

The State of the Literature

In this chapter I will go through the existing literature on Vote-By-Mail (VBM). I will define what Vote-By-Mail, or VBM, *is*; I will then summarize the expectations that researchers have of the effects of VBM on turnout, based on existing theories of electoral participation. I will continue with a summary of previous quantitative research on the effects that VBM and similar policies have had on turnout. I will conclude with some more general comments on the available data, and literature concerning the most commonly used quantitative methods.

What is VBM?

The Calculus of Voting

Why Turnout Matters

Theories of Voting

How they Apply to VBM

Previous Study Results

General Results

The Gerber Piece

Why Voter Registration Files?

Inaccuracy of Survey Data

The Importance of VRF

Common Methods Used and Problems Encountered

Methods

Issues