



Reintroduction of the *Freedom to Vote Act* in the 118th Congress | **Partner Toolkit**

Call-In Day, Twitter Storm, Press Release, DC Event

About

The *Freedom to Vote Act* will be reintroduced on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. In the 118th Congress, we can continue to fight to fulfill the promise of American democracy for all through transformative pro-democracy legislation.

The *Freedom to Vote Act* is a critical transformative legislative package that would create national standards to protect our freedom to vote, combat the influence of big money out of politics, block partisan election subversion, and guarantee that congressional districts are drawn to give fair representation for all.

The *Freedom to Vote Act* overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives in both 2019 and 2021, and our coalition is working to ensure our Members of Congress know that this package is still a top priority for people across this country in the 118th Congress this year.

[Please fill out this partner form to let us know how your organization can plug in to the following events](#)

- **Call-In Day** on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 - all day!
- **Social Media Storm** on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 4pm/ET
- **Press Statement** - Tuesday, July 18, 2023 after re-intro (late afternoon likely -- stay tuned on DFAD's listserv and slack for real-time updates).

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Call-In Day

Join us Tuesday, July 18th to drive in calls to our Members of Congress to demonstrate the strong support for the *Freedom to Vote Act*.

Sample Recruitment Email

Hi Name,

The *Freedom to Vote Act* will be reintroduced on Tuesday, July 18th, giving us another opportunity to fight for this transformative legislative package and make the promise of American democracy real for all of us.

To demonstrate the strong support for the *Freedom to Vote Act*, we're driving in calls to Congress TODAY. Can you join us? Reach your Member of Congress (202) 224-3121.

With the *Freedom to Vote Act*, we can finally take action against some of the largest issues plaguing our democracy. It will protect the right to vote, end partisan gerrymandering, combat election subversion, and decrease the power of big moneyed special interests.

Together we can realize a democracy that represents, reflects, and responds to all of us.

Join us TODAY to call on our Members of Congress and show the strong and wide grassroots support for the *Freedom to Vote Act*!

Thanks for your support,

[Signature]

Talking Points

Topline Messaging

- Today, Congress re-introduced the Freedom to Vote Act, a transformative legislative package to make the promise of American democracy real for all of us.
- In order to realize the promise of American democracy, we need bold, transformative reforms that would reduce the influence of big money in politics, ensure our freedom to vote, and guarantee that congressional districts are drawn to give fair representation for all.
- Together we can realize a democracy that represents, reflects, and responds to all of us.
- We demand federal voting rights legislation that will bring down the barriers erected to silence Black, Indigenous, young and new Americans and ensure equal voice in the decisions that impact our lives.
- The Freedom to Vote Act would ensure our voices are heard and our government represents, reflects, and responds to all Americans. Congress must continue fighting to strengthen our freedom to vote and to protect our democracy.
- In order to make progress on all of the issues facing our communities, we must ensure we have a democracy that is responsive and representative of the American people
- Our freedom to vote is central to all other freedoms, and attacks on our democracy are intertwined with curtailing of other freedoms, including reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights.

Key Messaging:

- **Freedom to Vote Act and Voting Rights:**
 - Since the 2013 *Shelby v. Holder* SCOTUS decision, we have less federal voting rights protections than in the decades before.
 - We must ensure the freedom to vote for all Americans to have our vote counted and voice heard.
 - The *Freedom to Vote Act* will modernize our voting system and prevent blatant attempts to silence our voices so that we all have the freedom to vote
 - The *Freedom to Vote Act* helps dismantle barriers erected to keep Black, Indigenous, young and new Americans from voting, including long lines and eliminated polling places, targeted restrictions to registration, and overt voter intimidation.
- **Freedom to Vote Act and Money in Politics**
 - We must build a campaign finance system that ensures our elected leaders listen to every American – not just the rich and powerful.
 - Our current pay-to-play system silences the voices of Black, brown, young, and new Americans and gives unchecked power to the wealthy few.

- The *Freedom to Vote Act* tackles corruption by ensuring that our government works for us by reducing the influence of big money in politics and increasing ethical standards for our elected officials.
 - In order to make progress on the issues that Americans care most about such as, health care, racial justice, reproductive rights, and environmental justice, we must build a system that serves the people, rather than the interests of the rich and powerful.
 - **Freedom to Vote Act and Election Sabotage:**
 - The Freedom to Vote Act would set new national standards for voters to safely and freely cast our ballots, ensure that trusted local election officials count every vote, and prevent partisan politicians from sabotaging our elections.
 - In the first 5 months of the year, at least four states enacted five election interference laws and at least 78 election interference bills were introduced in 20 states. These bills “increase opportunities for partisan interference in election administration or results” or “threaten the people and processes that make elections work.”
 - **State Anti-Voter Bills**
 - With states across the country working to pass bills that attack our freedom to vote, we need national standards to ensure that we all have equal access to the ballot.
 - In the first five months of the year, at least 11 states enacted 13 restrictive voting laws. “that would make it harder for eligible Americans to register, stay on the voter rolls, or vote as compared to existing state law”
 - These restrictive voter policies often disproportionately impact black, brown, and indigenous communities, as well as people with disabilities, college students, low income voters, and more.
 - We need federal government action to ensure that the will of the people prevails.
 - **Rights Restoration for Felony Disenfranchisement**
 - Restoring the freedom to vote for formerly and currently incarcerated Americans would allow them to fulfill an important civic duty, help those released to successfully re-integrate into their communities, and make us all safer. ([Additional Talking points from Stand Up America](#))
 - Disenfranchisement disproportionately impacts the vote of Black and Brown communities.
 - Progress has been made on the state level, but we need to enact federal legislation securing every American’s right to vote.
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#ProtectMyFreedomToVote - Social Media Storm

Join us Tuesday, July 18th at 4pm ET for a coalition-wide Social Media Storm to amplify the re-introduction of the *Freedom to Vote Act* in the 118th Congress.

Please hold on using the hashtag #ProtectMyFreedomToVote until at least 2:30pm ET

Why? By coordinating our social media calendar to use the hashtag all together, we'll increase the ability to get our hashtag trending according to the algorithm.

Please note: due to [Twitter's new policy](#), it's best practice to encourage activists and digital staffers to reword sample posts slightly, rather than directly copy/pasting.

#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

General:

The Freedom to Vote Act has been reintroduced in Congress, giving us another opportunity to fight for this transformative legislative package and make the promise of American democracy real for all of us and return the #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

We need bold, transformative reforms that would reduce the power of big money, ensure our freedom to vote, and guarantee congressional districts are drawn fairly. Urge your representatives to do everything they can to support the Freedom to Vote Act.
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

To make progress on all of the issues facing our communities, we must build a democracy where all of us have equal say in the decisions that shape our lives. Urge your representatives to do everything in their power to support the Freedom to Vote Act. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Over the last few years, we have seen the biggest attacks on our Freedom to Vote since the Jim Crow era. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to counteract these attacks and help realize a truly multiracial American democracy. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Voting Rights/Elections:

Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to dismantle barriers erected to keep Black, Indigenous, young and new Americans from voting - including long lines and eliminated polling

places, targeted restrictions to voter reg, and overt voter intimidation.
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

We need bold reforms to ensure that our voices are heard and our government represents, reflects, and responds to all Americans. Urge your representatives to do everything in their power to support the Freedom to Vote Act. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

We need national standards for voters to safely and freely cast our ballots, ensure that trusted local election officials count every vote, and prevent extremist politicians from sabotaging our elections. Congress must support the Freedom to Vote Act. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Money in Politics:

It is time to end the dominance of big money in politics. Now that the Freedom to Vote Act has been reintroduced in the House, we must let our representatives know we expect them to do everything in their power to support it. Call your representatives today.(202) 224-3121
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

To make progress on the issues that we care most about, such as health care, racial justice, reproductive rights, and the environment, we must build a system that serves the people rather than wealthy donors. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

The 2022 election was the most expensive midterm on record. The American people are tired of billionaires and corporations influencing our elections and officials. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to combat the power of big money in politics. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Bad State Bills:

State legislatures passed a near-record number of restrictive voting laws the first five months of this year. We need baseline national standards to protect voting rights and elections.
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-june-2023>

In the last decade, at least 29 states have passed nearly 100 restrictive voting laws. Attacks on voting rights will not end until we have national election standards like those in the Freedom to Vote Act. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/states-have-added-nearly-100-restrictive-laws-scotus-gutted-voting-rights>

State legislatures across the country are restricting our freedom to vote, especially for Black and Brown voters. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to ensure that all of us have a chance to make our voices heard in the decisions that impact us. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Contrast with ACE Act - 'Big Lie Bill'

Extremists in Congress are pushing their Big Lie Bill to create deliberate barriers for eligible voters to participate in our elections. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to guarantee our voting rights and truly restore confidence in our elections #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

The ACE Act would pressure states to adopt deliberate barriers to voter registration and voting that disadvantage Black and Brown voters. We need the Freedom to Vote Act to make voting safe, secure, and accessible. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

The Big Lie Bill would sell out our elections to mega donors and special interests while lowering transparency and reporting standards. We need the Freedom to Vote Act to shine a light on secret money so we can know who is funding our elections. #ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Shelby v. Holder + attacks on our freedoms

We have less federal voting rights protections now than we did 10 years ago. In this time, we have seen attacks on our freedom to vote, freedom of choice, and LGBTQ+ rights. We need the Freedom to Vote Act to realize a democracy that truly serves all of us
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

The freedom to vote is at the root of all other freedoms. Since the Shelby v. Holder SCOTUS decision, we have seen an influx of attacks on our freedom to vote in states across the country. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to safeguard our voting rights
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

The attacks we're seeing on reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights across the country go hand in hand with the attacks on our freedom to vote. We all deserve a democracy that truly serves us. Congress must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to put our democracy back on track.
#ProtectMyFreedomToVote

Graphics

[DOWNLOAD FTVA EXPLAINER GIF & GRAPHICS HERE](#)



[DOWNLOAD FTVA/ACE CONTRAST GRAPHICS HERE](#)

A contrast graphic with a black background on the left and white on the right. On the left, the text reads: "The 'AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN ELECTIONS' Act" in white, with "disempowers eligible voters" in red below it. Below that, in smaller white text: "by implementing restrictive barriers to voting and increasing the power of big money in our elections." On the right, the text reads: "The FREEDOM TO VOTE Act" in blue, with "empowers voters" in yellow below it. Below that, in smaller blue text: "by creating national standards for our elections to ensure our freedom to vote and combat the influence of big money in politics". At the bottom center is the logo for the Declaration for American Democracy, which includes a stylized sun icon and the text "DECLARATION FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY".

[DOWNLOAD ADDITIONAL FTVA GIFS & GRAPHICS HERE](#)
AND [INTO ACTION GIFS HERE](#)

“
Voting rights are preservative of
all other rights—protecting the
right to vote isn’t about
bipartisanship vs. partisanship,
but about right vs. wrong.

—RAPHAEL WARNOCK—



FTVA SUPPORT VIDEOS

[DOWNLOAD FTVA SUPPORT VIDEOS FROM THE COALITION AND MOCS HERE](#)

Press Statement Template

On the day of the introduction, we’re asking organizations within the DFAD Coalition to issue press statements lifting up the importance of the Freedom to Vote Act. Below, we’ve included a press statement template organizations can use. Please do edit and complete the highlighted sections.

To share your press release with the full coalition, simply email it to democracypostadversitygroup@googlegroups.com

Press Template

Subject Line: **[INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION]** Welcomes Re-Introduction of Transformational Democracy Reform Package, the *Freedom to Vote Act*

For Immediate Release:

July 18, 2023

Contact:

[INSERT NAME, email, phone number]

[INSERT CITY, STATE] — On Tuesday July 18th, U.S. Representative John Sarbanes (D- MD) and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), along with [INSERT NUMBER FOR BOTH CHAMBERS] co-sponsors, introduced the *Freedom to Vote Act* [INSERT BILL #]. [Bill #] would help realize the promise of American democracy by reducing the influence of big money in politics, guaranteeing that congressional districts are drawn to give fair representation for all, and creating national standards for federal elections to uphold our freedom to vote.

Now more than ever, [INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION] and the Declaration for American Democracy, a coalition of over 260 local, state, and national organizations, are calling on [XXX LOCAL TARGET] and other political leaders to do everything in their power to support this landmark legislation.

“[ON MESSAGE QUOTE ABOUT WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION AND/OR MEMBERS]”

“[ON MESSAGE QUOTE ABOUT ONE SPECIFIC POLICY PROPOSAL]”

“[ON MESSAGE QUOTE ABOUT WHY THIS SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR A VOTE BY THE HOUSE AND INTRODUCED/PASSED IN THE SENATE]”

- [EXAMPLE] “Today’s introduction of the *Freedom to Vote Act* is the first step to injecting a renewed commitment to democratic principles. We believe every eligible voter should have their vote counted, every candidate should be able to run without caving in to big influence and big money, and every elected official should be beholden to constituents first. The *Freedom to Vote Act* is a step in the right direction.”

####

[YOUR ORGANIZATION] is part of the Declaration for American Democracy coalition, a nonpartisan collaboration of more than one hundred and ten local, state and national organizations committed to delivering the bold reforms to our democracy that the public is demanding. You can learn more about the [Declaration for American Democracy here](#).

DC Press Event

[Mobilize Link here](#)

- [Source Codes](#) (add to the end of the Mobilize link - you can create your own using this format if there's not already one there for your organization).

Sample Recruitment Email

Hi Friend,

The *Freedom to Vote Act* is being introduced in the 118th Congress on Tuesday, July 18th. And we are doing everything we can to make sure our elected officials know that we expect them to make passing this legislation a priority, and that we will not stop fighting for a democracy that reflects, represents, and responds to us.

It's especially important that we proudly support this critical legislation as extremists in Congress have recently introduced the #BigLieBill--also known as the ACE Act--an anti-voter and pro-corporate bill that would stifle our freedom to vote.

That's why DFAD will be holding an event to show our support for the *Freedom to Vote Act* in DC on Thursday, July 20th at 12:30 pm. [Can you join us?](#)

With the *Freedom to Vote Act*, we can finally make progress combatting some of the largest issues plaguing our democracy. It will protect the right to vote, end partisan gerrymandering, combat election subversion, and decrease the power of wealthy special interests in our government, the answer to these efforts including the #BigLieBill.

[Join us and champions of the bill in DC on Thursday July 20th to help us display the widespread grassroots support for the *Freedom to Vote Act*.](#)

With your support, we can work to make the promise of American democracy real for all of us and fight back on the efforts to subvert our rights.

See you soon,