

## VOTING RIGHTS FACT SHEET

**The Freedom to Vote Act** (S. 2747), FTVA aims to protect individual voting access, ensure our votes count equally, prevent outright subversion of election results, and shrink the power of money over elections.

key provisions include:

- Stop partisan gerrymandering by creating objective standards for redistricting (takes effect immediately to ensure fair 2022 elections)
- Enable all eligible voters to register at the polls right up to Election Day
- Establish 15 days of early voting, including at least two weekends
- Bar partisan purges of voter rolls by creating fair rules
- Automatic restoration of voting rights for people returning from prison
- Protect and expand access to voting by mail and drop boxes
- Enacts disclosure requirements to reduce the corrupt power of untraced money (encompasses provisions previously proposed in the “DISCLOSE Act.”)
- Mandates non-partisan election administration
- Ensure use of paper ballots that can be verified by voters and accurately re-counted

**John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** ([H.R. 4](#) / [S. 4](#)) would ensure changes to local or state election law are reviewed by the U.S. Department of Justice before implementation. It would restore many rights that the U.S. Supreme Court effectively stripped away in its 2013 [Shelby v Holder](#) ruling, which gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The John Lewis Act would restore the full protections of the VRA, including:

- Enact protections for Indigenous voters previously proposed in the [Native American Voting Rights Act](#)
- Protect election workers by establishing criminal penalties for people who threaten, harass or attack election workers or their workplace. Some elements were previously part of the [Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act](#).
- Increase transparency by requiring advance public notice for voting changes
- Create a new coverage formula that hinges on a finding of repeated voting rights violations in the preceding 25 years, measured on a rolling basis
- Block voter suppression tactics historically used to discriminate against voters of color

Advocates for voting rights and fair elections overwhelmingly agree these bills include the most urgent steps needed to prevent current attacks on our democracy from succeeding. From UU the Vote:

### Updates on how our elections are certified are also needed

Solutions from the Democracy Docket: <https://www.democracymarket.com/explainers/after-election-day-the-basics-of-election-certification/>

## **Tips on Writing to Your Elected Officials from the ACLU**

Many legislators believe that a letter or fax represents not only the position of the writer but also many other constituents who did not take the time to write.

### **These tips will help increase the effectiveness of your letter:**

- Keep it brief: Letters should never be longer than one page, and should be limited to one issue.
- In the first paragraph, tell your legislators that you are a constituent and identify the issue about which you are writing. It helps to identify the bill number
- Choose the three strongest points that will be most effective in persuading legislators to support your position and flesh them out.
- Personalize your letter: Tell your elected official why this legislation matters in his community or state.
- If you have one, include a personal story that shows how this issue affects you and your family. This can shape how your legislator is persuaded on an issue.
- Personalize your relationship: Have you ever voted for this elected official? Have you ever contributed time or money to his or her campaign? Are you familiar with her through any business or personal relationship? The closer your legislator feels to you, the more powerful your argument is likely to be.

## **Online letter writing form: Common Cause:**

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/write-your-senators-pass-the-freedom-to-vote-act>

## **US Senator's contact info:**

Marco Rubio: 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202)-224-3041

Rick Scott: 716 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 · (202) 224-5274

## **More Details: Nonpartisan Resources on voting rights and other legislation:**

### **How to Restore and Strengthen the Voting Rights Act - Brennan Center**

The Brennan Center has developed bold solutions to ensure that every eligible American can cast a ballot. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-to-restore-and-strengthen-voting-rights-act>

Freedom to Vote Act Fact Sheet: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/freedom-vote-act>

John Lewis Voting Rights Act: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/john-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act>

### **The League Tells the White House: No More Excuses, Voting Rights NOW!**

Voting is a sacred right. For nearly 100 years, we have fought to protect the rights of eligible voters and expand access for those who've been left out of our democratic process

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/league-tells-white-house-no-more-excuses-voting-rights-now>

## **ACLU voting rights info**

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights>