

200+ Organizations Urge the Senate to Delay Recess to Pass Federal Voting Rights Legislation

December 2, 2021

Dear Senators:

We, the undersigned organizations of the Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD) coalition and/or The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, urge you to commit to reconsideration of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act immediately and that the 2021 holiday recess scheduled to begin on December 13, 2021, should be delayed if the bills are not passed. This provides ample time to ensure the Senate has the necessary time to debate and vote on these critically important pieces of voting rights legislation.

The most important step that Congress can take to protect the array of issues our organizations advocate for is to pass these vitally important voting rights bills in order to ensure that all Americans' voices are heard in our democracy.

Our country is facing an existential crisis that has little precedent. Just this year, 19 states have passed 33 laws restricting voting rights, and more are likely to come as legislatures convene next year. At the same time, state lawmakers across the country are currently gerrymandering legislative maps to choose which voters they represent, instead of the other way around. Even after the horrifying January 6th attack on the citadel of American democracy to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power, there continue to be unparalleled efforts to sabotage our elections with fear, disinformation, and partisan practices intended to overturn the voices and votes of the American people, often targeting communities of color. These efforts have been further aided by the majority of the Supreme Court, which this year made two consequential decisions to further empower dark, untraceable money in our politics and further weaken the vital Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Freedom to Vote Act combines policy proposals and best practices from both Democrats and Republicans across the country and would enact commonsense and proven practices to protect the freedom to vote, end dark money, stop partisan gerrymandering, and protect our elections from partisan sabotage. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act will restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act to ensure that voters are protected from future attacks on their freedom to vote.

In order to pass the Freedom to Vote Act, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and other vitally important priorities, we are calling on the Senate to delay the recess set to begin on December 13, 2021, until these bills are passed. This legislation must be a top priority on the remaining agenda for the year, and we urge you to stay in session to do whatever it takes until these bills are passed because inaction is not an option.

Without first safeguarding our democracy to ensure that all Americans' voices are heard, we will not be able to make progress on the issues that all of our organizations fight for every day. The Senate cannot delay in passing the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and must take up this legislation immediately.

Signed,

National Organizations

Declaration for American Democracy

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Accountable.US

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)

All On The Line

Alliance for Youth Action

American Atheists

American Federation of Teachers

American Friends Service Committee

American Humanist Association

American Promise

American Sustainable Business Network

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)

Andrew Goodman Foundation, Inc.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Blue Future

Blue Wave Postcard Movement

Brennan Center for Justice

Build Back Better USA

Center for American Progress

Center for Common Ground

Center for Disability Rights

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Popular Democracy

Change the Chamber

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)

Clean Water Action
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Climate Hawks Vote
Common Cause
Common Defense
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Daily Kos
Demand Progress
DemCast USA
Democracy 21
Democracy for All 2021 (DFA2021)
Democracy Initiative
Democracy Matters
Demos
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund
Equal Citizens
Equal Justice Society
Fair Elections Center
Faith in Public Life
Faithful America
Faiths for Safe Water
Feminist Majority Foundation
For All
Free Speech For People
Friends of the Earth
Future Coalition
Greenpeace USA
Impact Fund
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Indivisible
Just Democracy
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lawyers Defending American Democracy

League of Women Voters of the United States
March On
Matthew Shepard Foundation
Mi Familia Vota
Movement Labs
MoveOn
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Council of Churches USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Independent Living
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Voter Corps
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NextGen America
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
Our Revolution
People For the American Way
People's Action
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Poder Latinx
Poligon Education Fund
Pride at Work
Progressive Democrats of America
Progressive Turnout Project
Project On Government Oversight (POGO)
Protect Democracy
Public Citizen
Public Wise
RepresentUs
Rock the Vote
Secure Elections Network
SEIU

Sierra Club
SMART Legislation
Stand Up America
State Voices
The Civics Center
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
The Workers Circle
Transformative Justice Coalition
UltraViolet
Un-PAC
UnidosUS
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Association
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Voices for Progress
Vote.org
VoteVets
20/20 Vision DC

State/Local Organizations

Action Together New Jersey
African American Christian Clergy Coalition
Arizona Educators United
Arizona Justice Alliance
Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club
CD 19 NEW PALTZ (Indivisible)
Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)
Clean Elections Texas
Coalition to Preserve, Protect & Defend
DoTheMostGood
Eastern Panhandle Central Labor Council
Feminists in Action Los Angeles
Fix Democracy First

Florida Chapter, Progressive Democrats of America

GAIN POWER

Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda

Get Money Out - Maryland

Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible

Indivisible Acton Area

Indivisible Boston CD7

Indivisible Chicago Alliance

Indivisible Clackamas District 5

Indivisible Common Ground WNC

Indivisible East Bay

Indivisible Elmwood

Indivisible Georgia-11

Indivisible Georgia Coalition

Indivisible Harlem

Indivisible Hawaii

Indivisible Hudson Valley

Indivisible Lumpkin

Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta

Indivisible Marin

Indivisible Mass Coalition

Indivisible New Paltz CD 19

Indivisible Northern Nevada

Indivisible Outer Cape

Indivisible ReSisters Walnut Creek

Indivisible Sacramento

Indivisible San Francisco

Indivisible San Jose

Indivisible Santa Cruz County

Indivisible Sedona
Indivisible SEMO
Indivisible Sonoma County
Indivisible South Peninsula
Indivisible St Louis
Indivisible Ulster
Indivisible Ventura
Indivisible West Marin
Indivisible Yolo
Indivisible: Narberth and Beyond
IndivisibleSpokane
League of Women Voters of Arizona
League of Women Voters of Missouri
Lower Cape Indivisible (LCI)
Maine Citizens for Clean Elections
Mainers for Accountable leadership Action
Michigananders for Fair & Transparent Elections
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
Milton Indivisible
Missouri Action Alliance
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition
MountainTop Progressives
NASW - WV Chapter
New Hampshire Youth Movement
Northridge Indivisible
Olive Action
Orchard City Indivisible
Oregonizers
Our Vote Texas
Progressive Democrats of America - Arizona

Putnam Progressives

Reclaim Our Democracy

Resistance Action Tuesdays and Thursdays = RATT Pack

Rise Up WV

Summit Area Indivisible

Summit Marches On

Swing Blue Alliance

Toni Powell

Trinity United Church of Christ

U-Act (Ulster Activists)

Venice Resistance

Vintage Vanguard

We Are One Sullivan

West Virginia NAACP

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Women's March West Virginia

WV Citizen Action

WV Citizens for Clean Elections

WV FREE

WV Working Families Party