2006-2016 Current Population Survey data

83%

of the public agrees that elected officials are not paying enough attention to the cost of housing and the need for more affordable housing.



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76%

say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that has a detailed plan for making housing more affordable.

Source: Public Opinion Poll Feb 25-Mar 4, 2019 Hart Research Associates

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★★★★

COVID-19 Response



Call to Action!

COVID-19



The Issue: Additional resources are needed to mitigate harm from the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent a wave of evictions and homelessness

The Asks:

1. \$100 billion in emergency rent assistance
2. Comprehensive, national eviction moratorium
3. \$11.5 billion in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to support the work of homeless service agencies

Day of Action!

August 24



#GetBacktoWork

1. **NLIHC is partnering with Coalition on Human Needs to call on Congress to return to negotiations.**
2. **Day of Action resources**
 - All available on website
 - Media guidance and sample tweets
 - Story banking form
 - Talking points on policy asks
 - Background on rental assistance programs
 - Housing needs in your states
 - Polling data on support for a housing intervention

Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act



Senate Bill 3529

- Introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Ron Wyden (D-OR)
 - 36 co-sponsors currently, all democrats
- Ensures that all voters in all states have the option to request absentee balloting
- Requires at least 20 days of early voting in all states
- Provides \$3 million to Election Assistance Commission to begin implementing all requirements of the act

Shifting Rules for Voters



Stay aware of what's happening in your state

- Webpage for each state is up at www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org
- NLIHC will be updating in an ongoing manner
- Share information about activities in your state

Things You Need To Know

1. Primary Date:

June 9

2. Presidential Primary Date:

March 10

3. Polling Times:

7 a.m. to 9 a.m.; close between 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

4. Is Early Voting Available:

Early voting is not available in North Dakota

5. Can I Vote by Mail:

Yes, You can register [here](#).

Join as an Affiliate

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Benefits of Joining Our Homes, Our Votes

- Swag package
- Use of the logo and images on co-branded materials
- Amplification through media engagement
- Guidance and assistance from NLHC staff



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Early Voting & Vote-by-Mail

VOTE
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200 Million Americans Can Vote Early

But, voting early rules -- for by mail and in person voting -- vary across the country and cause confusion

Voting Early



Ensures that Americans don't have to choose between their health and civic duty



And that busy schedules or long lines on election day don't prevent voters from casting their ballot

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Voter Registration is only half the story

70% of Americans are registered to vote,
but only 50% of Americans turned out in the last
midterm election



Americans like voting early



- ✓ 40% of Americans already vote early
- ✓ Voters like options
- ✓ Americans respond well to safe and secure elections
- ✓ Vote early options are increasing rapidly with widespread bipartisan support from election officials

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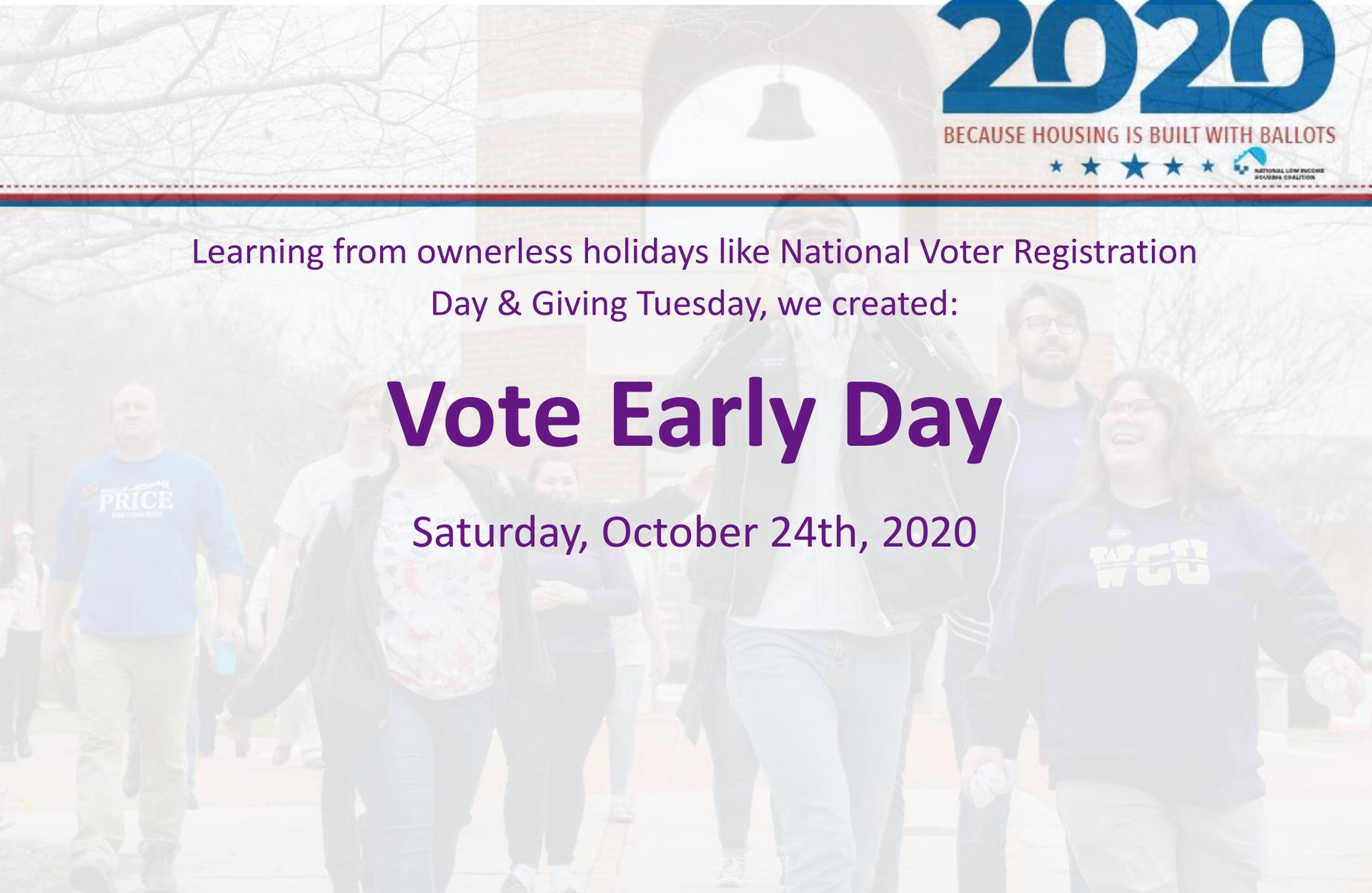
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Learning from ownerless holidays like National Voter Registration Day & Giving Tuesday, we created:

Vote Early Day

Saturday, October 24th, 2020





A voterization initiative of COHHIO (Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio)

Targets low-income and disenfranchised Ohio communities

Nonpartisan & 501(C)3 compliant

Voting options



1. In person, early
2. In person, on Election Day
3. Via Vote by Mail (absentee voting)

How COVID19 affects the 2020 Election



- Precinct worker shortage
- Increased stress on mail-in voting
- Increased voter confusion over rules, dates, locations
- Potential short-notice changes to procedure or operations

How it affects Ohio Votes operations

- Adapt to digital options for outreach
- Increased training to organizers
- Moving target for planning purposes
- Ride to polls – had to cancel for primary, likely cancel or heavily modify for general

Rules for helping voters vote



Can we pay for postage?

- This is an open question of law. We believe it is legal to provide a service that includes providing postage for correspondence to government offices and/or the Board of Elections, but others disagree

Can we mail or drop off ballots for voters?

- Anyone may return an absentee ballot request form, but only immediate family members may return absentee ballots

Can we provide a ride to vote?

- Yes!

