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## Voting (or not voting) from abroad



An analysis of the debate about [mail-in balloting from abroad](#) is more difficult than it first appears. On the surface it's a simple vote grab. Statistics show that Czechs living abroad overwhelmingly cast their ballots in the last presidential and parliamentary elections for the current president and current coalition parties, so expanding the number of people who can vote from abroad would theoretically increase the overall number of absentee votes without changing the breakdown very much, thereby giving the incumbents an edge. It's easy to see why ANO and SPD oppose this. Yet what the cabinet [doesn't tell people](#) is that Czechs living abroad would still have to [register to vote](#) (only once), which requires evidence of residence. This would presumably limit the number of mail-in balloters significantly. Every vote counts, so the vote-grab incentive remains, but this makes the current debate look more like just another way for the two sides to rouse their voters and to divide society even more.

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