Resolution
The Right to Vote

Whereas the right to vote is fundamental to democracy; and

Whereas the United States, the world’s oldest continuous democracy, has expanded the franchise throughout her history; and

Whereas voter participation in the United States is below that of other industrial democracies; and

Whereas older Americans often require extra assistance in voting; and

Whereas a record 158.4 million Americans, or 66% of those registered, voted in the 2020 Presidential election, with an unprecedented 46% of voters casting their ballots by mail due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas there has been an increase in attempts to restrict the right to vote through unduly burdensome identification requirements such as state-issued photo identification, the elimination of drop boxes to return mail ballots, and restrictions to in-person early voting; and

Whereas many older Americans do not have or cannot afford to obtain birth certificates, passports, drivers licenses, or other forms of state issued identification; and
Whereas states are reducing the number of polling locations leading to long lines and making voting more difficult; and

Whereas measures to combat these anti-democratic policies have found little success; and

Whereas Representative John Sarbanes of Maryland introduced the For the People Act, H.R.1, which passed the House on March 3, 2021; and

Whereas a similar bill, S.1, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, but was unable to advance as it failed a Senate cloture vote on June 22, 2021.

Whereas the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4, which would restore the Voting Rights Act, passed the House of Representatives on August 24, 2021 but failed to obtain cloture in the U.S. Senate on November 3, 2021; and

Whereas the Alliance opposes any policy that will erect barriers or make it more difficult for all Americans, especially older Americans, to exercise their constitutional right to vote; and

Whereas the Alliance has been actively engaged in litigation since 2020 in 9 states to ensure seniors can cast their ballots without undue burdens and have their votes counted; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports:

- The expansion of early voting, vote by mail, and the use
of no excuse absentee ballots; and
• The ability to vote without burdensome identification requirements; and
• The availability of ballots for the disabled and visually impaired; and
• Polling places that are accessible for Americans with disabilities; and
• Same day voter registration; and
• Secure ballot drop boxes be added in every state and that they be available 24 hours a day.