
June 16, 2021

LWVUS ADVOCACY AND LITIGATION PRESENTS

For the People Act

A deep dive into what it is and why we need it



Advocacy and Litigation Department
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U.S.

Agenda

Join us for an
advocacy adventure!

- Housekeeping, community norms
- Review of the For the People Act
- Updates and League Actions
- S1 and Anti Voter Bills
- Questions

Housekeeping

- If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.
- Make sure you identify yourself (name, your Local League, & pronouns) when asking questions
- **We will be monitoring the chat box.** If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

Community Norms



Bring your full self and limit distractions



Use the chat box to add thoughts, experiences, and/or questions



What is learned here, leaves here



No one knows everything, together we know a lot



Don't yuck my yum



Oops, ouch, and educate



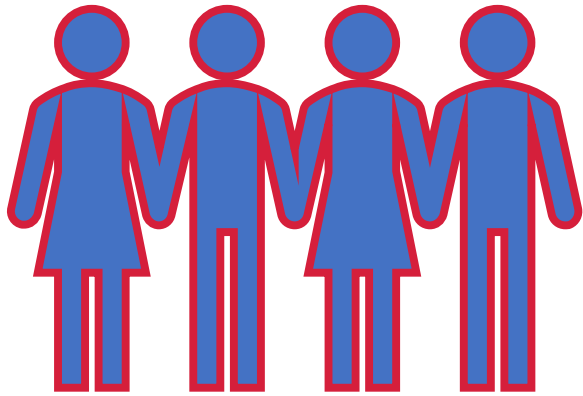
Assume best intentions

What is the For the People Act?

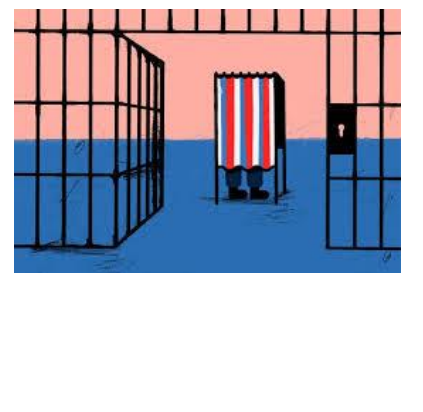
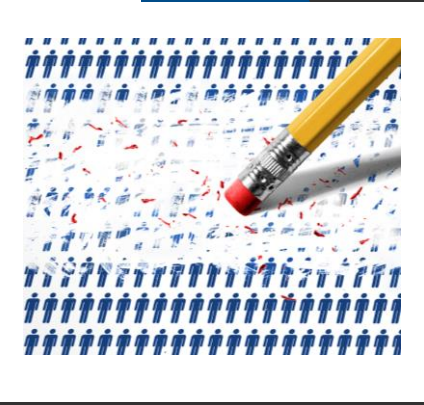
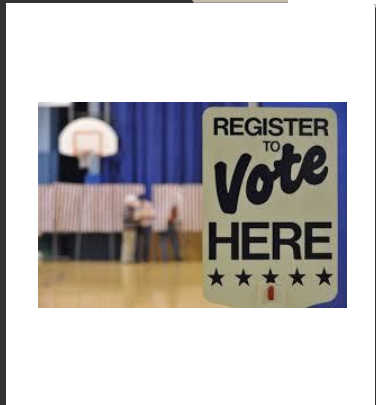
The For the People Act (HR1, S1) is a sweeping democracy reform bill that was first introduced in 2019.

It is a comprehensive piece of legislation which is the most expansive democracy reform agenda we have seen since the Voting Rights Act was passed more than 50 years ago.

It will reinstall faith in our democracy by making elections fairer and putting power back into the hands of the American people.



Why should
I care about
the *For the
People Act*?



For the People Act: Voting Rights

Modernizing Voter Registration and Participation

Voting Rights Reforms

Having voting rights protections and reforms in place would revolutionize our elections and make them more accessible, yield increased turnout, and ultimately elevate the voice of all Americans.

- **Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)**
- **Vote by Mail**
- **Online Voter Registration**
- **Same Day Registration (SDR)**
- **Returning Citizens Voting Rights**
- **Reform Voter Purges**

Analysis of Voter Reforms

Historic Bipartisan Support

Additional funding from
HAVA to help states
implement these changes

H.R. 1275 Voter
Empowerment Act

Strong racial and class equity
element



For the People Act: Redistricting

Redistricting Reform

Requires states to use **independent redistricting commissions** for Congressional districts

Ends prison-based gerrymandering by counting incarcerated individuals at their last residence

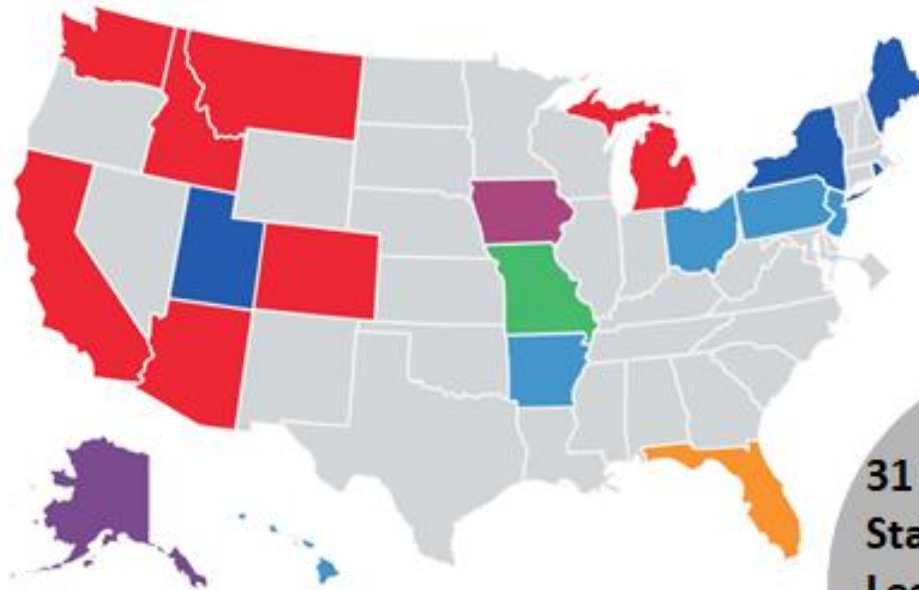
Creates **transparency requirements** for the redistricting commission's work and meetings and provides **mechanisms for public input**

Creates **clear mapping criteria**

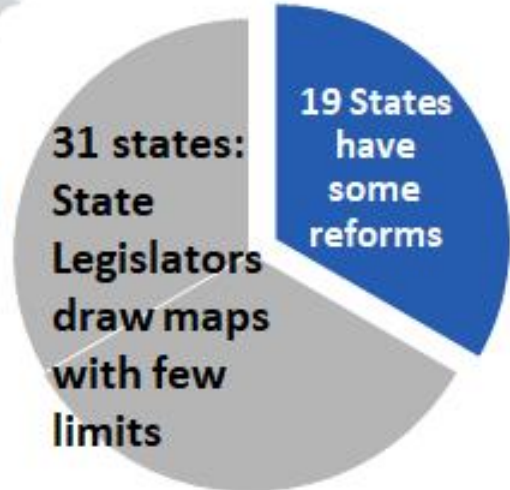
Create a **ban on favoring or disfavoring political parties** when drawing lines

How will For the People Act matter?

In over 30 states, it will create new gold standard for redistricting



- 8: Independent Citizen commissions (AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MI, MT, WA)
- 1: Nonpartisan Legislative staff (IA)
- 9: Advisory, Back up or Politician Commissions (AK, HI, OH, ME, PA, NJ, NY, RI, UT)
- 1: Strict Constitutional standards only (FL)



What if my state already has a commission?

- Does not affect existing commissions if comply with core pieces of HR1, including:
 - publicly available application process;
 - disqualifications for government service;
 - screenings for conflicts of interest;
 - multi-partisan composition;
 - a ban on drawing maps to favor a political party but requires minimizing division of communities of interest;
 - public input;
 - and broad-based support for the plan.

Where and when do these apply?

1

Depending on timing of the bill's passage it may apply for 2022 mid terms in some states

2

Redistricting Criteria and Commissions will not be applicable until 2030



For the People Act: Money in Politics

Reducing the Influence of Dark Money

Small Donor Financing of Congressional Campaigns:
6-1 Matching system for donations up to \$200

Freedom From Influence Fund

Transparency and Disclosure: DISCLOSE ACT

Strengthen Contribution Limits

For the People Act: Ethics



HR1/S1 Technical Updates

Constitutional Girding: Protects the legislation's provisions against future constitutional questions or challenges

Pandemic Voting Upgrades: Incorporates best practices and lessons learned from recent experience promoting safe and accessible voting in the 2020 election.

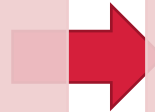
Anti-Foreign Interference Upgrades: Incorporates best practices and lessons learned from recent experience preventing foreign interference in the 2020 election.

Miscellaneous Adjustments, Effective Dates & Related Technical Revisions

How the For The People Act Addresses State Voter Suppression Legislation

1

Creating national standards for federal elections

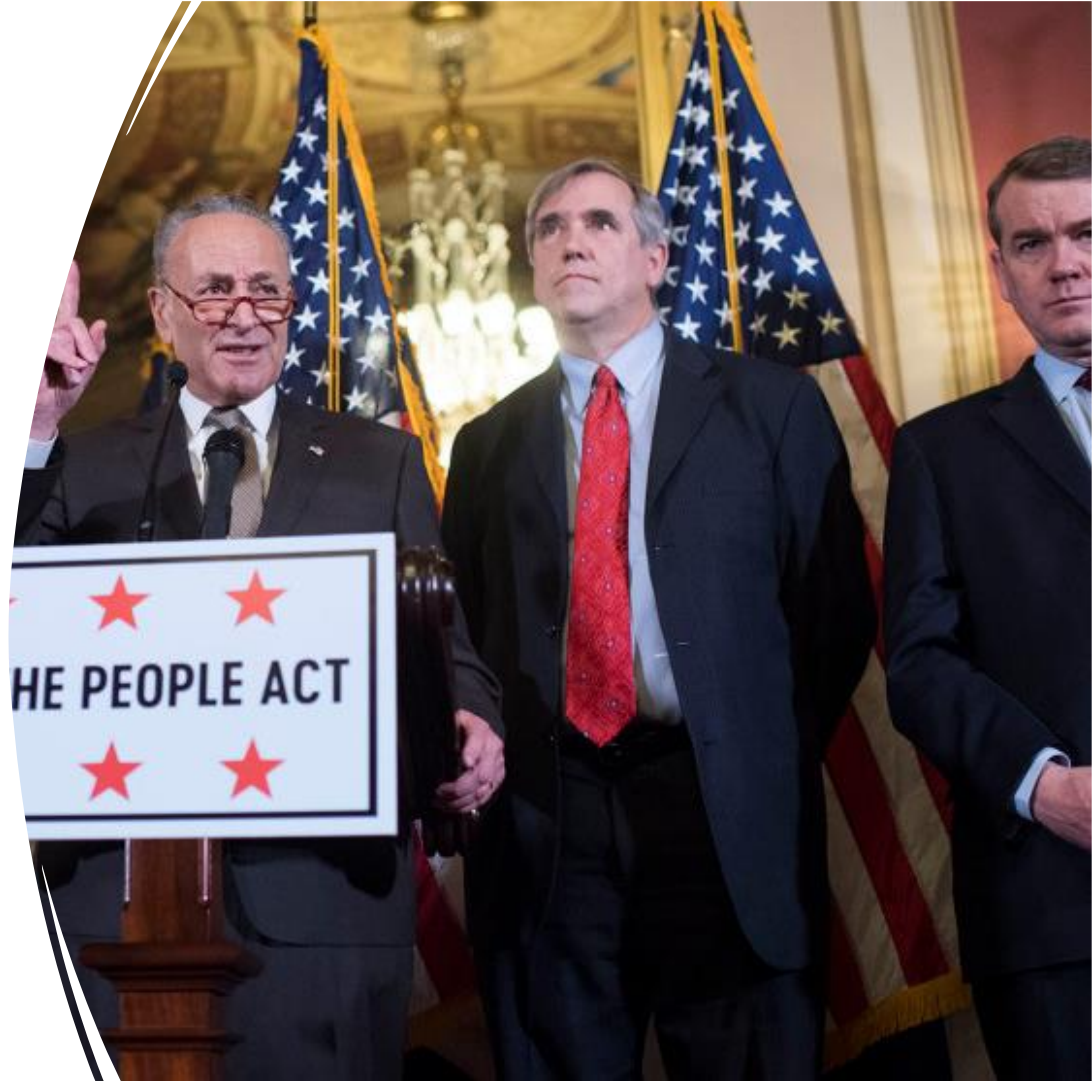


2

Thwarting virtually all state level anti voter bills

How the For The People Act Addresses State Anti Voter Legislation

- **Promoting Voter Access:**
- Expands early voting availability
- Reduces long lines
- Creates automatic voter registration and same-day registration
- Limits how states can purge voter rolls
- Reforms campaign finance law
- Ends partisan gerrymandering



For the
People Act vs.
John Lewis
Voting Rights
Advancement
Act

Both pieces of legislation are essential in ridding our democracy of systemic racism and exclusion and building a new democracy

Lawmakers pitting these bills against each other are creating a false choice because they do not do the same thing!

For the People Act

Reimagines American democracy into a system that works for the people.

Protects the freedom to vote, ends partisan gerrymandering, gets big money out of politics, and strengthens government ethics and accountability.

Creates national standards for voting

Would override many of the anti voters bills moving through state legislatures

Restore the VRA and ensure that every voter— regardless of where they live, what they look like, or what language they speak—has equal access to the ballot box and is protected from unfair laws and practices that make it more difficult to vote.