Considerations when promoting Vote by mail



PROS

- Can vote without interacting with poll workers and other voters
- Can take care of your ballot request now (at least in Ohio) and get ahead of the “curve”
- Making a plan to vote increases voter turnout. This is one way to do that
- Lower ID barrier (at least in Ohio)

CONS

- Low degree of trust in mailing system
- Onerous task of getting to a drop box or finding postage stamp & envelope
- People might think in-person is no longer available
- More steps in the process and more chances for mistakes – and therefore more volunteer training
- The voter doesn't always know if they have been disenfranchised
- Voter might change her mind about voting by mail

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Questions?

VOTE
HERE

The background image shows a museum exhibit. On the left, there is a chair with a dark, perforated backrest. To the right, a white sign on a black stand reads "VOTE HERE" in large, bold, black letters. The sign also features a stylized graphic of a wavy line above the text. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue banner containing the main text.

Third Thursdays at Three Webinar and Podcast Series

Upcoming Training and Discussion Topics



1. Voter Mobilization Part 2 – Protecting against voter intimidation (September 17, 2020)
2. Election Day! Getting Out The Vote (October 15, 2020)
3. Holding candidates to their promises (November 19, 2020)

Other webinar recordings available at
www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/webinars

It's never been easy.

Our commitment is unwavering.

**Join us and amplify the voices of
the poorest families in need.**

**OUR MEMBERS
ARE OUR STRENGTH.**



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JOIN TODAY
WWW.NLIHC.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

Contact Us

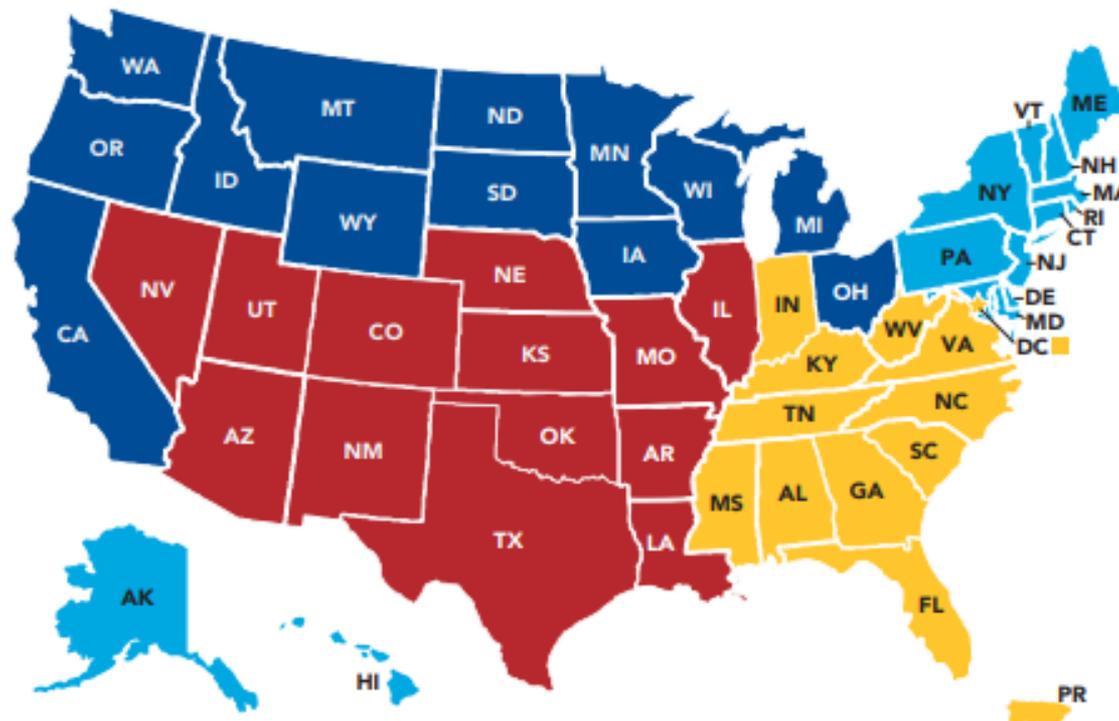
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