

ONE CONFERENCE

WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE



Understanding Voter Suppression as We Get Ready for 2024

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Session Objectives

By the end of this session participants will:

- Recognize and understand the well-coordinated nation-wide groups who threaten our voting rights by using the historical and up-to-the-moment data and information shared by the presenters and others in group discussions.
- Use advocacy strategies to effectively share information about all aspects of voting and about the groups who threaten our voting rights with their state and local affiliate members, family/friends, and their community
- Create and share a voting plan with their local affiliate members

Why is the Right to Vote so Important?

“Voting is an act of faith. It’s profound. In a democracy it is the ultimate power. Through the vote, the poor can access financial means, the infirm can find healthcare supports, and the burdened and heavy-laden can receive a measure of relief from a social safety net that serves all. And we are willing to go to war to defend the sacred.”

Stacey Abrams, *Our Time is Now*. p.7



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Voter Suppression Defined

Voter suppression: “ Any legal or extralegal measure or strategy whose purpose of practical effect is to reduce voting, or registering to vote, by members of a targeted racial group, political party, or religious community.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*

18 U.S. Code § 594 - Intimidation of voters

Whoever intimidates, threatens, coerces, or attempts to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote or to vote as he may choose, or of causing such other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner, at any election held solely or in part for the purpose of electing such candidate, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 720; Pub. L. 91–405, title II, § 204(d)(5), Sept. 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 853; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.) <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/594>

A Voting Timeline of the U.S.

Moving Forward

- 1789:** The U.S. Constitution gave the states the right to set the requirements for voting
- 1868: 14th amendment
- 1870:** 15th Amendment
- 1876:** Reconstruction Act of 1876
- 1913: 17th Amendment
- 1920: 19th Amendment
- 1961: 23rd Amendment
- 1964: 24th Amendment
- 1964: Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 1965:** Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965
- 1971: 26th Amendment
- 1975: Protections added to the 1965 VRA
- 1993: Voter Registration Act
- 2002: Help America Vote Act
- 2023:** Allen v Milligan

Moving Backward

- 1790: Naturalization Act of 1790
- 1857:** Dred Scot v. Sanford
- 1860:** Black Codes
- 1884:** Elk v. Wilkins
- 1865-1968: Jim Crow Laws
- 1882: Chinese Exclusion Act
- 1890:** Mississippi Plan of 1890
- 1913: The California alien land law
- 2013:** Shelby County v. Holder
- 2021:** Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee

Voter Turnout Increased in 2022

- Expanded safe and secure access to voting
 - Additional resources given to counties with monetary needs
 - Expanded vote by mail
 - Increased ballot to drop boxes
-
- These resulted in increased voter turn out of
 - BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of color)
 - Low-income people
 - Students
 - Others who were previously had difficulty accessing the ability to vote.

Examples of Voter Suppression

- Voter roll purges
- Limiting access to voter registration
- Eliminating third party voter registration
- Strict voter ID laws and requiring addresses
- Limiting dates and times for early voting
- Limiting access to vote by mail
- Limiting the number of drop boxes for vote by mail
- Limiting Sunday voting

- Closed precincts
- Changing the location of precincts
- Too few ballots and poll workers purposely at precincts
- Exact match of signatures
- Broken voting machines
- Running out of ballots
- Opening polls late to cause long voting lines
- Making it illegal to provide food/water to those waiting in long lines

Voter Suppression: A Personal Narrative

When Theresa Burroughs (1929-2019) came of voting age, she was ready to cast her ballot, but she had a long fight ahead of her. During the Jim Crow era, the board of registrars at Alabama's Hale County Courthouse prevented African Americans from registering to vote. Undeterred, Theresa remembers venturing to the courthouse on the first and third Monday of each month, in pursuit of her right to vote.

The Rauch Brothers Animations.
"A More Perfect Union." Story Corps. 30 June 2015. Online
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AA87JWa0bEw>
(2:52)





Eleven States That Enacted Restrictive Voting Laws in 2023

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#) 5 stars were added to this image.

New After the 2022 Election

New negative trends in 2023

- Legislation limiting the way voters pass ballot measures
- Criminalizing election related activities
- Creating election police units
- Limiting poll workers

Positive trends in 2023

- Improving voting procedures
- Improve voting access
- Legal protections added



Purges, Challenges, and More to Come in 2024

**The
Brennan
Center for
Justice**

**Georgia: S.B. 202
and Challenging
Voters**

**Purging
Of
Voters**



**"True the Vote"
Pending Lawsuit**

Data on Voter Suppression

- Restrictive voting ID laws
- Accessibility
- By Race
 - Native American
 - AAPI



Gerrymandering Steps Into the Limelight

Gerrymandering:

When a political district map is redrawn to favor one party in elections, many times to favor white voters.

- Alabama
- Kinds of Gerrymandering
 - Political
 - Prison
 - Age
 - Racial

Examples of how gerrymandering affects people other than in just one election

- A state led legislature refuses to expand Medicaid to help lower income and people of color
- The Flint Water crisis
- States banning transgender bathrooms
- Right to work laws enacted
- Limiting women's access to healthcare and abortion
- Refusal to enact stricter gun laws
- It impacts school board elections, city, county, and other local governing bodies elections and state legislatures
- It's not just impacting a congressional map or a presidential election.

Group Discussion

In the past the vote was suppressed by using clubs, dogs, and water hoses:

In what ways is the vote being suppressed today because of implicit biases and systemic racism?

U.S. House is Unrepresentative

What is Voter Suppression?

PBS Video

2 min 52 seconds

-

<https://www.pbs.org/video/what-is-voter-suppression-ahfv1x/>



Undermining an Election.....

Freedom to Vote Act S.B.
2747 Introduced in 2021

AND

Reintroduced in 2023....

Time is running out



It's not a Democracy if our
votes don't count.
End the filibuster
Pass the Freedom
to Vote Act



Heritage Foundation: Thoughts on Voting

1973 Paul Weyrich, Edwin Feulner,
Jr and Joseph Coors- Heritage
Foundation Founders

Koch Brothers
Donors Trust
Donors Capital Fund

John Lewis Voting Rights
Advancement Act-H.R.4



Outside Groups Working to Suppress the Vote

ALEC

The Policy Network

**The Koch Brothers
Network**

The Cato Institute

The Libre Initiative

Donors Trust/Donors

Capital Fund

The Bradley

Foundation

Sinclair Broadcasting

Fox News

Stand for Children

StudentsFirst

Stand Together



The Courts Weigh In

- Limiting parts of Georgia's restrictive voting law
- Restoring voting rights in Mississippi
- Addressing the disenfranchisement of voters
 - Alabama
 - South Carolina

Empowering Our Members to Vote



- Make it personal
 - Protect public education
 - Protect our right to unionize and to collective bargain
 - Work for the common good
- Engage all demographics
- Stay informed

By Fully Participating in Voting for Public Education-Friendly Candidates...

Remember – **You are**

- Electing the legislators who will **represent you in your state legislature!**
- Electing your **members of Congress!**
- Electing **local officials – your school board members!**
- Voting **from the top of the ballot all the way to the bottom of the ballot to...**
 - Advocate for policies and laws that will impact **your classroom, your students, their families, and your community!**



[01 IEA RA – Why is it important to vote for public education on Vimeo](#)

Group Discussion

How have you been able to engage the infrequent voter and those educators who are uninterested in political activism?

What Can I Do?

- Volunteer at a voter registration drive
- Support smart, state-level proposals that remove barriers to voting.
- Empower students to be informed voters and help eligible high school students register (edvotes.org/register-to-vote)
- When asked to, write or call your representatives to support bills for voter rights



How Can I Get Involved in the Election?

- Attend candidates' townhalls
- Find the IPACE recommended candidates from www.ieavotes.org
- Contact the legislator for details about their campaign by visiting their website or the State Board of Elections website for the list of all campaign websites
- Participate in phone/text banking
- Participate in canvassing
- Put a sign for the candidate in your yard
- Spread the word – tell your friends and family
- Vote



Be An Ed Activist

The goal is to help educators and public education supporters connect with their communities and networks to score important wins for public schools and students.

Stay informed about actions YOU can take to protect public education and your rights as a union member.

Sign up on the NEA site:

<https://educationvotes.nea.org/take-action/be-an-edactivist/>

Our Goal: Preserve Our Voting Rights to Protect Public Education

Create a Voting Plan

Are you registered at the address where you reside?

Do you know how/where to register to vote?

How will you vote? Early, By Mail, In-person on election day?

Do you know how to apply to vote by mail?

Do you know the location of your polling
place or drop boxes for vote by mail?

When will you cast your ballot? Date? Time of day?

How will you get to the polls?

VOTE

List of Public Education Friendly Candidates

Date of Primary Election

Federal Offices on the ballot

House:

Senate

State Offices on the ballot

House

Senate

Governor

Other

Date of General Election

Empower and Advocate

Primary Election: March 19, 2024

Primary Election: March 19, 2024

Voter Registration Deadline in satellite offices: Feb 20, 2024

Grace Period Registration: – Feb 21-March 19

**For registration and grace period registration, bring two forms of ID.
One must include address.**

For more election information, please visit: www.elections.il.gov

www.ieaneal.org/legislative



To find your polling place please call or visit your county clerk's website

VOTE - Primary Election: March 19, 2024

Use one of these 3 ways to vote!

Early voting - in your Election Office:

Feb. 2, 2024 – March 19, 2024

Vote by Mail - Submit application beginning

December 20, 2023

Ballots mailed to applicants beginning Feb.8, 2024

Mail ballot must be received in the local election office by March 14

Last day online voter registration: March 3

Vote on Primary Election Day March 19 –

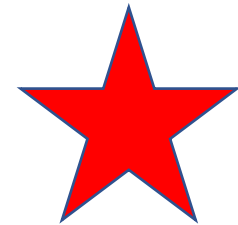
March 19, 2024 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Vote only at your assigned polling place.

