

THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE.



WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED.

THEY TRY TO SILENCE ME. SCARE ME. SUPPRESS ME. ERASE ME.

AND STILL I VOTESM

- ✓ And Still I Vote is a campaign of the Leadership Conference and All Voting is Local.
- ✓ The Leadership Conference and All Voting is Local work to eliminate needless and discriminatory barriers to voting before they happen, to build a democracy that works for us all.
- ✓ With our coalition partners, we inform the public, decision-makers, and the media about barriers to voting and advocate for policies that expand the right to vote, especially in communities of color.

AND STILL I VOTESM

GOALS for this training:

- ☑ Understand the history of voter suppression and what voter suppression looks like today
- ☑ Create a sense of urgency around voting in the time of Covid and heightened racial injustice
- ☑ Gain an understanding around mechanisms to further voting rights
- ☑ How we can fight for voting rights with advocacy tactics to ensure greater access to voting in the time of Covid

RIGHT TO VOTE

Voting is “regarded as a fundamental political right, because [it is] preservative of all rights.”

– *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356 (1886)



WHY FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE?

THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE



VOTING DURING COVID AND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS



VOTING IS = POWER





MOVEMENTS EXPANDED ACCESS TO THE VOTE

Only with years of struggle and a demand for inclusivity was the right to vote expanded to include women, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinxs, Native Americans, voters with disabilities and young voters.

WOMEN FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE



✘ Elizabeth Cady
Stanton



✘ Ida B. Wells



✘ Susan B. Anthony

WOMEN FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE



✘ Mary Church Terrell

✘ Louise McDonald Herne
(Wakerakatste)

✘ Adelina "Nina"
Otero-Warren

The 19th Amendment

Aug. 26th, 1920



Nine African American women gather for the Banner State Woman's National Baptist Convention in 1915.

Selma - 1965



White House Protests



Bloody Sunday
March 7, 1965

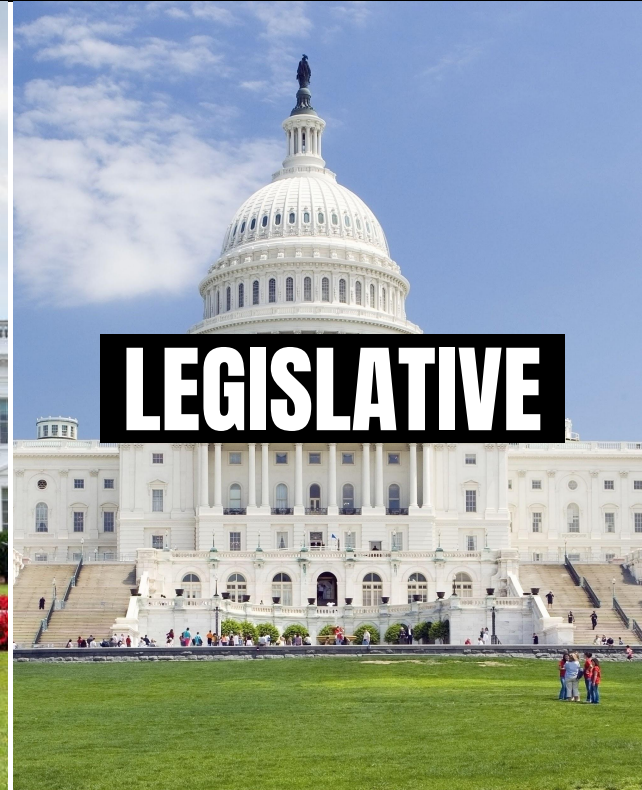


Voting Rights Act

Aug. 6, 1965



ASSAULTS ON ALL FRONTS





SHELBY CO. V. HOLDER (2013)

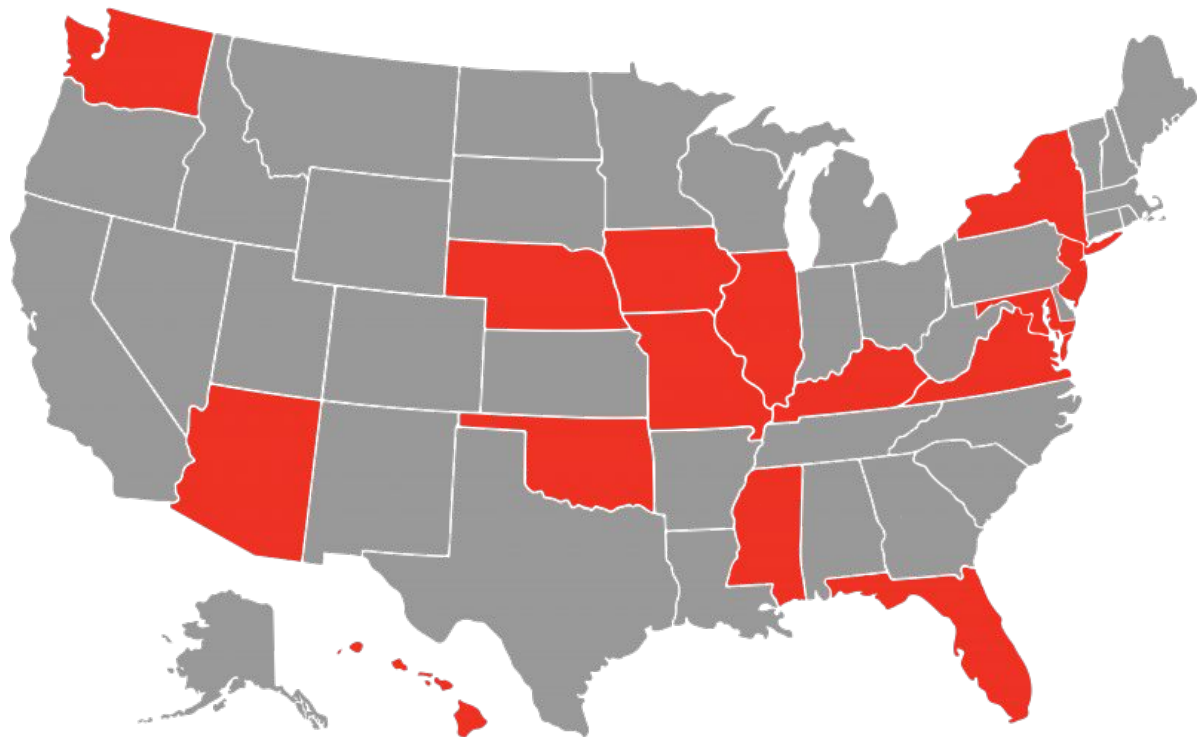
U.S. Supreme Court struck the coverage formula for Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, blocking its protections.

MOVING BACKWARDS OVER LAST DECADE

- ✘ 200 restrictive voting bills introduced in 40 states
- ✘ Largest rollback of voting rights in a century
- ✘ 25 new voting laws on the books
- ✘ Disproportionately impact voters of color

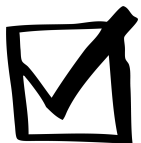
CURRENT VOTING RESTRICTIONS

Restrictive Bills Prefiled or Introduced in 2020



BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

February 2020



NATIONAL POLICY ADVOCACY

- ☑ **HEROES Act** - support additional \$3.6 billion in funding and strong policy mandates for states to have safe and accessible elections in 2020.
- ☑ **Restore the Voting Rights Act** - reinstate oversight of discriminatory voting measures.

BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT IN 2020

- ✘ COVID-19
- ✘ Getting and Staying on the Rolls – voter registration and voter purges
- ✘ Voter ID and Proof of Citizenship requirements
- ✘ Moving/Consolidation and Closure of Polling Places
- ✘ Accessibility Issues
- ✘ Criminal Record Exclusions
- ✘ Online voter suppression (misinformation and disinformation)
- ✘ Voter Challenges and Intimidation at the Polls
- ✘ Counting the ballots - Provisional and Absentee Ballots

VOTING DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

- ✘ People should be able to vote and protect their public health, even amid a pandemic.
- ✘ We do not have to choose between public health and a functioning democracy.
- ✘ The choices elected officials, regardless of party, make now will determine not just how we weather the outbreak of this virus, but also the kind of democracy we will have when it is over.

So what can we do?

- ADVOCATE
- EDUCATE & COMMUNICATE
- PROTECT THE VOTE

ADVOCACY



PEOPLE ARE
FIGHTING
BACK

ADVOCACY TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- I. Voter Registration
- II. Voter Education
- III. Strategic Communications
- IV. Outreach to Elections Officials
- V. Legislative Advocacy
- VI. Election Protection
- VII. Movement Building and Ballot Initiatives

TAKE ACTION!

WWW.Andstillivote.org

VOTER REGISTRATION

- ☑ Know Your Voter Registration Deadline
- ☑ Does your state allow:
 - ✓ Same Day Registration
 - ✓ Online voter registration
- ☑ Educate friends, family, neighbors on voter registration
- ☑ Connect with voter advocacy groups for assistance with advocacy

VOTER EDUCATION

- ✓ Incorporate voter education into every activity, outreach and GOTV activity
- ✓ Polling place lookup; registration lookup
- ✓ Engage movement groups on the ground to incorporate voter education into their advocacy

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

- ☑ Story collection
- ☑ ✓ Rooted in lived experiences of the community in voting
 - ✓ Community-led; community dictated
 - ✓ Uplift people's stories and experiences voting
 - Op-Eds
 - LTEs
 - Social media outreach

MESSAGING

Our primary goal is to **shine a spotlight and activate our audiences to fight against discriminatory barriers to the ballot in their local communities.**

Talking About Voter Suppression

Say This: “barrier to the ballot” “discriminatory barriers”
“needless barriers”

Not This: “voter suppression”

Why: The term does not help most listeners understand the problem and frames a story in a losing argument

CONTACT ELECTION OFFICIALS

- ☑ Contact local officials to demand vote by mail and safe, in person voting options
- ☑ Virtual meetings with election officials - should include several key community partners; organized and led by impacted communities

USPS Issue

- ✓ **On August 22nd, in the US House of Representatives, 23 Republicans joined 231 Democrats to pass H.R 8015 which addressed widespread fears about potential sabotage to mail in voting by**
 - ✓ Providing \$25 billion in direct emergency relief for USPS
 - ✓ Requiring that all official election mail be treated as “first class mail”
 - ✓ Prohibiting the removal of mail sorting machines and mailboxes and reversing any already implemented changes that could delay mail delivery



Messaging- USPS Issue

- ☑ **Despite this progress, pressure needs to be sustained to ensure that these changes become law. Tell your elected officials that-**
 - We must be sure that every eligible voter can vote safely and securely (whether in person or by mail)
 - The USPS is the only entity that can handle vote by mail and postal workers have been handling these ballots effectively for many years. The USPS handles three billion pieces of mail in the week before Christmas. Managing vote by mail won't be a problem- as long as the current administration lets postal workers do their job
 - Elected officials must meet this demand for safe and accessible voting



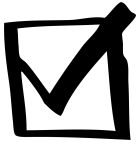
ELECTION PROTECTION:

**ELECTION
PROTECTION**



1-866-OUR-VOTE

(1-866-687-8683)



TOP 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

1. Share reliable and accurate information about voting - www.andstillivote.org
2. Tell election officials in your state and community to ensure access to the ballot during the pandemic
3. Tell 5 friends to make a plan to vote: in person or by mail, before Election Day, and safely!
4. Tell your voting story - On Instagram, Facebook or Twitter? Tell your story
5. Become an election protection volunteer or poll worker

Become a Poll Worker!

☑ WHY?

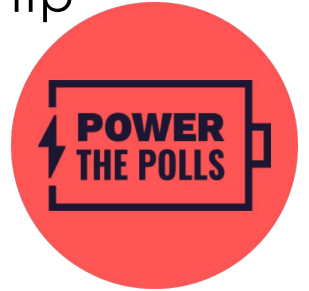


- ✓ Poll workers make the difference between someone who waits in a 5 hour line and someone who can quickly cast a ballot that counts.
- ✓ When polling places aren't prepared, we risk a government that doesn't truly reflect the nation we are.
- ✓ On Election Day, every vote should count. We must ensure that every voter can cast a ballot without problems.

Become a Poll Worker!

☑ HOW?

- ✓ Sign up! Here's how:
 - ◆ Power The Polls/ACS
 - ◆ Power The Polls / All Voting is Local partnership
 - ◆ Power the Polls/ The Leadership Conference partnership



TACTICS

- ✓ Patch through calls
- ✓ Text-a-thons
- ✓ Twitter Storms
- ✓ Letter to the Editor
- ✓ campaigns
- ✓ Virtual Rallies
- ✓ Virtual House Parties
- ✓ Create-A-Thons

VOTING INFORMATION

VOTE411

<https://www.vote411.org/>

VOTE.org

www.vote.org

TurboVOTE

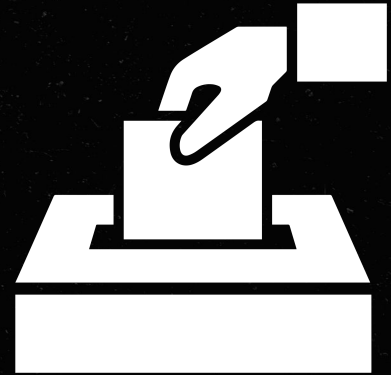
<https://turbovote.org/>

Safe Voting Now

www.safevotingnow.org

US Vote Foundation

<https://www.usvotefoundation.org/>



AND STILL I VOTE



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THANK YOU!



Contact:
- field@civilrights.org

