



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

117th CONGRESS

APWU Urges Congress to Pass Landmark Voting Rights Legislation and Expand Voting Rights

The American Postal Workers Union proudly believes that every citizen can and should exercise their right to vote in every election. Unfortunately, it's no secret that voter suppression tactics have been used repeatedly in American elections. As much as we'd like to believe we've come a long way from the days of poll taxes and literacy tests, in reality, these voter suppression tactics persist today in different forms.

Historically, the most marginalized and disenfranchised among us are most likely to be victims of voter suppression. Common voter suppression tactics include making it difficult and confusing to register to vote, implementing voter ID laws, changing polling place hours and locations, closing polling places, maintaining inaccessible polling places, purging voter rolls, and gerrymandering. The fact that we presently have a patchwork of voting and election laws across the country is a form of voter suppression itself.



Voting Rights In The 2020 Election For The People Act

In the midst of an election year and pandemic, millions of voters were able to exercise their right to vote by casting their ballots by mail. Vote-by-mail was previously not an option for many voters, but, because of the pandemic, some states made changes to voting laws and allowed voters to mail in their ballots instead. Even while states expanded vote-by-mail, some states put in place cumbersome rules, like requiring notarized ballots and witness signatures.

Even though voting by mail became an option for millions of Americans, the fact that it was implemented so haphazardly is not right. The truth of the matter is that all Americans--and our democracy--suffers as a result of our patchwork voting laws. That's why we need to standardize voting laws and make sure that Americans can confidently, safely, and easily exercise their right to vote.

Right now, we're witnessing heinous attempts by GOP state legislatures to restrict voting rights. We cannot allow them to succeed. We are long overdue for meaningful voting rights legislation at the national level. It's time for Congress to pass the For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 1), which promises to protect and expand both our democracy and our voting rights.

The 'For the People Act,' sponsored by John Sarbanes, [D-MD-03], was introduced in the House of Representatives on January 4th, 2021. The bill is primarily concerned with improving voter access and election security and provides for long overdue campaign finance reform. H.R.1 had previously passed in the House in 2019, but the legislation was not taken up by the Senate. **On March 3rd, the House again passed H.R. 1 and sent it to the Senate (where the bill will be referred to as S. 1).**

If signed into law, this legislation would:

- Expand voter registration by allowing for automatic and same-day registration
- Expand and enhance absentee voting
- Expand voting access by allowing for vote-by-mail and early voting
- Restore full voting rights to those who have completed felony sentences
- Reduce long lines and wait times for voters
- Limits purging voters from voter rolls

Contact the APWU Legislative and Political Department at (202) 842-4211 for more information
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