How Do I Find the Names of My Legislators!

Find the Names and Contact Information of Your Legislators Go to the IEA website/legislative/find my legislators. www.ieavotes.org

Contact your legislators and share this information with friends/family.





Make Some Noise!



Attend Rallies and Marches!

Write postcards, make phone calls!

Advocacy - Stay Informed: Use the NEA and State Affiliate Websites

- **Get connected to the NEA website at <http://www.nea.org/> and your state affiliate's website**
- **Read NEA Today**
- **Subscribe online to NEA Votes <http://educationvotes.nea.org/>**
- **Find and print out the fact sheets NEA and affiliate <https://educationvotes.nea.org/issues-and-actions/>**
- **Find the recommended candidates from your state. The Illinois example is: www.ieavotes.org**
- **Visit the Strong public Schools website www.strongpublicschools.org**
- **Engage and mobilize in the fight for racial, social and economic justice in public education. <https://neaedjustice.org/>**
- **Become an education advocate.**

New

Keep Informed About Voting Rights

What's Happening in Your State

Learn more about existing voting rights laws and pending legislation across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

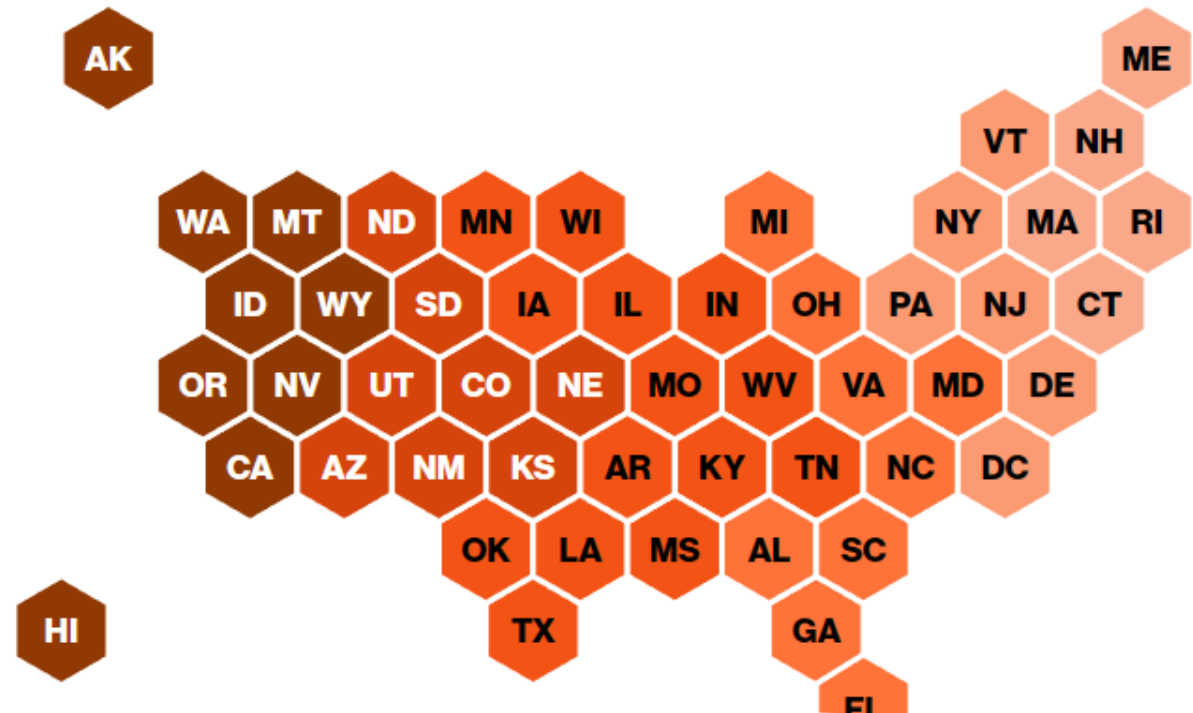
Select State



Get Results

State Voting Rights Tracker

<https://tracker.votingrightslab.org/states>



Help Elect Public Education- Friendly Candidates to Protect Public Education!

**The NEA Fund for Children and
Public Education is a federal political
action committee(PAC)
for NEA members.**

**The fund financially supports pro-
public education candidates on the
federal and state levels regardless
of their political affiliation.**

**Join the
NEA Fund for
Children
and Public
Education**

<https://www.neafund.org/Donate/#>

Your Vote Matters! It impacts your classroom and your students' Public Education!



Stay Informed.

**Share information with
your friends and family.**

**Visit the websites in
this document.**

Vote!

Why Should We Care About Voter Suppression?

Stacey Abrams: Educators' Call to Action

“The consequences of silence have not been outweighed by the consequences of action,” Abrams said. “We need every single member of the NEA, every single educator who believes the right to vote should be sacred, to stay on top of this. ...That means calling [legislators] every day, reaching out to our communities...If we do that every day this summer, we will see change and we will see progress.”

From Stacey Abrams' address to the delegates at the 2021 NEA RA.

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