

# **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