

Support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

JCPA believes that the right to vote and participate in our democracy is a core American Jewish value—a civic and religious duty. The bedrock of our democratic process is the right of every eligible citizen to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted. Achieving a government that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of its people is possible only through maximum citizen participation in the electoral process.

In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a critical Voting Rights Act provision that required states with a history of disenfranchising voters to obtain Department of Justice preclearance before changing voting laws or procedures. Since this ruling, many states have enacted – and are continuing to propose laws that suppress the vote, often through onerous voter identification laws and cutbacks to early voting, especially in low-income communities and communities of color.

JCPA urges Members of Congress to support the swift passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

- The Voting Rights Advancement Act would reverse the Supreme Court’s harmful *Shelby County v. Holder* ruling, create a new preclearance formula based on recent evidence of discrimination, and help protect the right to vote for communities of color across the nation.
- **The systematic disenfranchisement of key segments of the voting population challenges the integrity of the elections process and undermines our democracy.** Many states are enacting laws that suppress the vote, targeting low-income communities and communities of color. At this very moment, we are witnessing, around the country, over 43 states are moving to enact new voter suppression laws not seen since the Jim Crow era. This is both a civil rights and a racial justice issue – and a Jewish concern to its core.
- **The Voting Rights Act has always had bipartisan support.** Congress has reauthorized the Voting Rights Act several times under both Republican and Democratic administrations with near unanimous support. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would ensure that *all* Americans have the same opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Safeguarding democracy is not a partisan issue.

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Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the national hub of 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 16 national Jewish agencies, including the four denominations of American Judaism. Together our network builds consensus on behalf of the entire Jewish community to promote a just and pluralistic American society, support Israel's peace and security, and advocate for human rights around the world.