



FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION

PRESENTED BY ELLEN PRICE-MALOY

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VIDEOS TO WATCH

Stacey Abrams on 3 ways votes are suppressed – YouTube



Stacey Abrams discussed with Jelani Cobb the three ways that voter suppression occurs in America: registration access restrictions, ballot access restriction...

The History of U.S. Voting Rights | Things Explained



Who can vote today looked a lot different from those who could vote when the United States was first founded. This video covers the history of voting rights, including women's suffrage, Black disenfranchisement, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the various methods American voters can cast their ballots today. For more episodes, specials, and ...

2020 election: What is voter suppression? Tactics used against communities of color throughout history, in Trump-Biden race - ABC7 San Francisco



NEW YORK -- As Election Day draws close, some American citizens have experienced barriers to voting, particularly in communities of color. While stories about voter suppression across the nation ...

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY H.R.1/S.1

The legislation contains several provisions to fight voter suppression, including national automatic voter registration, prohibitions on voter roll purging and federal partisan gerrymandering, and improved election security measures. It also strengthens ethics providing a strong enforcement of Congress' Ethics Code – leading to prosecution of those who break the Ethics code and standards and for all three branches of government, e.g. by requiring presidential candidates to disclose 10 years of tax returns and prohibiting members of Congress from using taxpayer dollars to settle sexual harassment cases.

The bill aims to curb corporate influence in politics by forcing Super PACs to disclose their donors, requiring government contractors to disclose political spending, and prohibiting coordination between candidates and Super PACs, among other reforms. To date , there has been over 2.6 million dollars from SECRET DONORS.

Superpacs will be required to:

1. File disclosure reports over \$10,000 of spending.
2. Disclose sources of any contributions over \$10,000.
3. ALL ads “Paid for by” to identify REAL DONORS!
4. Hold BIG companies accountable for Secret Money – SEC is responsible for transparency

RESTRICTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Across the nation an ADDITIONAL 100+ bills aimed at restricting voting access are advancing.

February 2021: 253 Bills filed

March 2021: 361 Bills filed

Signed into Law: 5

Advancing and/or Passed: 55

Every single month, on average, 100+ bills are filed aimed at restricting voting access.

They are mobilizing in 47/50 states and their bills are moving forward.

as of 4/12:

- 361 voter suppression laws being created in 47 states
- 1.4 million ex-felons have NO right to vote.
- There are 98 voter suppression Laws in AZ, GA, TX.

Voting Rights of Felons

They never lose their Right to Vote in : DC, ME, VT

They lose their right to vote while incarcerated, but automatically get their right reinstated after release (incl. probation, parole, etc.): CA, CO, HI, IL, IN, MD, MA, MI, MT, NV, NJ, NH, ND, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT.

They lose their Right to Vote until they have completed their sentence, probation, and parole: AK, AR, CT, GA, ID, KS, LA, MN, MO, NM, NC, OK, SC, SD, TX, WA, WV, WI.

JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS - FOR THE PEOPLE ACT - H.R.1/S.

Voter suppression laws are corrupt and racist. John Lewis fought his entire life to make sure every American could make their voice heard at the ballot box. We need to honor his good fight and work to strengthen and expand voting rights.

Legislators are passing voter suppression laws “by the minute”. The only way to stop them is to PASS the John Lewis Voting Right Act in the US Senate. On March 3, 2021, the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 1 with a 220-210 vote.

- H.R.1/S.1 would ban gerrymandering.
- Did you know that H.R.1 (For the People Act) would stop any/all voter cheating forever?
- H.R.1/S.1 would implement Automatic Voter Registration.
- H.R.1/S.1 would ban secret dark money from our elections.

RESTORE the Voting Rights Act **SECURE/CREATE** Automatic Voter Registration **EXPAND** early voting
ESTABLISH a nationwide vote-by-mail **PROHIBIT** voter roll purging **SUPPORT** a constitutional amendment to
end Citizens United **STOP/BAN** gerrymandering **END** voter suppression once and for all!

RECENT PA ELECTIONS LAW CHANGES

In recent years, there have been two key pieces of legislation signed into law that have altered the legal landscape of Pennsylvania's elections: [Act 77 \(2019\)](#) and [Act 12 \(2020\)](#).

Act 77 introduced a variety of changes into PA election law, including:

- No-excuse absentee/mail voting up to 50 days prior to Election Day
- Allowing voters to select to be placed on a permanent mail-in ballot application list
- Providing funds to counties to implement voting machines with paper trails
- Extending the mail-in/absentee ballot submission deadline to 8 pm on Election Day. The deadline had previously been 5 pm on the Friday before Election Day.
- Eliminating straight party ticket voting

Act 12 enacted a number of emergency provisions for the 2020 primaries – provisions geared towards conducting the election successfully and safely amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Act 12 amended the PA Election Code to allow for pre-election day canvassing of mail-in and absentee ballots and election day canvassing of those ballots received after the final pre-canvass meetings.

