

Common Cause Urges "Yes" Vote to Advance the For the People Act Will Score Vote in Our Next Democracy Scorecard

June 21, 2021

Dear Senator:

The American people have demanded bold action from Congress to protect the freedom to vote, break the grip of big money in politics, end gerrymandering, enact strong ethics laws, and strengthen our democracy. That is why we strongly support the For the People Act (S. 1). On behalf of Common Cause's more than 1.5 million members, we urge you to vote to advance the For the People Act when the Senate takes up this transformative legislation later this week.

We will score this vote and include it in our next [Democracy Scorecard](#), which we will send to our more than 1.5 million members, as well as national and state reporters.

Self-interested politicians in numerous states are trying to create significant barriers to voting for certain Americans, especially Black and Brown voters. Using the former president's Big Lie about a stolen election as a pretext for voter suppression—the same Big Lie that led to a violent insurrection at our Capitol to overturn a free and fair election—many Republican state legislatures are trying to reverse progress. At least [14 states have already passed nearly two dozen restrictive voting bills](#) this year, and many others are trying to do so.

As we approach the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which gave a green light to state voter suppression efforts, national standards are needed now more than ever. Together with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act which will be introduced later this year, the [For the People Act](#) is a remedy we need and that Americans are demanding. It would set uniform guidelines so that all Americans, regardless of their age, race, or zip code, can have the freedom to vote.

The For the People Act is a transformative bill that would give voters more choices in how they cast their ballot. It would ensure at least two weeks of early voting, create same-day and automatic voter registration, and stop nearly all of the state voter suppression efforts currently being considered.

Although the voting provisions have attracted significant attention, those are just one pillar of the bill. The For the People Act also contains bold reforms to stop gerrymandering, get big money out of politics, and hold public officials to high ethical standards. They are essential to solve the scope of the problem--systems that silence voters and leave them unrepresented in the halls of power.

The For the People Act is popular with Republican, independent, and Democratic voters. In fact, many components of the bill have already [passed in red, blue, and purple states](#), often with strong bipartisan support, and recent polling shows that it is popular with conservative voters. Because this bill is popular, corporate special interests and dark money voter suppression groups lie, deceive, and distort to try to erode its support. Opponents of the bill admitted in a [recently recorded secret call](#) that the bill is popular, even among conservatives, and instead want to rely on "under-the-dome-type-strategies" to defeat it.

This isn't just a policy disagreement. This is bigger than protecting our freedom to vote, breaking the grip of money out of politics, and stopping gerrymandering. This fight is fundamental to our democracy and a country where every person has the power to set the direction and vision of our country.

We strongly urge a "yes" vote to advance the For the People Act this week.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause