

Election Season 2024

Empowering Communities:

Voting Rights & Election Resources for Community Action

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Agenda

- Community Action & Civic Engagement
- Voting Rights: A Brief History & Recent Developments
- Complying with Election Season Rules
- State Law Landscape
- Community Action Election Year Advocacy
- Discussion & Questions

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Maximum feasible participation means giving the poor a real voice in their institutions.

– Robert F. Kennedy



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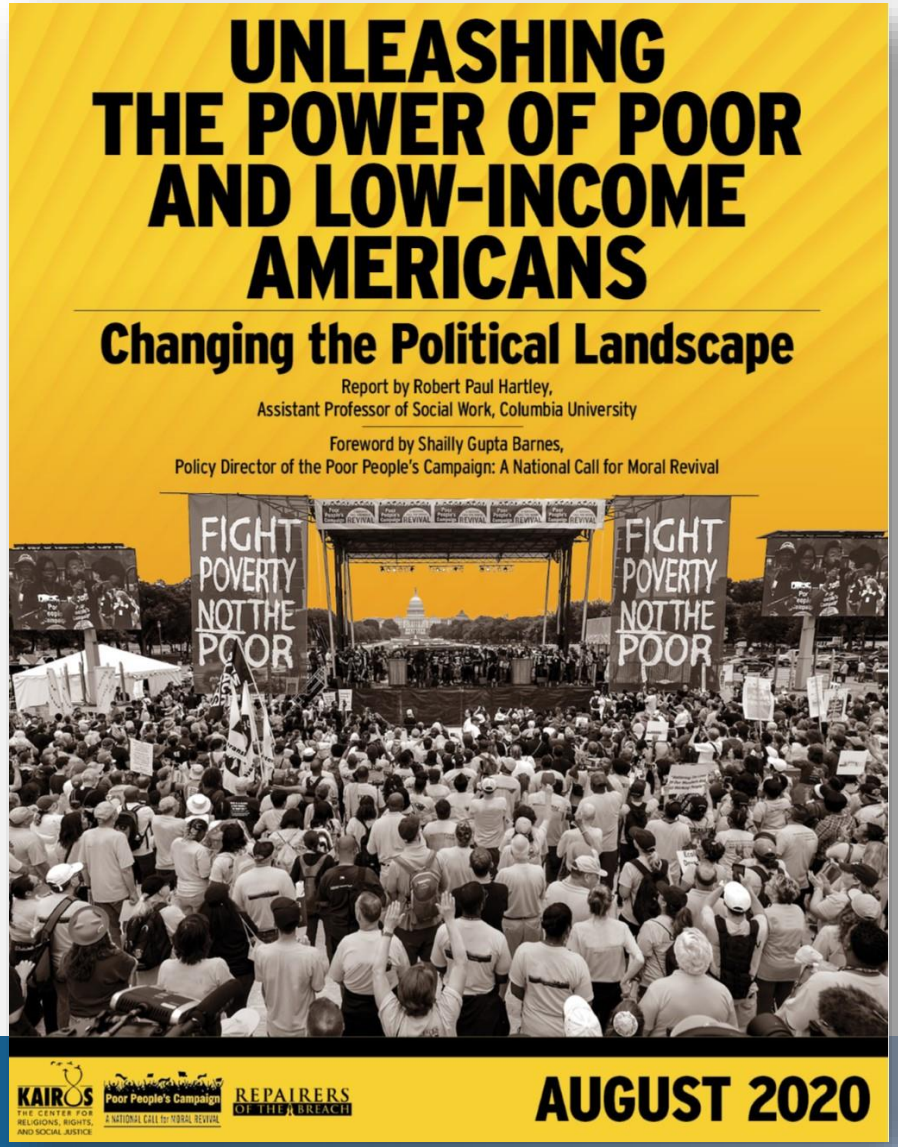
Why Civic Engagement?



- ✓ Charged with **addressing** the causes and conditions of poverty
- ✓ **Maximum Feasible Participation: Empower** customers and strengthen their voices on issues affecting their daily lives
- ✓ Policymakers need our **expertise** – the views of Community Action are important
- ✓ We can raise **awareness**, help find real solutions, and **create change**
- ✓ Advocacy is **deeply rooted in Community Action** and democratic tradition
- ✓ It advances our causes and **builds public trust**
- ✓ We can **make a difference**

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Poor People's Campaign: *Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans (2020)*



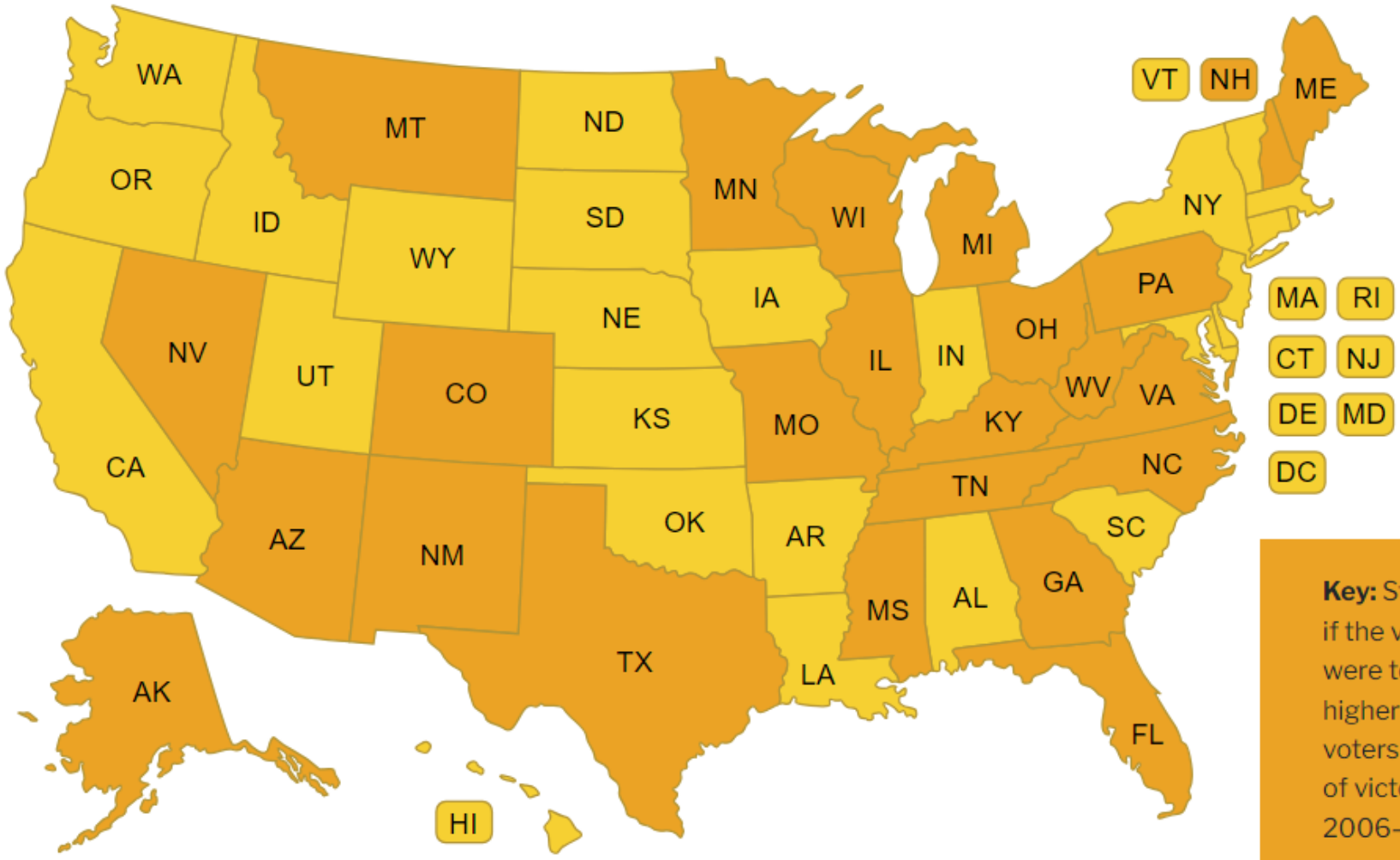
Low-income voters are significantly underrepresented in elections, voting at rates 22 percentage points lower than higher-income voters, despite having similar motivations and concerns.

If low-income eligible voters turned out at higher rates, election results in as many as 15 states could be impacted, highlighting the untapped political potential of this group.

Key barriers include **lack of engagement on relevant issues, structural constraints like illness or transportation, and accessibility challenges**, which need to be addressed to increase participation.

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The Voting Potential of Low-Income Americans

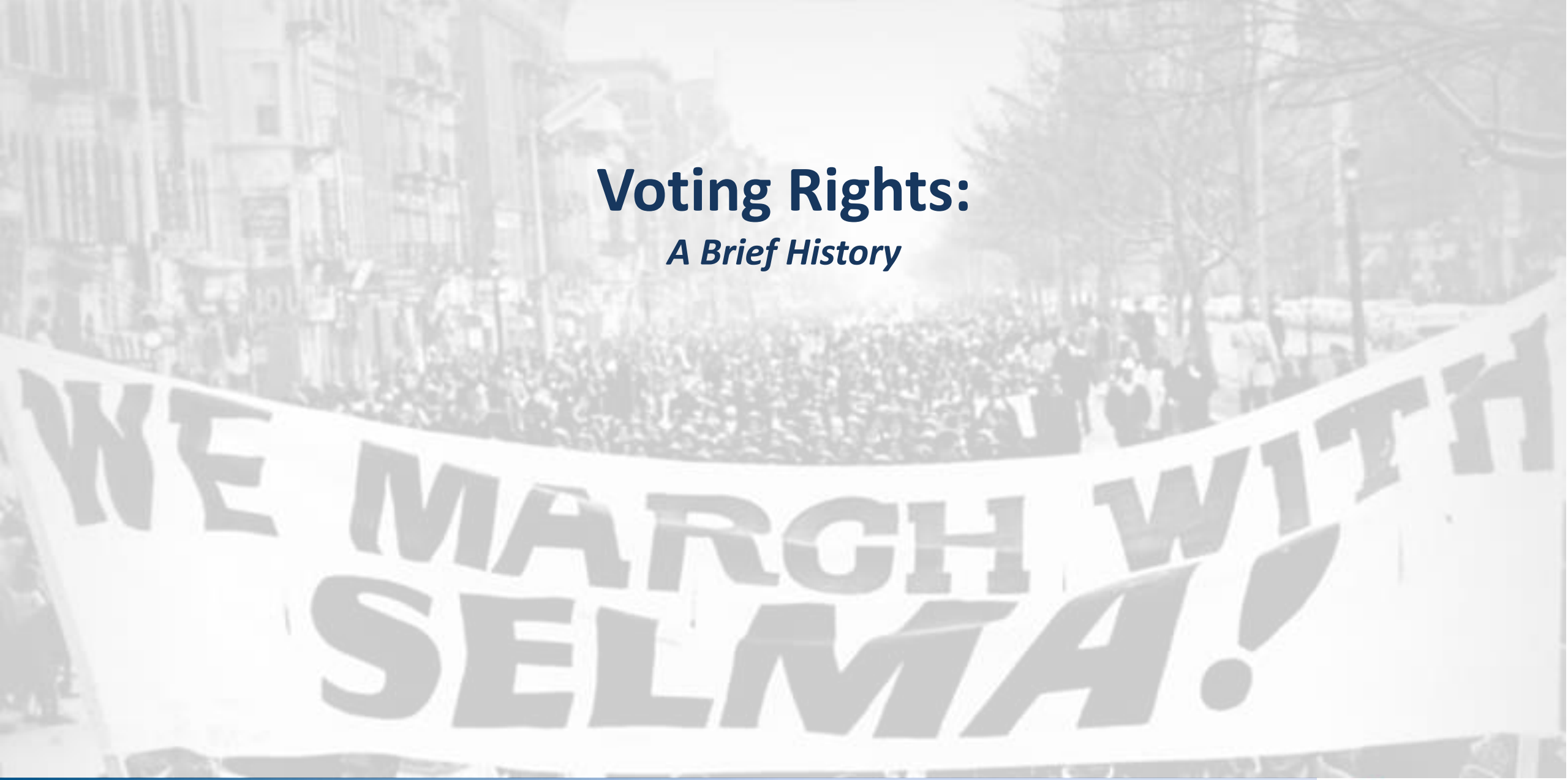


Key: States highlighted in orange are states where, if the voting rates of the low-income population were to match the voting rates of those with higher incomes, these additional low-income voters would match or exceed the election margins of victory in the 2016 presidential election or the 2006–2018 midterm elections.

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Voting Rights:

A Brief History



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Partnership Policy Spotlight: Voting Rights



Oct. 2022

Partnership Policy Spotlight
Voting Rights: A Brief Legal History

Preserving the voting rights of people experiencing poverty is intrinsic to Community Action. A primary goal of the original Community Action Program was to empower all residents of a community to create opportunity-rich environments where they could thrive – "to help people help themselves and each other." The architects of the first program recognized that effectively fighting poverty required not just coordinating services, but also the "maximum feasible participation" of groups receiving those services. They understood that poverty and political exclusion are mutually reinforcing conditions, and that restoring inclusivity required programs to instill a sense of political empowerment in their customers. In the words of Robert Kennedy, "maximum feasible participation means giving the poor a real voice in their institutions." Actual, meaningful access to the polls gives people experiencing low incomes the chance to help shape their own futures.

IN THE BEGINNING…

Despite lauding democratic ideals of self-government and equal rights bestowed by the laws of nature, the drafters of the Constitution left questions of voter eligibility to the states. Since that time, Constitutional amendments have imposed minimum voter protection requirements on the states, including the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection. The Voting Rights Act and other federal laws were passed to, among other goals, enforce the 15th Amendment's prohibition on race discrimination in voting. The Supreme Court of the United States interprets the meaning of both constitutional provisions (what is "A well regulated Militia," anyway?) and the validity of federal and state laws.

The trajectory of American voting rights closely tracks the progress of other civil rights. As politically

Read NCAP's Voting Rights Policy Brief

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Who Got The Vote & When: A Voting Rights Timeline

1789: At the time the Constitution was ratified, the right to vote was the most restrictive, allowing states to decide who could vote – most of which limited voting eligibility to Christian white male landowners. As attitudes changed and new states were admitted, many property requirements were repealed. By the presidential election of 1828, most white men were eligible to vote, and no states imposed a religious test.

1856: Nebraska last state to repeal property ownership requirements.

1868: 14th Amendment requires due process and equal protection of the laws.

1870: 15th Amendment prohibits states and the federal government from denying or abridging the right of U.S. citizens to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."*

1884: Supreme Court rules Native Americans are non-citizens and ineligible to vote (*Elk v. Wilkins*)

1913: 17th Amendment establishes the direct election of U.S. Senators by eligible voters.

1920: 19th Amendment protects the right to vote for women in all states.*

1924: Indian Citizenship Act grants all Native Americans citizenship and the right to vote.

1944: Supreme Court rules that laws excluding people of color from statewide primaries ("white primaries") are unconstitutional (*Smith v. Allwright*)

1957: Civil Rights Act of 1957 bans interference with a person's right to vote in federal elections.

1960: Civil Rights Act of 1960 creates more stringent penalties for violations and expands definition of "vote" to include the complete process from registration to a vote being counted.



1961: 23rd Amendment allows voters in the District of Columbia to vote in presidential elections.

1964: 24th Amendment prohibits poll taxes in federal elections (the Supreme Court later ruled that poll taxes in state and local elections are also unconstitutional).

1965: Voting Rights Act: (1) prohibits voting discrimination based on race (and later, language minority status); and (2) requires jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to clear new voting laws with the federal government.

1971: 26th Amendment extends voting rights to all eligible citizens 18 years of age or older and prohibits voting restrictions based on age.

1984: Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act requires all polling places in federal elections be accessible for people with disabilities and elderly individuals.

1986: Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act protects the right to vote for active service members and other citizens residing overseas.

1993: National Voter Registration Act creates federal voter registration form option, allows voters to register by mail and at motor vehicle offices, requires state agencies providing public assistance to help customers register to vote, and limits state voter purges.

2000: First Circuit Court of Appeals rules that residents of U.S. territories are ineligible to vote in presidential elections (*Igartua De La Rosa v. US*)

2002: Help America Vote Act: (1) provides funding to states for increased polling place accessibility and computerized registration; (2) institutes requirements for voter identification, provisional balloting, and voting systems; and (3) creates the Election Assistance Commission.

2006: Voting Rights Act provisions extended through 2032.

2013: Supreme Court rules the VRA preclearance formula unconstitutional (*Shelby v. Holder*).

2021: Supreme Court weakens Section 2 of the VRA, making it more difficult to challenge state voting laws that have discriminatory effects (*Brnovich v. DNC*).

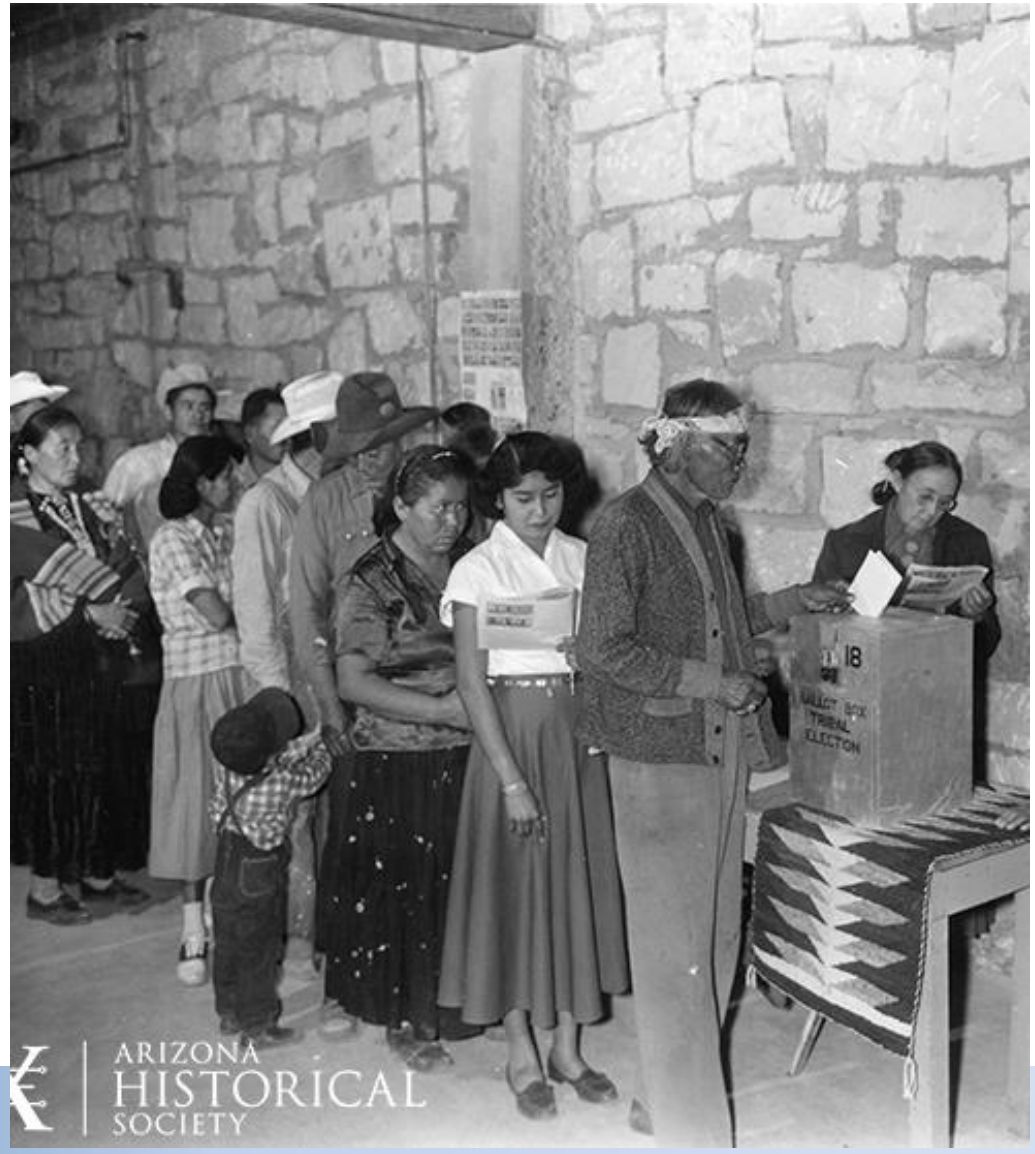
** Together, the 15th and 19th Amendments legally established near-universal suffrage. In practice, however, state and local laws intentionally restricted the ability of citizens of color to vote and hate groups threatened and committed acts of violence against those exercising and attempting to exercise their right.*

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Native Voting Rights

***Elk v. Wilkins* (1884):** birthright citizenship **did not apply** to Native Americans and, as such, their right to vote was not protected under the 15th Amendment.

In 1924, **Congress finally recognized the U.S. citizenship of Native Americans** born on tribal lands when it passed the Indian Citizenship Act, but states still passed laws discriminating against Native American voters.



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Constitutional Amendments





<u>14th Amendment</u> (1868) prohibits states and the federal government from "deny[ing] to any person … the equal protection of the laws."

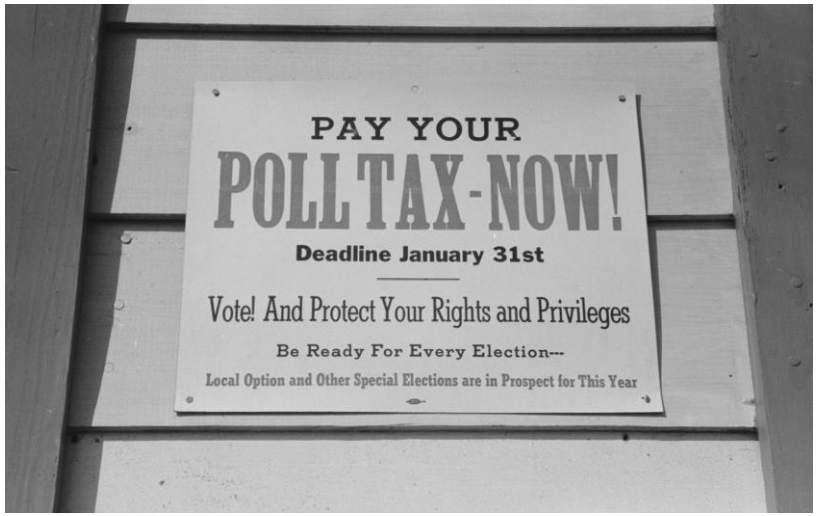
Later amendments recognized protections by prohibiting the government from denying a citizen's ability to vote on the basis of:

- **15th – Race, color, or previous condition of servitude (1870)**
- **19th – Sex (1920)**
- **24th – Taxes owed (1964)**
- **26th – Age (if over 18) (1971)**

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15th Amendment (1870)





Federal government and states cannot abridge or deny the right to vote "on account of race, color, or former condition of servitude"

States began passing laws that were facially race neutral, but bestowed maximum discretion on state officials, systematically disenfranchising voters of color without violating the Court's interpretation of the Constitution.

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The Voting Rights Act of 1965



"If a single statute represents the best of America, it is the Voting Rights Act. It marries two great ideals: democracy and racial equality. And it dedicates our country to carrying them out.

If a single statute reminds us of the worst of America, it is the Voting Rights Act. Because it was—and remains—so necessary.

- Justice Elena Kagan

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The Voting Rights Act: A Two-Pronged Approach



Preclearance by DOJ

Required jurisdictions with a history of race discrimination in voting to obtain **clearance from the federal government** before implementing any new voting laws (5-year sunset provision)

Denial Claims

Prohibits any voting qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure that "**results in a denial or abridgement of the right … to vote** on account of race or color … or membership in a language minority."

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South Carolina v. Katzenbach (1966)





- SC, as a covered jurisdiction, wanted to keep its literacy test (among other things) and sued to overturn the law, arguing that it undermined its rights under Article I.
- The Court upheld the law (8-1) as a permissible use of Congress's enforcement power under the 15th Amendment.
- Chief Justice Warren wrote that Congress had **"full remedial powers"** under the enforcement clause to prevent racial discrimination in voting and that the Act was a **"legitimate response"** to the **"insidious and pervasive evil"** that denied Black people their right to vote.
- He noted that although it "may have been an uncommon exercise of congressional power … **exceptional conditions can justify legislative measures not otherwise appropriate**."

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Effects of the VRA

Table 3. Percentage of Voting Age African Americans Registered to Vote in Southern States, 1947-1966

State	1947	1952	1956	1966
Alabama	1.2%	5%	11%	51.2%
Arkansas	17.3%	27%	36%	59.7%
Florida	15.4%	33%	32%	60.9%
Georgia	18.8%	23%	27%	47.2%
Louisiana	2.6%	25%	31%	47.1%
Mississippi	0.9%	4%	5%	32.9%
North Carolina	15.2%	18%	24%	51%
South Carolina	13%	20%	27%	51.4%
Tennessee	25.8%	25%	27%	71.7%
Texas	18.5%	31%	37%	61.6%
Virginia	13.2%	16%	19%	46.9%

Source: Hanes Walton, Jr., *Black Politics: A Theoretical and Structural Analysis* (New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1972), p. 44.

- Almost **1 million Black voters registered** in the first four years.
- Number of **Black elected officials in Southern states doubled** after the 1966 elections.
- Jurisdictions immediately covered by the Coverage Formula in Section 4 were the states of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia, as well as 39 counties in North Carolina and certain counties in Arizona and Hawaii.

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VRA Amendments & Other Federal Laws

1970: expanded test/device ban to all states, updated coverage formula to 1968 election (CA, ID, NY, OR)

1975: national test/device ban permanent, language minority protections, penalties for voting more than once

1982: confirmed disparate impact sufficient for a violation, superseding *Mobile v. Bolden* (1980)

1992: bilingual voting assistance

2006: 25-year extension (2032)

National Voter Registration Act (1993): voter registration for driver's license and public assistance applicants, registration-by-mail

Help America Vote Act (2002): accessible polling places/voting systems, first-time voter ID requirement, Election Assistance Commission, right to provisional and replacement ballots



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Shelby County v. Holder (2013)

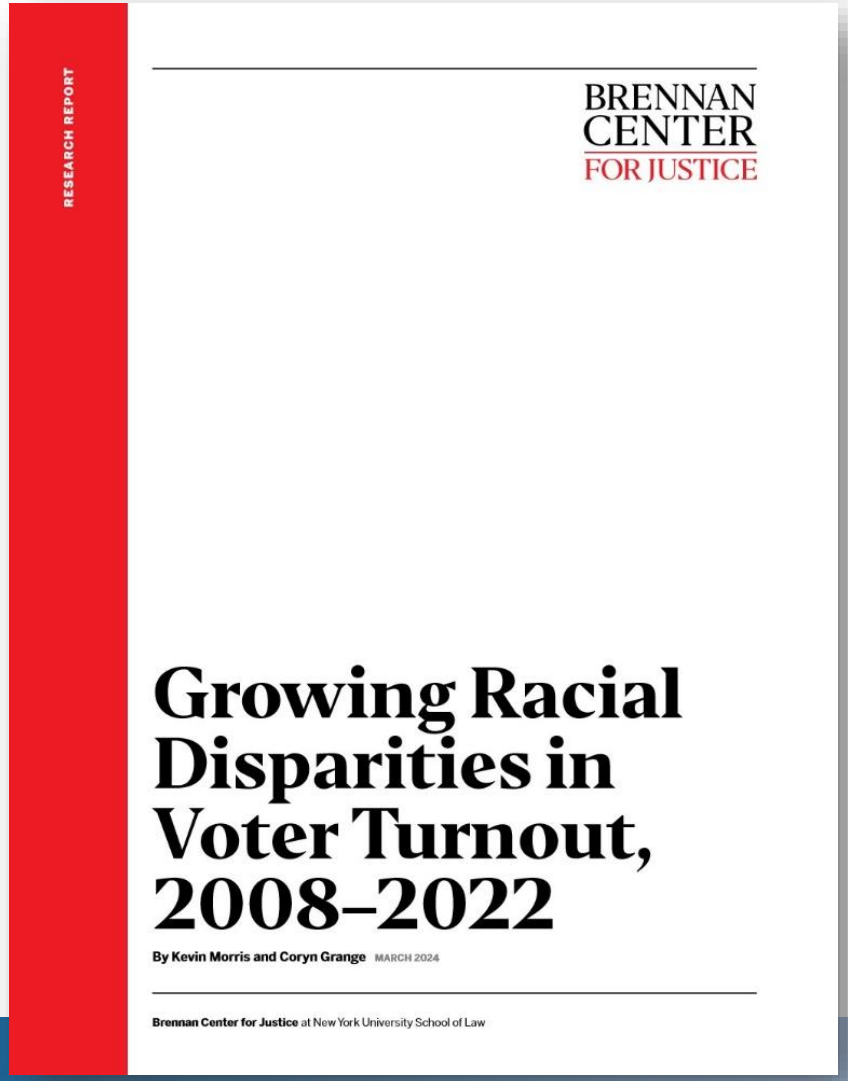




- In a 5-4 opinion, the Court struck down preclearance.
- Chief Justice Roberts conceded that **"any racial discrimination in voting is too much,"** that no one doubts that voter discrimination still exists, and that the VRA "has proved immensely successful at redressing racial discrimination and integrating the voting process," **BUT** found that **"the conditions that originally justified these measures no longer characterize voting in the covered jurisdictions."**
- In her dissent, Justice Ginsburg argued that the VRA was precisely the reason conditions had improved, famously noting that**, "[t]hrowing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."**

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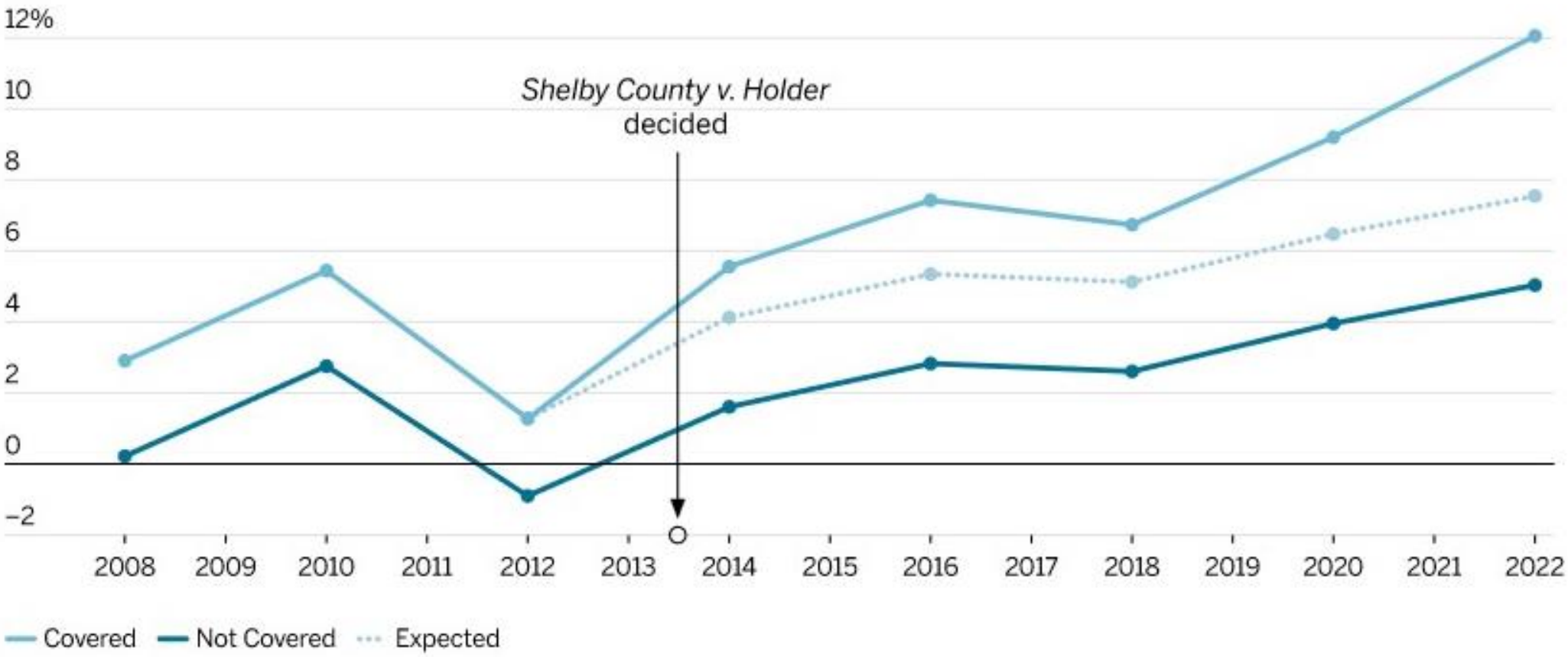
Shelby County: 10 Years Later



- Since *Shelby*, at least 31 states have enacted 114 restrictive voting laws.
- In 2020, the racial turnout gap was more than 12 percentage points. For Black voters, it was almost 15 percentage points. Had voters of color voted at the same rate as white voters, 9 million more ballots would have been cast. In 2022, the racial turnout gap was 18 percentage points, meaning 14 million more ballots would have been cast.
- In preclearance areas, the gap grew on average almost twice as fast as in similar parts of the country.

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White–Black Turnout Gap Time Series

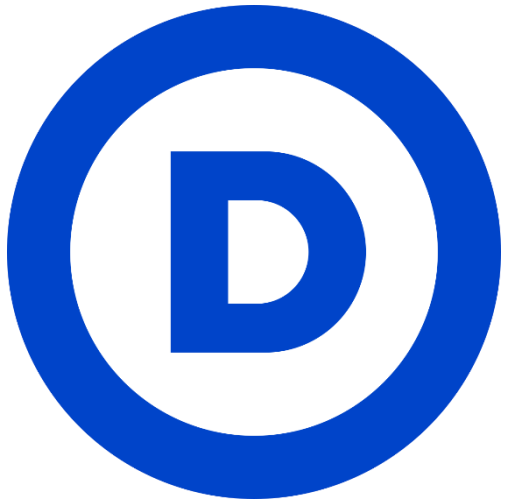


Note: Uncovered counties entropy balanced using the following covariates: population, share white, share Black, median income, median age, share with bachelor's degree or higher, and 2012 Obama vote share.

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Brnovich v. DNC (2021)





- Two Arizona voting laws disproportionately affected Hispanic, Native American, and Black voters.
- The Court ruled that neither law violated the VRA. Writing for the majority, Justice Alito "identified certain guideposts" for determining if a voting law violates Section 2. On disparities, he wrote that **"some disparity in impact" does not necessarily correlate to discrimination.**
- In her dissent, Justice Kagan dismissed these "guideposts" as "a list of mostly made-up factors" that do not appear anywhere in the law. Arguing for a broader reading, and quoting directly from Section 2, she wrote that **both Arizona laws "violate Section 2 … because they 'result in' members of some races having 'less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process.'"**

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Federal Bills We're Tracking

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

- Would restore key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that were weakened by Supreme Court decisions, particularly *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013).
- Would require jurisdictions with a certain number of voting rights violations in the last 25 years to submit to preclearance for 10 years.
- The bill passed the House of Representatives on August 24, 2021 (219-212).

OTHER BILLS

- **Freedom to Vote Act:** expands voter registration and access, establishes Election Day as a federal holiday, enhances election security, campaign finance reforms.
- **Voting Rights Restoration:** restores voting rights to returning citizens after completing their sentences.
- **Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act:** requires individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections.

WHAT IS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY?

Political Campaign Activity

vs. Lobbying

Lobbying

Issues/Legislation



Political Campaign Activity

Candidates



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Political Campaign Activity

Organizations vs. Individual Employees

- **Organizations -** CAAs and other 501(c)(3)s often face strict requirements as to their political campaign activities



- **Employees**, on their own time and outside of work, may participate freely in *most* political campaign activities

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POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY RULES AND RESTRICTIONS

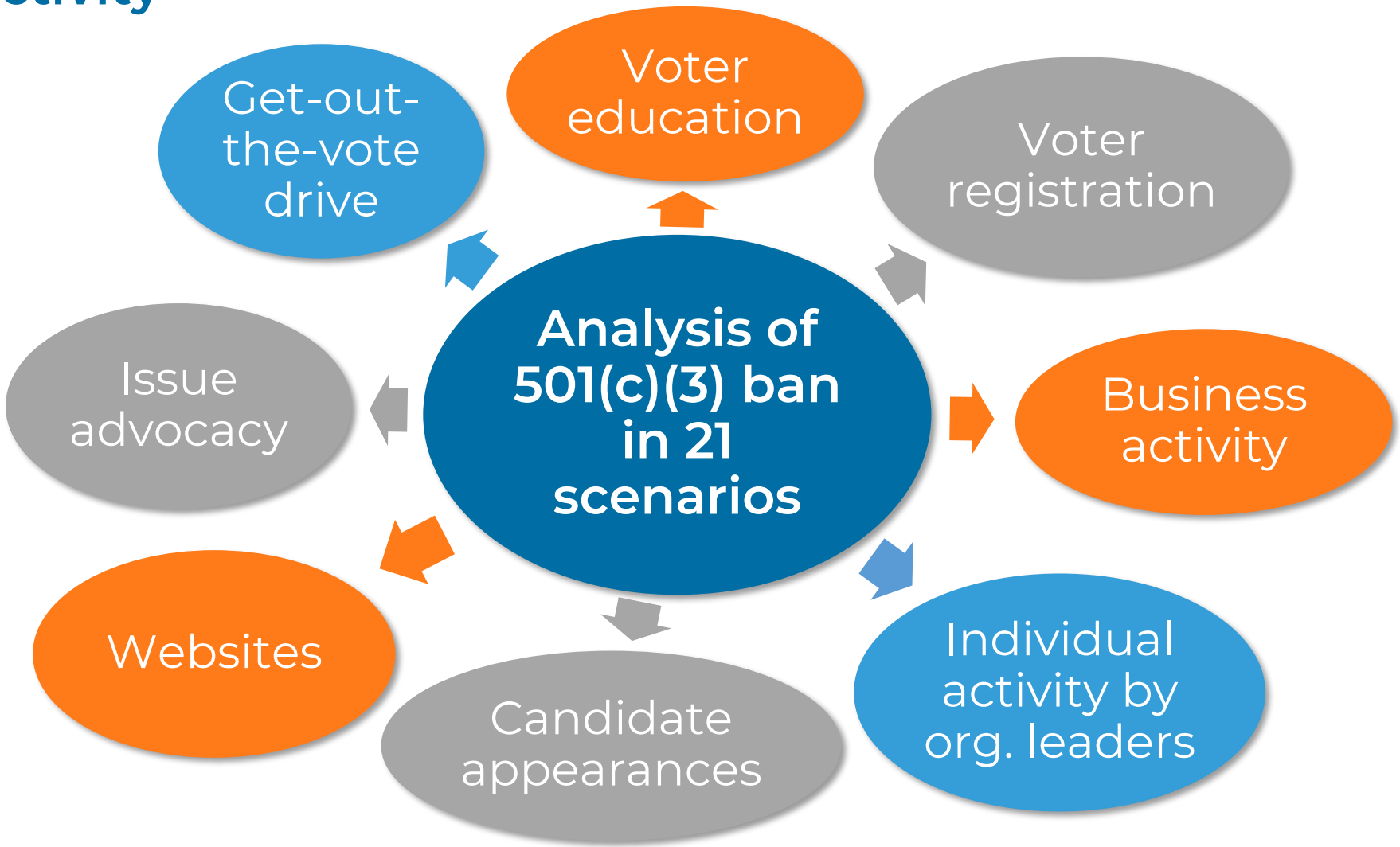
501(c)(3) Rules

- **Organization** prohibited by tax code from engaging in political campaign activity in support of or in opposition to candidates for public office (*26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)*)
- **Penalties for violations** (26 U.S.C. § 4955)
  - Revocation of tax-exempt status
  - Two-tier tax by IRS

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Revenue Ruling 2007-41

Political Activity



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Uniform Guidance Rules

Political Activity

Under OMB Uniform Guidance (Cost Principles) federal funds may NOT be used to:

- Influence the outcome of elections, referenda or initiatives
- Give to political campaigns
- Donate to PACs
- Contribute to political parties

Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR § 200.450(c)

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CSBG Act

Sec. 678F(b)(2)

- CSBG funds cannot:
  - Fund **partisan** or **nonpartisan political activity**
  - Pay for **voter transportation** or other **election assistance**
  - Support any **voter registration** activity
    - See OCS IM #81
  - Be used in a manner that results in the CSBG-funded program **being identified with such activities**

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Head Start Act

42 U.S.C. § 9851

- Head Start funds cannot be used to:
  - Fund **partisan** or **nonpartisan political activity**
  - Pay for **voter transportation** or other **election assistance**
  - Conduct **voter registration** activity
    - **EXCEPT** Head Start facilities may be used by any **nonpartisan organization** to register voters in federal elections during hours of operation

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Other Funding Sources

- **Does it further the purposes of the award?**
  - Funding voter registration booth with CACFP funds 
  - Partnering with a nonpartisan organization with WIC funds 
- **Is it reasonable and allocable?**

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Hatch Act

Applies to Employees of:

Public Entities
(Federal + State)

Limits certain political activities of federal + some state/local government employees who work in connection with federally funded programs

NOT Nonprofit Entities
(Typically . .)

Generally does not apply to employees of nonprofit organizations, even if they are federally funded*

*Both CSBG and Head Start impose Hatch Act restrictions on certain employees *(42 USC § 9918(b)(1) and 42 USC § 9851(a))*

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Hatch Act Restrictions

Nonprofit CAAs



Employee #1

Principally employed by CAA + Works in connection with CSBG and/or Head Start activities

- Can't use official authority to influence election results
- Can't coerce a Hatched Employee to make a political contribution
- Can't run as candidate for public office in partisan election



Employee #2

Salary is 100% paid out of CSBG and/or Head start funds (directly/indirectly)

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Hatch Act Restrictions

Public CAAs



Employee #1

Works in connection with activities financed by **ANY** federal grants or loans

- Can't use official authority to influence election results
- Can't coerce a Hatched Employee to make a political contribution
- Can't run as candidate for public office in partisan election



Employee #2

100% of salary is paid out of **ANY** federal grants or loans

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Hatch Act Restrictions

Scope

If employee is covered by Hatch Act:

- Restrictions apply regardless of whether activity is conducted inside or outside the workplace or work time
- Even when employee is on unpaid leave of absence or paid terminal leave

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Hatched Employees MAY

In their personal, not official capacity

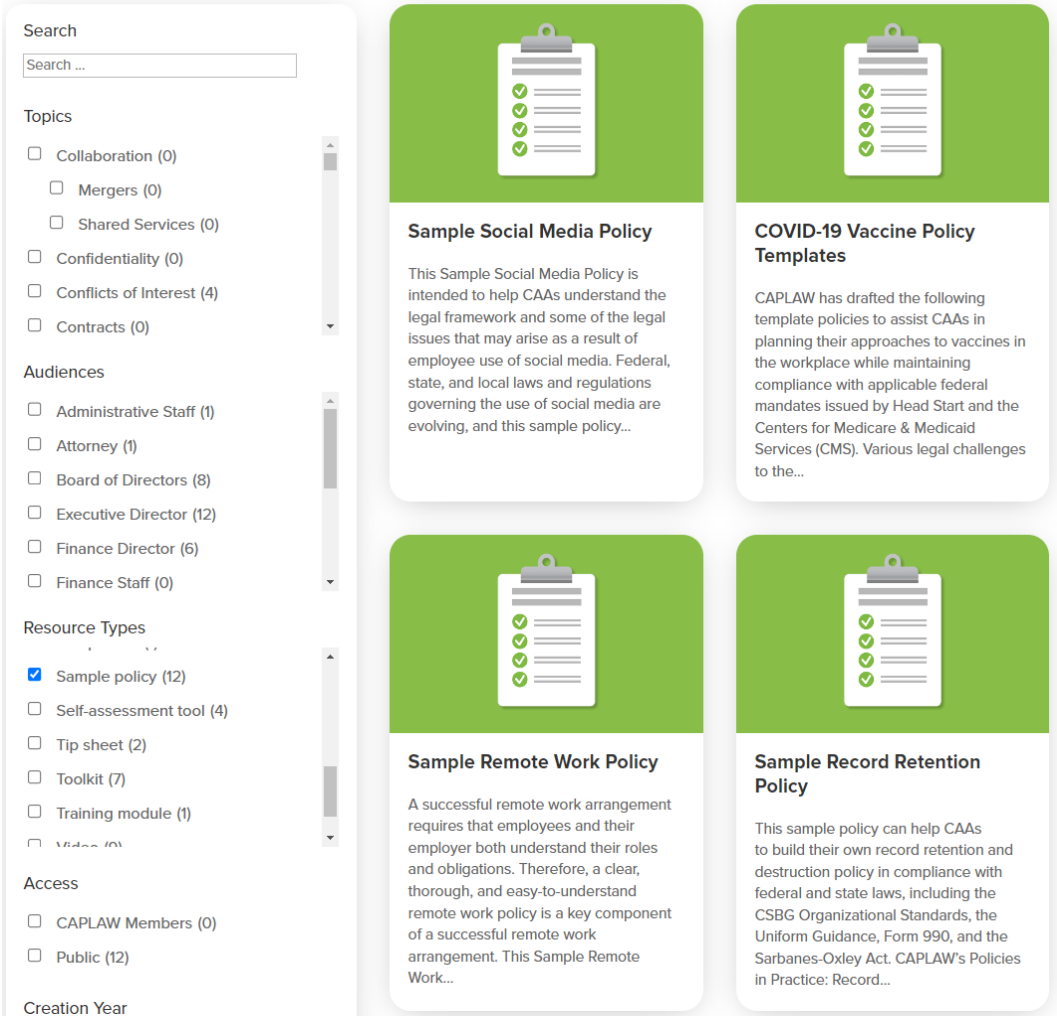
- Register and vote as they choose
- Assist in voter registration drives
- Express opinions about candidates and issues
- Contribute money to political organizations
- Attend political fundraising functions
- Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- Join and be active members of a political party or club
- Be a candidate for office in a non-partisan election

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Politically Active Employees

Policies to Consider

- All policies should be applied <u>consistently</u>:
  - Political activity policy
  - Conflict of interest policy
  - Remote work policy
  - Social media policy
  - Employee handbook/PTO/off-duty conduct



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POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY SCENARIOS

Political Activity Scenario # 1

CAA is staffing a voter registration booth at the state fair using unrestricted funding. The booth has a poster with the CAA's name and the date of an upcoming statewide election, and a sign that reads "Register to Vote Here."

- Is this prohibited activity?
- What if the activity is not at a state fair, but at the CAA's main facility?

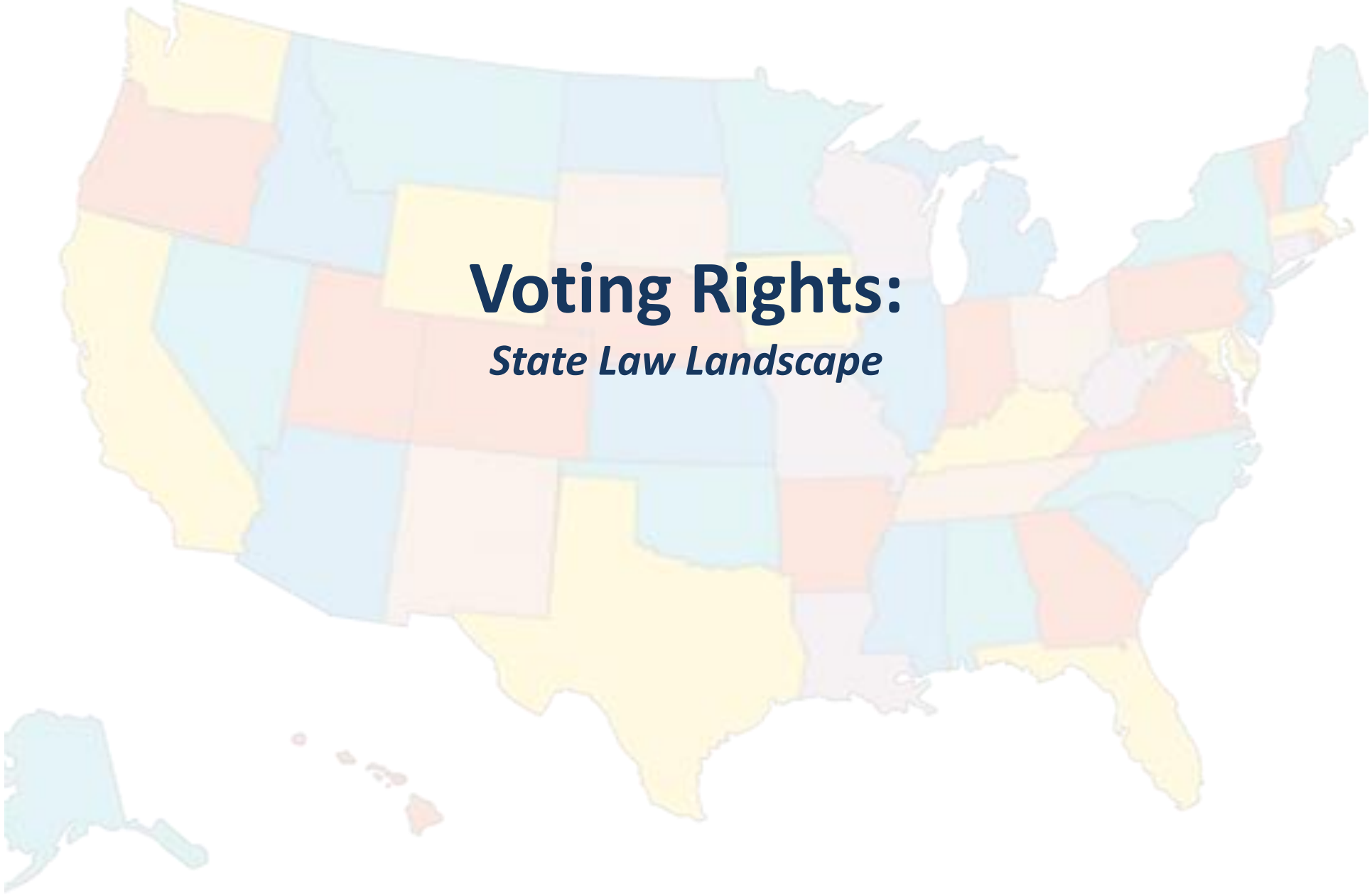
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Political Activity Scenario # 2

A CAA Executive Director believes the CAA should take steps to educate clients on the poverty and racial equity issues that affect them. Can the CAA:

- Send an "Election Primer" to staff, clients, and community supporters on its email list, highlighting the stances of candidates in the upcoming election on poverty and racial equity issues?
- Staff a voter registration booth at a state fair and display a sign above a stack of "Election Primers" that reads: "Community Action Fights Poverty and Supports Racial Equity and You Should Too!"
- Invite candidates who address these issues to speak at CAA's monthly community meetings?

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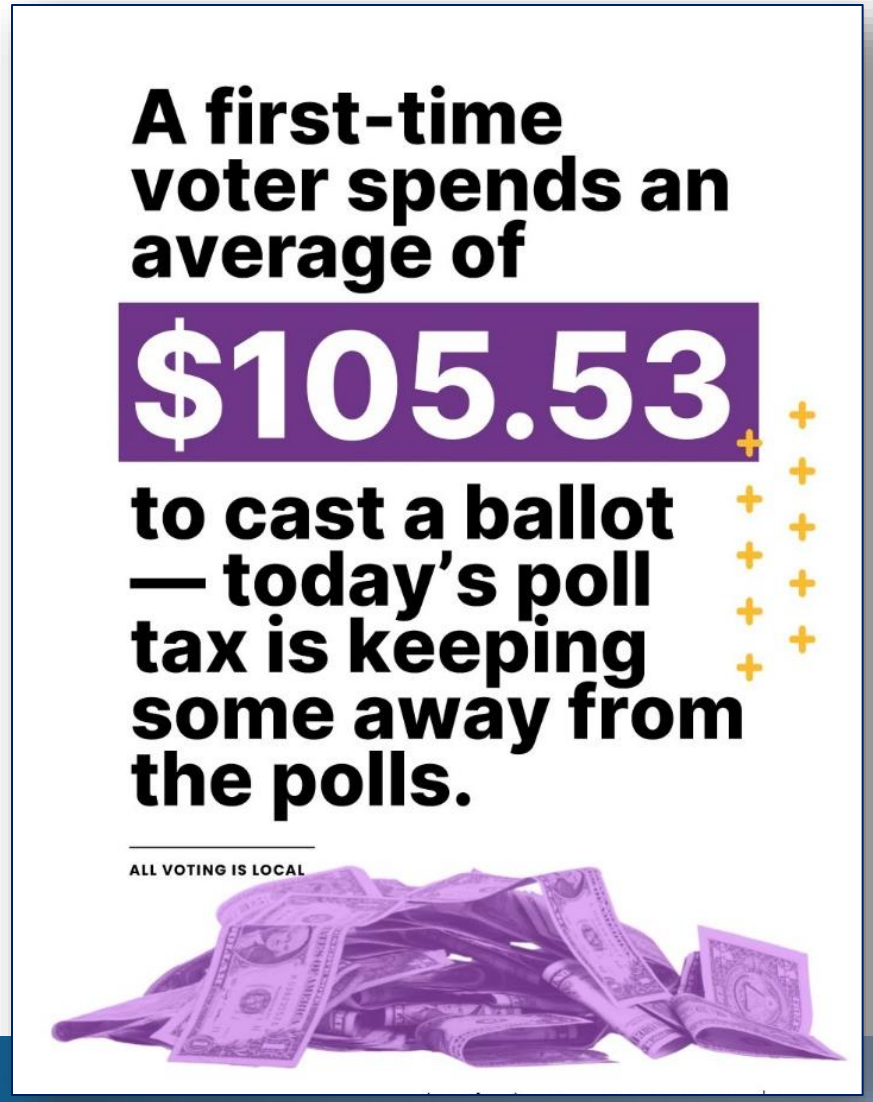


Voting Rights:

State Law Landscape

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Most Common Voting Restrictions



Voter Registration Barriers: Lack of online or same-day registration and targeting of community-led voter registration efforts.

Photo ID Requirements: Strict photo identification laws that disproportionately impact voters of color.

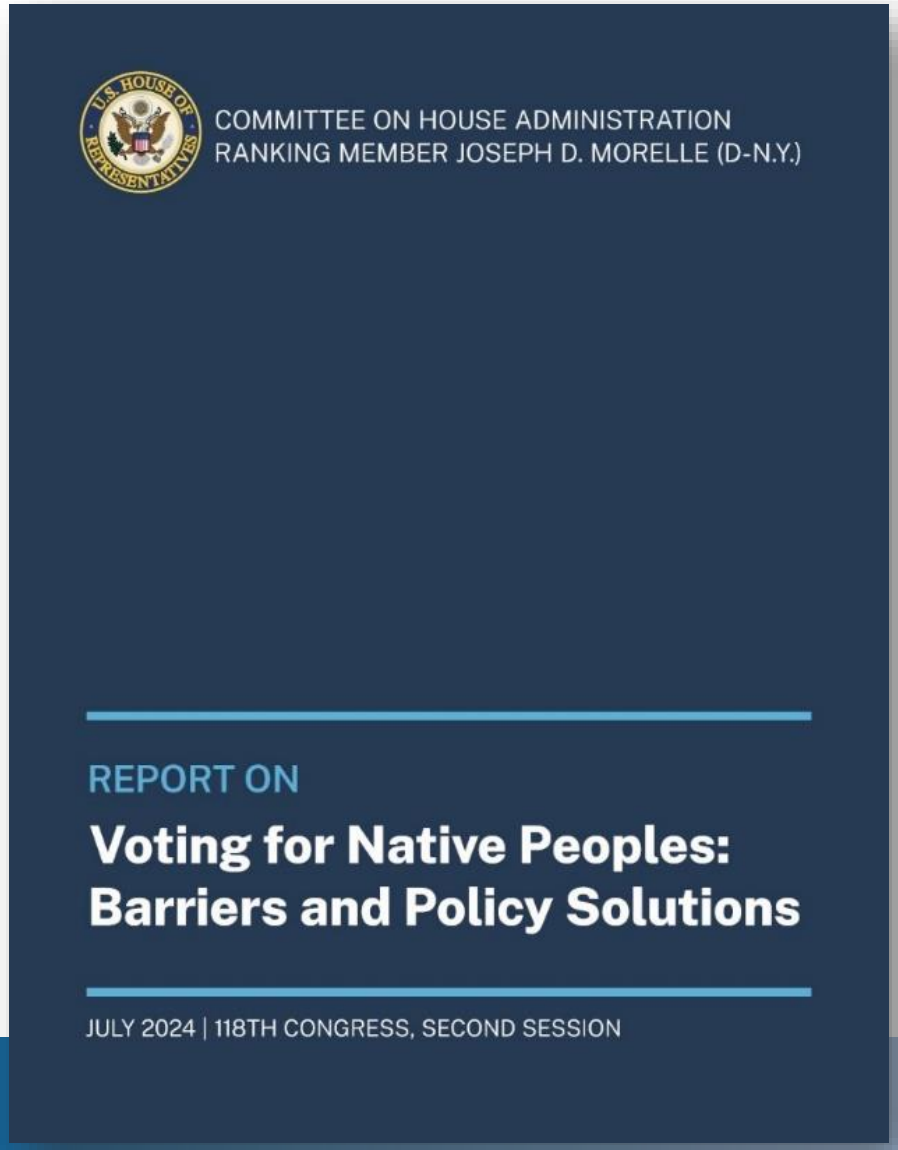
Mail-in Voting Restrictions: Limits on absentee voting, reduced drop-box access, and laws criminalizing assistance with mail-in ballots.

Early Voting Access: Limited or no early voting options.

Felony Disenfranchisement: Complex rules that disproportionately disenfranchise communities of color.

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Voting Rights for Native Populations



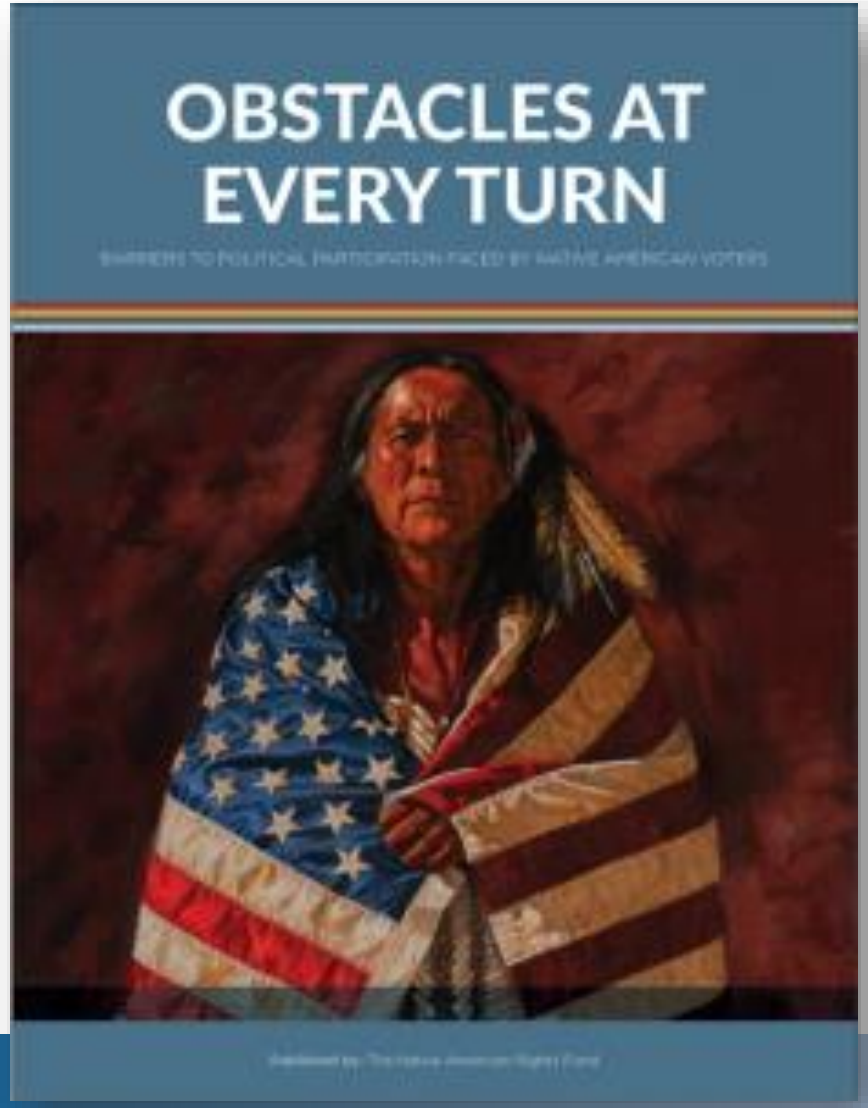
Barriers to Voting: Native Americans face significant challenges to voting, including lack of access to polling places, restrictive voter ID laws, and limited access to mail services, which disproportionately affect reservations.

Legal and Advocacy Efforts: The report highlights ongoing legal battles and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing these barriers and improving voting access for Native communities.

Policy Recommendations: The report calls for targeted policy changes, such as enhanced voting rights protections and improved election infrastructure on reservations.

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NARF Report: *Obstacles at Every Turn* (2020)



Developed by Native American Rights Fund (NARF) through **extensive fieldwork, interviews, and public meetings** across Indian Country.

Identifies **challenges that disproportionately affect Native Americans**, such as geographic isolation, voter ID requirements, lack of polling places, and limited access to mail voting.

These barriers result in lower voter turnout and underrepresentation of Native voices in elections.

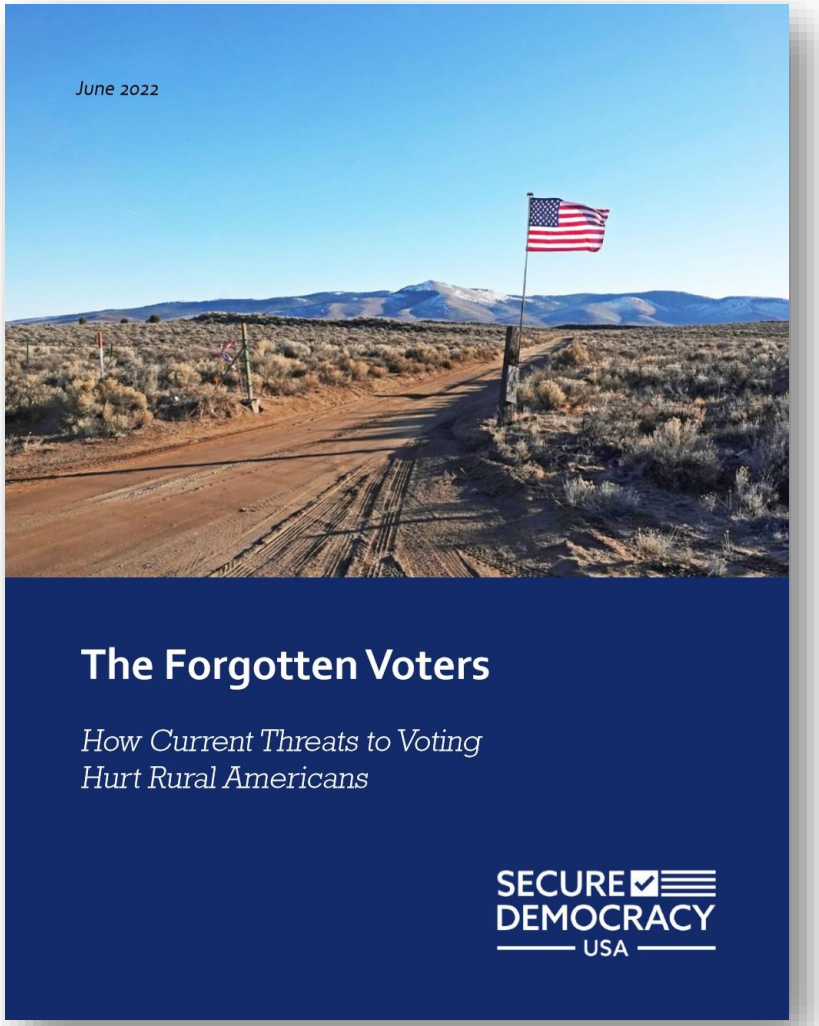
Recommendations: The report advocates for legislative changes, increased funding, and partnerships with Tribes to improve voting access.

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Voting and Rural Populations

The Forgotten Voters: How Current Threats to Voting Hurt Rural Americans (Secure Democracy USA): addresses rural voting barriers like long travel distances, limited online registration, and restrictive mail-in requirements, and recommends policy changes to improve access.

Health and Voting in Rural America (Frontiers): The study examines how poor health in rural areas exacerbates voting barriers due to limited healthcare and voting access, despite higher social capital. It calls for targeted research and policy changes to address these challenges.



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Voting Rights: State-by-State


RESOURCE

Voting Laws Roundup: September 2024

This fall, voters in more than half of the states will face obstacles to voting that they have never encountered in a presidential election before.

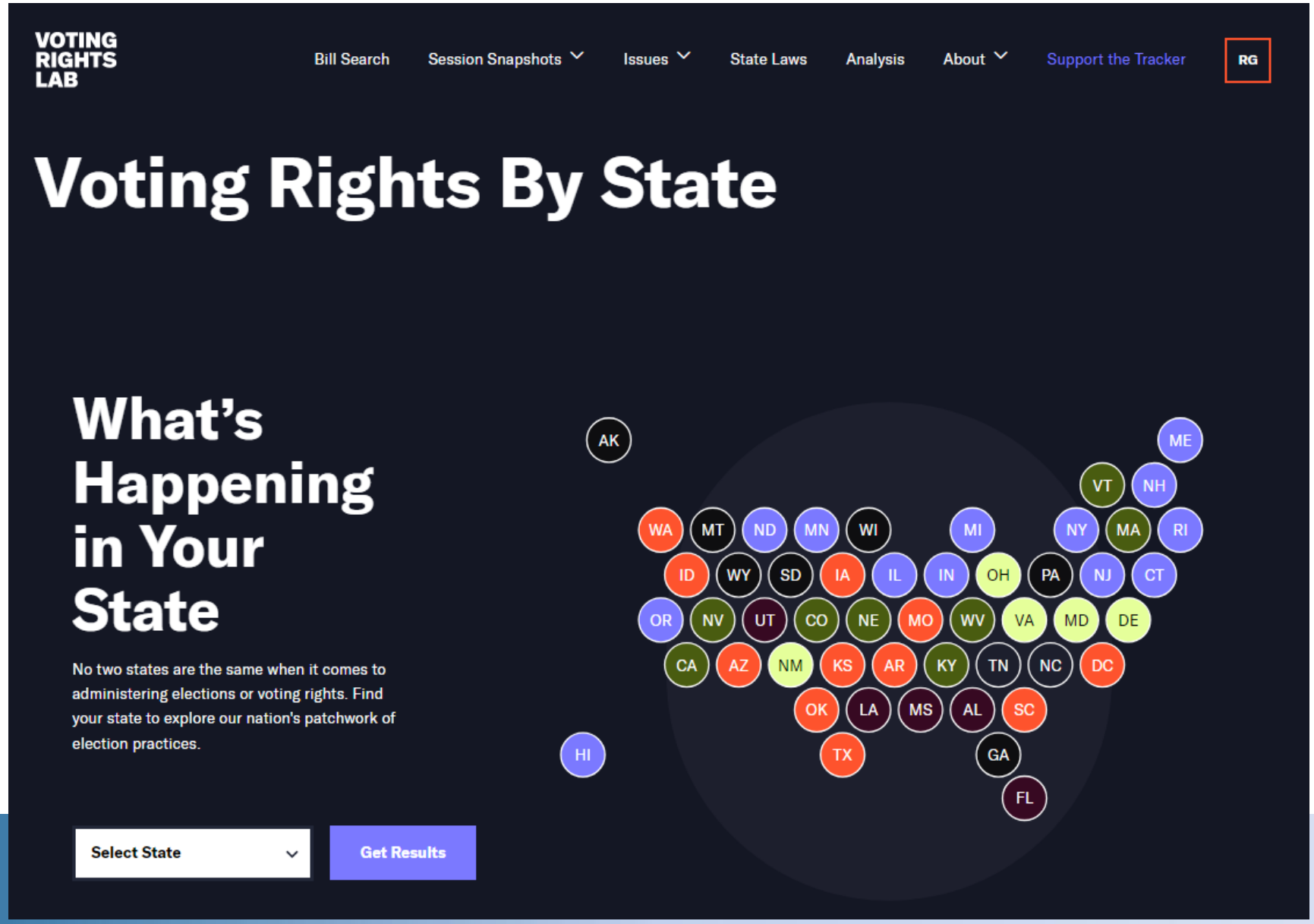
Restrictive Laws Surge: Between 2021 and 2024, at least 30 states passed 78 restrictive voting laws, with 63 set to be in effect for the 2024 presidential election.

Election Interference Concerns: 15 states enacted 33 laws increasing opportunities for partisan interference in election results and processes, impacting 14 states this fall.

Expansive Laws Continue: 41 states and D.C. enacted 168 laws expanding voting access since 2021, with 156 effective for this election cycle.

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Voting Rights Lab: *Voting Rights by State*



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VOTING RIGHTS LAB

Bill Search | Session Snapshots | Issues | State Laws | Analysis | About | Support the Tracker | RG

Pennsylvania



In Pennsylvania, we're tracking 68 bills impacting 18 issue areas.

Same-day registration at early voting locations during part of the early voting period. **Automatic voter registration** at the DMV

28 states and DC offer SDR, and 25 states and DC have or are implementing AVR

In-person absentee early voting begins at least 14 days before Election Day, with weekend voting at county discretion

47 states and DC offer in-person early voting, with 26 states requiring weekend availability

No-excuse mail voting. Counties may allow voters to cure ballots rejected for signature issues until polls close

28 states allow all voters to request a mail ballot

No ID document requested to vote in person. Mail voters must provide an ID number with applications

9 states and DC impose burdens on mail voters in order to verify identity but do not do so for in-person voters

See all PA Bills

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Existing Laws in PA

Browse All States

Mail Voting

Requesting Mail Ballots

Permanent Mail Voting Lists

Universal Mail Ballots

Returning, Verifying, and Curing Mail Ballots

Voter Registration

Standard Registration Process

Same-Day Registration

Automatic Voter Registration

In-Person Voting

Early Voting Availability

ID Requirements

Voting and the Criminal Justice System

Disenfranchisement & Rights Restoration

Voter List Maintenance & Removals

Mail Voting

Learn More

Requesting Mail Ballots

Does Pennsylvania have no-excuse mail voting, or must voters provide a qualifying reason or excuse to receive a mail ballot?

No-excuse mail voting

Pennsylvania has parallel processes for no-excuse mail voting (known as "mail-in voting" in the state) and excuse-required mail voting (known as "absentee voting" in the state).

The no-excuse mail voting process is created by statute and is open to all voters.

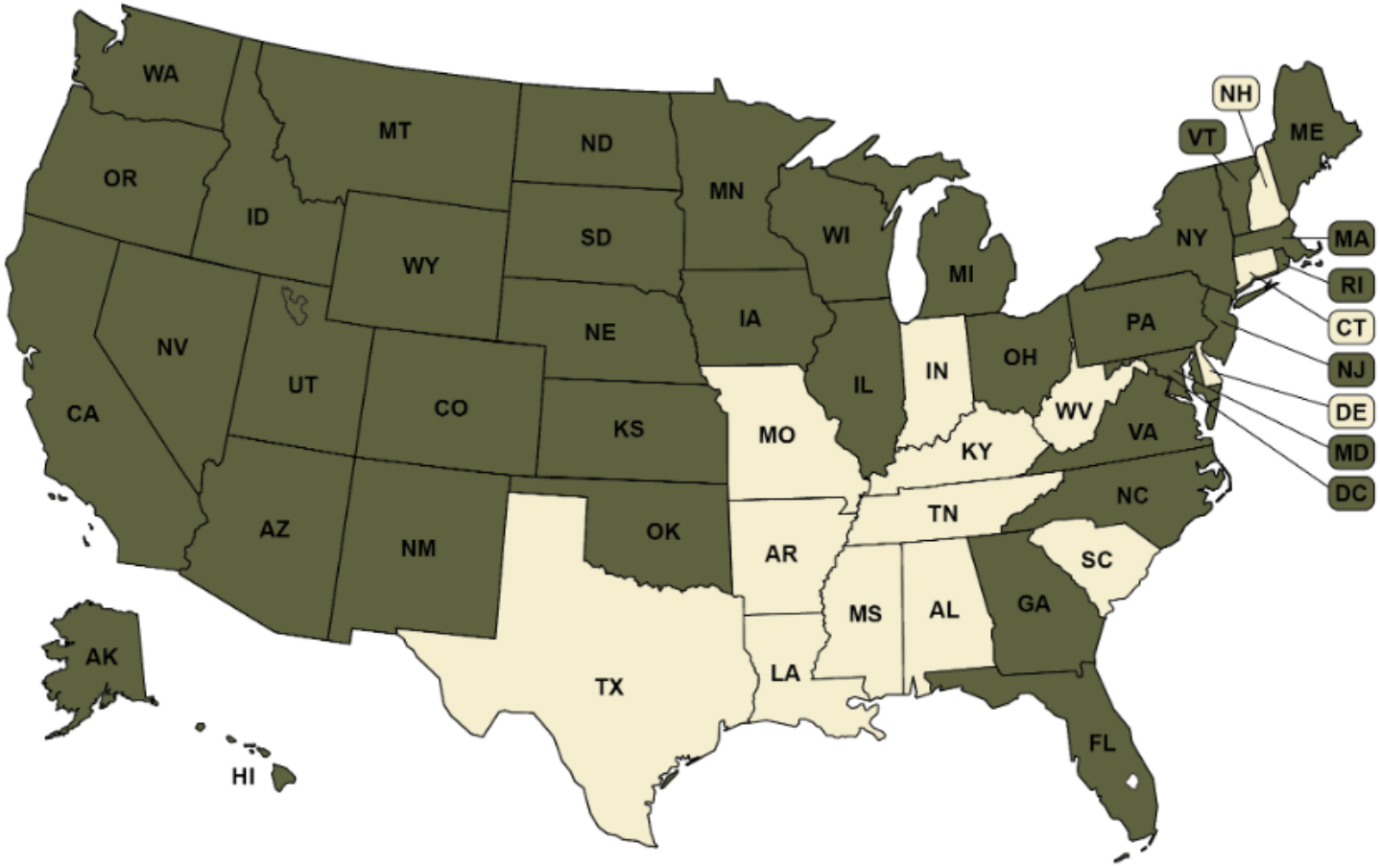
The excuse-required absentee process is created under the state constitution. Voters may vote by absentee ballot when the voter:

- is an active military service member who will be absent from the municipality on Election Day, or is a spouse or dependent who accompanies such a person;
- is a member of the merchant marine who will be absent from the municipality on Election Day, or is a spouse or dependent who accompanies such a person;
- is a member of a religious or welfare group attached to the military who will be absent from the municipality on Election Day, or is a spouse or dependent who accompanies such a person;
- will be absent from the U.S. for all hours on Election Day due to their duties, occupation, or business, or is a spouse or dependent who accompanies such a person;
- is an overseas civilian employee of the United States, or is a spouse or dependent who accompanies such a person;
- is a qualified war veteran bedridden or hospitalized due to illness or physical disability, if absent from the municipality and unable to appear at the polling place because of such illness or physical disability;
- will be away from the municipality during all hours on Election Day due to the voter's duties, occupation, or business;
- cannot attend the polling place and operate a voting machine or request assistance to do so;

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Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

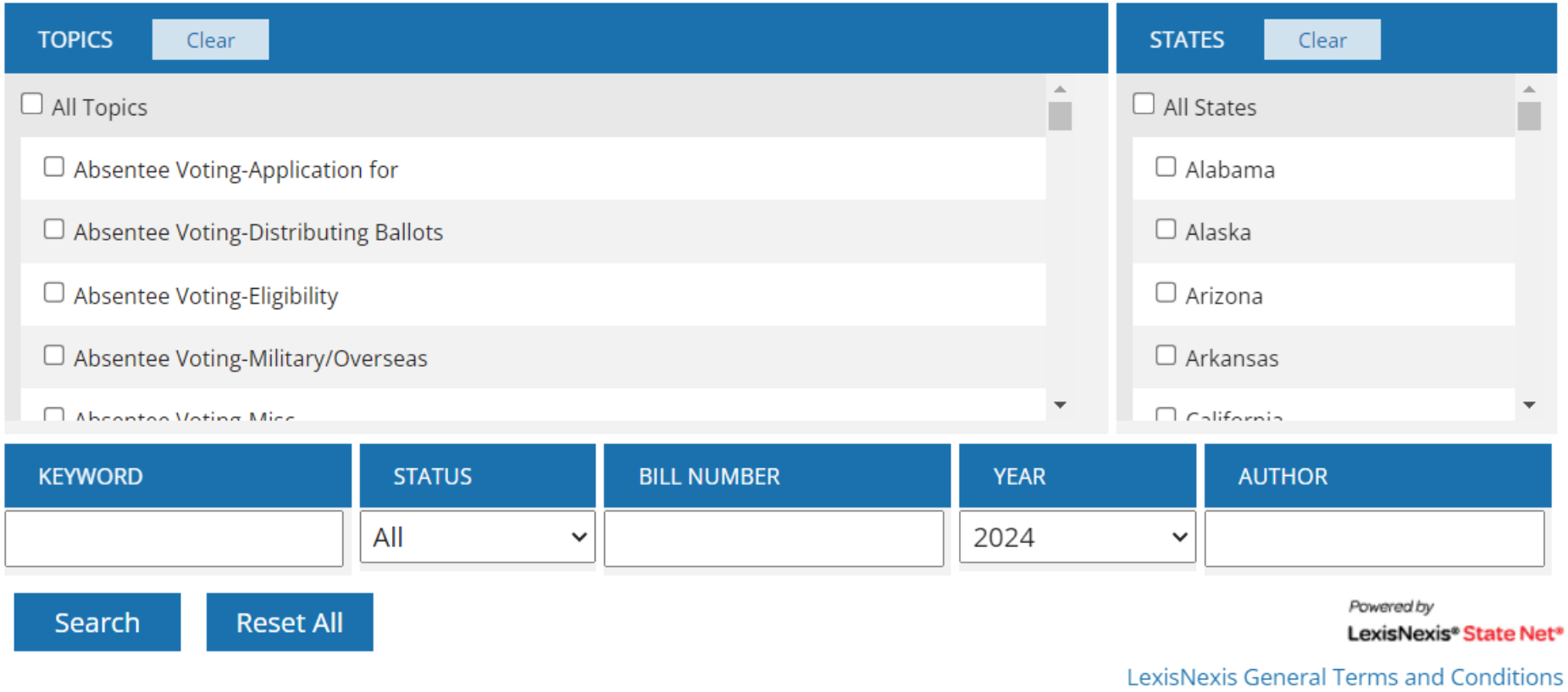
Availability of no-excuse absentee voting



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NCSL

State Elections Legislation Database



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Purcell Block Tango

The *Purcell* principle = courts should not make last-minute changes to election rules or procedures.



- *Purcell v. Gonzalez* (2006): Supreme Court reversed a lower court decision that changed Arizona's voter ID law just before the midterm elections, emphasizing that such changes could create voter confusion and operational challenges.
- Inconsistent application has created confusion – courts have different ideas about what is “too late” and how much the law change would disrupt the election.
- Courts try to balance concerns about voter confusion, logistical burdens, and the broader public interest.

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Election Year Advocacy for Community Action

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NEW! NCAP Elections & Voting Landing Page



Communityactionpartnership.com/voting

NEW! NCAP Elections & Voting Landing Page

One-Stop Shop for:

- ✓ Community Action resources (NCAP, CAPLAW)
- ✓ Sample graphics and social media
- ✓ Federal voting rights info
- ✓ Nonprofit nonpartisan resources
- ✓ State Laws
- ✓ Research & Reports
- ✓ Voting Rights & the Supreme Court

Scan me!

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NCAP In-Person Voting Rights Fact Sheet

Know Your Rights as an In-Person Voter

Before You Go to the Polls:

- **Check your registration**
  - Make sure you're registered HERE!
  - If you're not registered, you can do so HERE!
  - 23 states and DC allow same day voter registration when you arrive at the polls. Check your state's same day registration rules HERE!
- **Check your polling place**
  - Some states will allow you to fill-out a provisional ballot, but some do not allow ANY out-of-precinct voters to cast ballots.
  - Confirm your polling place HERE!
- **Bring required documents**
  - Some states require proof of residence through Voter ID laws. Check your state's rules HERE!
  - **It is illegal in most states for any poll worker or poll monitor to ask about your citizenship status or require proof of citizenship**
- **Preview your ballot**
  - Go HERE! to familiarize yourself with what will be on your ballot before you arrive at the polls.

Go to VOTE.org to learn more!

Once at the Polls, You Have the Right to:

- **Cast your ballot in private and without interference**
- **Stay in line**
- **Receive assistance if you have a disability or difficulty reading, speaking, or writing in English**
- **An accessible polling place and ADA-compliant voting devices**
- **Request a paper ballot (especially if electronic voting machines break down)**
- **Get a replacement ballot if you made a mistake or wish to change your vote**
- **Cast a regular ballot, instead of a provisional ballot (in most cases) – if you are told you can only cast a provisional ballot, ask what the reason is and where you can check to see if your provisional ballot was counted.**

If you have any problems voting, call or text an Election Protection Hotline:

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
866-687-8683

NALEO Educational Fund (Spanish/English)
888-839-8682

Arab American Institute (Arabic/English)
844-925-5287

APIAVote and AAJC (English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali)
888-274-8683

Text MYVOTE to 866-687-8683
to get voting help from a trained Election Protection volunteer - Once a response is received, reply with your ZIP code to get connected to a hotline volunteer

Before You Vote Checklist

- ✓ Check your registration
- ✓ Check your polling place
- ✓ Bring required documents
- ✓ Preview your ballot

Scan me!

At the polls, you have a right to:



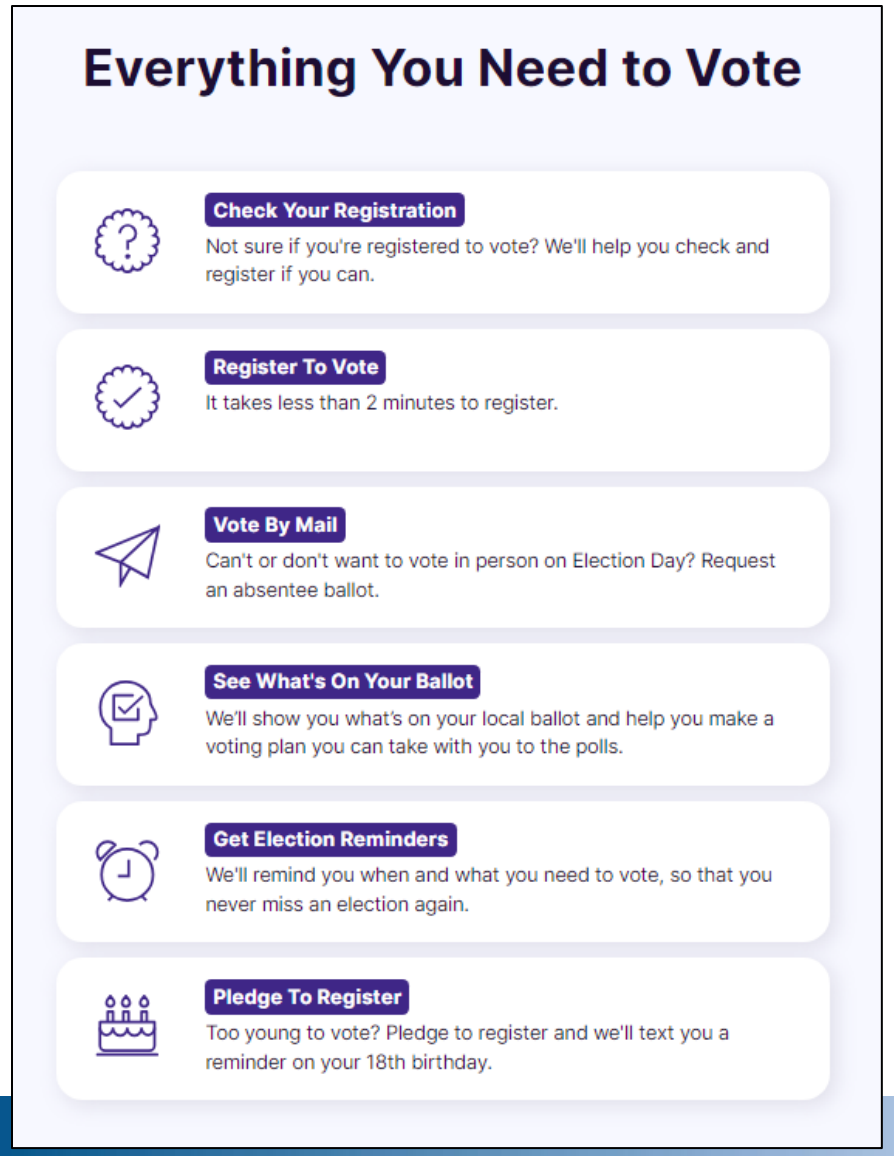




- ✓ Cast your ballot in private and without interference
- ✓ Cast a ballot if you're in line when the polls close
- ✓ Receive assistance if you have a disability or difficulty reading, speaking, or writing in English
- ✓ An accessible polling place and ADA-compliant voting devices
- ✓ Request a paper ballot
- ✓ Get a replacement ballot if you made a mistake or wish to change your vote
- ✓ Cast a regular ballot, instead of a provisional ballot (in most cases) – if you are told you can only cast a provisional ballot, ask what the reason is and where you can check to see if your provisional ballot was counted.

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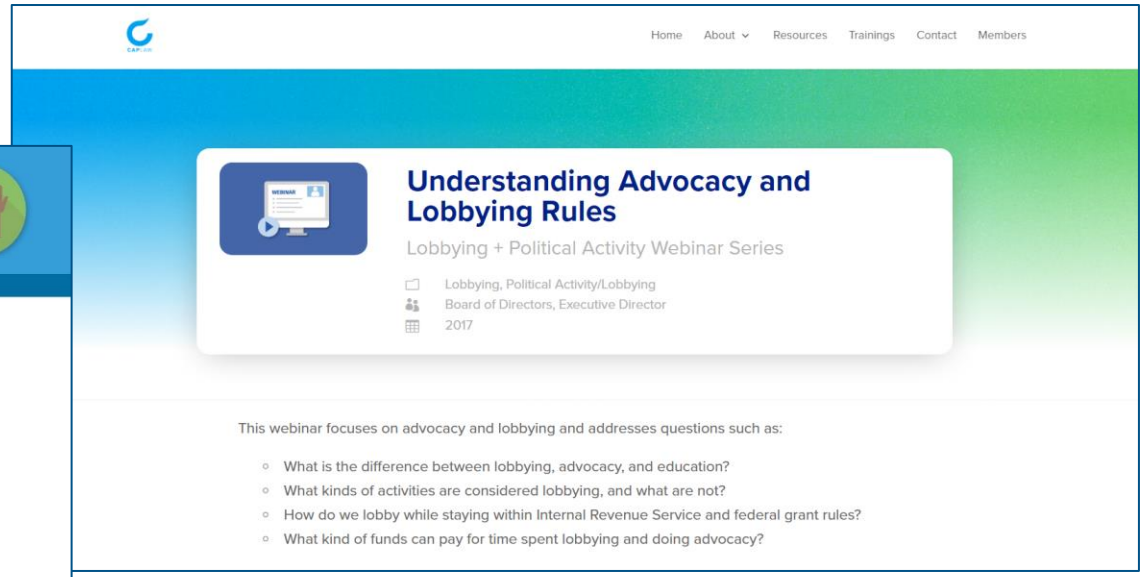
Nonpartisan Nonprofits Voting Resources



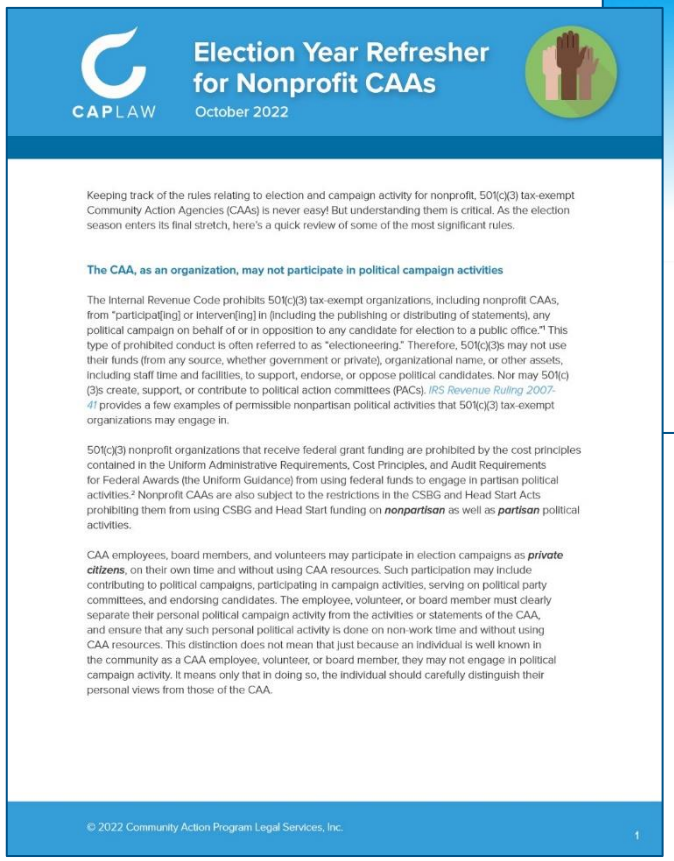
- Nonprofit VOTE – Resource Library
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund – Voting Rights 2024
- ACLU – Know Your Voting Rights in Different Example Scenarios
- Vote.org – "Everything You Need to Vote"
- National Disability Rights Network – "Voters With Disabilities Activated"
- Vote411 – League of Women Voters Education Fund
- Voto Latino – Election Center
- Native American Rights Fund – Native Voices, Native Votes
- National Domestic Violence Hotline – How Domestic Violence Survivors Can Vote Safely
- National LBTQ Task Force – Queer the Vote
- National Low Income Housing Coalition – Our Homes, Our Votes

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CAPLAW Lobbying & Advocacy Resources



[Webinar: Understanding Advocacy & Lobbying Rules]



[Election Year Refreshers for Nonprofit CAAs (2022)]

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NCAF

THE 2024 ELECTION

24 Election Series

http://bit.ly/24NCAFelectionseries

Two 90-minute, Virtual Sessions

"2024 Election Predictions"
Fri. 11/1 at 2:30 PM ET

"Election Result Analysis for Community Action"
Tue. 11/12 at 2:30 PM ET

Questions? Email carla@ncaf.org

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Civic Engagement Resources

- CAPLAW articles: model policies on political activity
- Bolder Advocacy: The Rules of the Game: A Guide to Election-Related Activities for 501(c)(3) Organizations
- Non-Profit Vote: resources for non-profits on how to help the people they serve participate and vote
- Vote411: a project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund; non-partisan general and state specific information
- Vote.org: check your registration, register, request ballot by mail, get election reminders and more
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Brennan Center for Justice
- League of Women Voters



BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

NCSL

LWV

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Help Shape NCAP Public Policy Priorities!

Review Process for 2025-2026

CLICK HERE for Event & Survey Links

Listening Sessions

- October 10, 2024 @ 1PM ET / 12PM CT
- November 18, 2024 @ 1PM ET / 12PM CT

Anonymous Survey

- September 27 – November 22

Network Webinar – Process Update & Feedback Opportunity

- December 10, 2024 @ 1PM ET / 12PM CT

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NCAP's 2025 Management & Leadership Training Conference

January 29–31 (Pre-Con: Jan. 28)

New Orleans, LA



Get in Touch!

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Community Action 60 Years

CAPLAW

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Questions & Discussion