Act 12 also laid out a process whereby an absentee/mail-in ballot voter can instead vote in person on Election Day by surrendering their mail ballot there, at their polling place, and then voting in person.

Finally, Act 12 established a Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board, consisting of legislative leaders and citizens appointed by the governor, to study PA election law and propose statutory and regulatory changes in a report each fiscal year.

RECENT PA ELECTIONS LAW CHANGES

Legislative Proposals That Could Reduce Voting in PA (2021-2022)

and the names of the PA State Representatives and Senators who introduced each of these bills:

1. [S.B. 402](#) – Senators Stefano (Fayette County) and Mastriano (Adams County) This bill would repeal no-excuse mail-in voting here in PA.
2. [H.B. 195](#) - Representative Gregory (Blair County) This bill would repeal no-excuse mail-in voting here in PA.
3. [H.B. 25](#) – Representative Puskaric (Allegheny County) This bill would repeal no-excuse mail-in voting here in PA.
4. [S.B. 422](#) – Senator J. Ward (Blair County) Requires 1 form of photo voter ID or 2 forms of non-photo voter ID at the polling place to vote.
5. [H.B. 853](#) – Representative Wheeland (Lycoming County) Requires 1 form of photo voter ID or 2 forms of non-photo voter ID at the polling place to vote.

You can find out more about each member of the Senate by going here: [Members of the Senate - PA State Senate](#), And for each member of the House by going here: [Members of the House - PA House of Representatives \(state.pa.us\)](#)

I have also attached a link of the For the People Act, HR 1, from the Federal Government. The whole bill is over 800 pages, so you can also find a link to relevant bill history and sponsors here: [H.R.1- 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): For the People Act of 2021](#)

What to Do About It

Voter suppression seeks to reduce the participation and power of citizens in the operation of government. The best way to counteract it is to get involved—to participate and wield power.

There are a variety of ways that citizens can get involved:

- You can contact and get involved with civic organizations in PA like the [League of Women Voters](#), [Keystone Votes](#), and the [Committee of Seventy](#).
- You can find out who your state Representatives and Senators are, and then call their offices to voice your opposition to voter suppression. You can also call the offices of legislative leaders [in the PA Senate](#) and [in the PA House](#).
- You can also write letters to the editors and op-eds in support of voting rights, and then submit them to state and local newspapers like The Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Citizen, Morning Call, Patch, The Intelligencer, The Times-Herald, WHYY, and many others.

HELP PASS THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

We, ALL Americans, must take action -- to help the US Senate pass the **For the People Act**, our priority, a free and fair elections bill that has already been passed by Congress. We need to REBUILD our Democracy.

The **For the People Act** will protect our freedom to vote, end partisan and racial gerrymandering, curb the influence of secret money in politics, and make our government more transparent and accountable to the people.

Here are just a few topics covered by “For the People Act”:

- Democracy and Racial Justice
- Protecting the Freedom to Vote
- Ending Partisan & Racial Gerrymandering
- Getting Big Money Out of Politics
- Ensuring Every Vote Counts
- Combating Corruption with the For the People Act

SAMPLE CALLING MESSAGE

Hi, my name is _____, and I'm a constituent from _____. I'm calling to express my support for S. 1, the For the People Act and urge Senator _____ to work to swiftly pass this legislation. Addressing corruption, protecting voting rights, and reforming campaign finance should be bipartisan priorities to make our democracy better for all Americans, regardless of their political affiliation. Thank you for your time and attention.

IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied.

In order to build the momentum needed to pass this historic legislation in the US Senate, we each can take the following actions:

- Call US Senators – 888-453-3211 to encourage them to support this extremely important legislation to help restore and strengthen our American Democracy. Other phone numbers: US Capitol -202-224-3121 ; PA Capitol – 800-686-7672.
- Write letter to editors of our local papers in support of For the People.
- Request an in-district or zoom meeting with your US Senators.
- Lobby your Senators – something we can do as The Coalition for Racial Equity and Social Justice.

HELP PASS THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

PRIORITIZE H.R.1/S.1 issues.

What can we do to get this important legislation passed?

RESTORE the Voting Rights Act.

SECURE/CREATE Automatic Voter Registration.

EXPAND early voting.

ESTABLISH a nationwide vote-by-mail.

PROHIBIT voter roll purging.

SUPPORT a constitutional amendment to end Citizens United.

STOP/BAN gerrymandering...

END voter suppression once and for all!

To address the suppression laws in PA: Create/Write a letter to the editors and op-eds in support of voting rights HERE IN PA, then we can submit them to state and local newspapers.