

Please support SB25-001, The Colorado Voting Rights Act (COVRA)

Sponsored by Sen. Gonzales and Reps. Joseph and Bacon

COLORADO NEEDS ITS OWN VOTING RIGHTS ACT

The right to vote is under attack. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (NVRA) is being stripped away, and Colorado must act to safeguard voting rights in state law. By passing a strong state VRA, Colorado can continue leading the nation in pro-voter reforms that make our elections stronger and more accessible.

In 2022, the Colorado General Assembly adopted a resolution urging Congress to strengthen the VRA. But Colorado doesn't need to wait for Congress: we can protect and strengthen the right to vote in our state by passing our own voting rights act.

The COVRA codifies stronger voter protections, expands access to voting for historically excluded communities, and helps build a more equitable democracy by prohibiting election practices that unfairly drown out the voices of communities of color in their local government.

BILL COMPONENTS

- Mirrors the NVRA to prohibit election practices that create disparities in participation for communities of color and other protected groups.

- Mirrors the NVRA to prohibit election methods and district maps that disproportionately impair the ability of communities of color to elect candidates of choice.

- Empowers our Attorney General to enforce voting rights under the COVRA.

- Ensures the rights of harmed voters and civil rights groups to take action to enforce voting rights, even if the federal right is taken away.

- Creates protections for LGBTQ+ voters, by making it a violation of the COVRA to impair an individual's right to vote based on their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation.

- Expands access to multilingual ballots in local elections.

- Requires residential facilities that house people with disabilities to provide nonpartisan voter information each election, including information about accessible voting options.

- Creates a publicly available, statewide database of election information, so that our state, localities, and the public can better understand how participation in democracy breaks down by race, language, and disability status, without compromising any personal voter data.

Questions? Contact Aly Belknap at abelknap@commoncause.org,

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ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

Colorado Common Cause
Mi Familia Vota of Colorado
League of Women Voters of Colorado
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC)
Colorado Black Women for Political Action
Disability Law Colorado
ACLU of Colorado
Sam Cary Bar Association
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)
NAACP of Colorado
Conservation Colorado
ProgressNow Colorado
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Soul 2 Soul Sisters
Citizens Project
New Era Colorado
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Western Colorado Alliance
Movimiento Poder
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC)
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable
Native American Rights Fund (NARF)
Campaign Legal Center
Colorado Foundation for Universal Healthcare
Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI)
Arc of Colorado
BIPOC Alliance
Working Families Party
Lamar Unidos
Center for People With Disabilities
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities