

**JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON VOTER SUPPRESSION**

Sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Labor Committee,  
Union for Reform Judaism, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater  
Boston

1 The 2020 election had the largest voter turnout in more than 100 years, including  
2 100 million people who voted early by mail or in-person — all with no evidence  
3 of systemic voter fraud. States’ efforts to make voting safer in response to the  
4 global COVID-19 pandemic not only achieved that goal, but made elections more  
5 accessible in many communities. These positive changes should now be made  
6 permanent. Instead, the expanded franchise has become the target of anti-  
7 democratic forces that hope to roll back these reforms and pass more restrictive  
8 measures that would suppress the vote.

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10 The Talmud teaches that anyone who sees harm and does not speak out is held  
11 responsible. Our vote is our voice, and we must also protest efforts to  
12 circumscribe the rights of other voters. We are obligated to speak up and take  
13 action to ensure that every eligible person can cast a vote and have that vote  
14 counted.

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16 **The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:**

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- 18 • Record turnout demonstrates that the election administration changes  
19 necessitated by the pandemic, including, but not limited to, expanded vote  
20 by mail, should be made permanent to encourage Americans’ robust  
21 participation in democracy.
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  - 23 • Recent voter suppression efforts fomented by some leaders at the state and  
24 national levels, including those at the highest levels of power, are a  
25 disservice to democracy with particularly negative impacts on Black,  
26 Indigenous, Latinx, disabled, LGBTQ, and elderly voters.
- 27

- 28 • Comprehensive solutions at the federal, state, and local levels are needed  
29 to combat voter suppression, particular among voters of Color.  
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- 31 • Changes to election administration can have a discriminatory, suppressive  
32 effect on access to the ballot, even if there is no intent to discriminate.  
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- 34 • Efforts to suppress the will of voters, sometimes fueled by conspiracy  
35 theories, are on the rise and include elements of violence, white  
36 supremacy, and antisemitism.  
37

38 **The Jewish community relations field should:**  
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- 40 • Advocate at the federal level to pass legislation to make voting more  
41 accessible and voter suppression more difficult, by:  
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  - 43 ○ Restoring and modernizing the Voting Rights Act;
  - 44 ○ Requiring all states to implement automatic voter registration;
  - 45 ○ Standardizing rules and practices around absentee, early, and mail  
46 voting; and
  - 47 ○ Automatically restoring the right to vote to all citizens previously  
48 convicted of a felony.
- 49
- 50 • Advocate at the federal level for increased funding to states to invest in  
51 election security, election administration, and other efforts to prevent voter  
52 suppression.  
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- 54 • Advocate at the state level to oppose new efforts to suppress the vote, such  
55 as voter ID laws and voter roll purges.  
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- 57       • Develop relationships with county and state election administrators to  
58       address issues and questions before voter suppression can occur.  
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- 60       • Educate our communities about voter suppression efforts and oppose all  
61       efforts to spread misinformation about voter fraud, for which there is no  
62       credible evidence.