



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Robert D. Manfred, Jr.
Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

May 27, 2021

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

While it seems like Spring Training just ended, voting for this summer's All-Star game is fast approaching. We have fond memories of voting for our favorite players at stadiums in our youth and handing the ballots down the rows as ballpark staff collected them. Voting is an integral part of the All-Star game as it is to our democracy. The previous year posed many challenges to administering safe and secure elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. From the increased use of absentee and mail ballots to poll worker shortages and the challenges of in-person voting (such as social distancing, sanitizing voting machines, and securing personal protective equipment for election workers), state and local officials met those challenges in heroic fashion, allowing an historic number of Americans to vote. Their efforts deserve recognition, and Major League Baseball is in a unique position to honor them at its annual All-Star game.

To be sure, partners like MLB supported many efforts to help Americans vote in 2020. The League and individual franchises provided voting resources to educate Americans about registering and voting. Additionally, many teams, like the Orioles, Red Sox, Cubs, Dodgers, Mets, A's and Nationals used their stadiums and facilities as polling locations or vote centers, allowing for greater social distancing and access to a familiar and central location. We also appreciated teams promoting National Poll Worker Recruitment Day and the importance of serving as a poll worker. Here in Washington, the Nationals also promoted the "vote.gov" website for voters to register, check their status, find polling locations, and look up other information on the voting process. Finally, individual players took time during their offseason to record helpful videos to educate Americans about voting.

We applaud these efforts and urge you to consider a recognition ceremony for election workers during the All-Star game, which would be similar to the National Football League's public display of gratitude for healthcare workers during February's Super Bowl. Of course, we can never thank healthcare workers enough for what they have done during this pandemic, but many Americans deserve our recognition and appreciation. To us, the All-Star game and its connection to fan voting is a perfect forum to recognize the unbelievable efforts of election workers to protect the health of voters and our democracy through a safe, secure, accessible, and accurate election.

As *American City & County* noted in recognizing the collective efforts of county clerks and other election workers with their annual Exemplary Public Servant of the Year award, the "fortitude,

perseverance and sacrifice” of election officials “quite literally pulled democracy back from the precipice, and for that we all owe you a debt of gratitude.”

A public recognition ceremony of election workers during the MLB All-Star game can help sustain attention to the importance of voting for fans of the game, while All-Star week festivities could provide more educational opportunities and a reminder to voters and others that elections occur more than once every four years.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair
U.S. Election Assistance Commission



Ben Hovland, Commissioner
U.S. Election Assistance Commission