Restore the Preclearance process and update the Formula

Ensure Transparency and Notification to voters

Prevent FUTURE discriminatory laws

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

For the People Act Timeline



*Passed House 220-210

PASS the

**FOR THE
PEOPLE ACT**

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

Now is the time to act!

LWV

What has
LWVUS done
so far to
support
passage of the
*For the People
Act*

Mobilized our
Lobby Corps

Sent targeted
letters to
Representatives

Organizing
District
Meetings

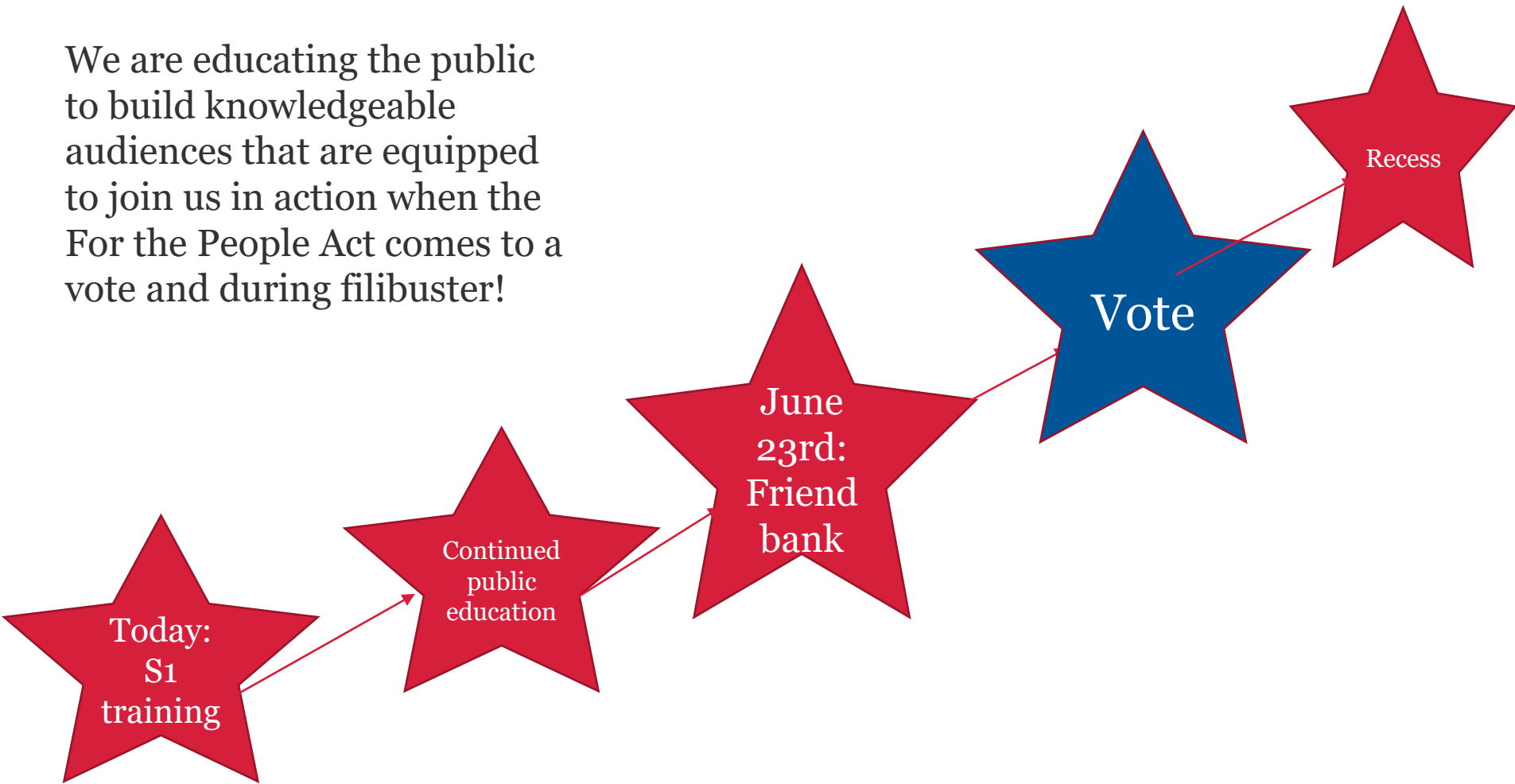
Educating the
public through
trainings

Sent out an
Action Alert
Email blast

Organized
friendbanks

Arc of Escalation: Upcoming activities

We are educating the public to build knowledgeable audiences that are equipped to join us in action when the For the People Act comes to a vote and during filibuster!



Can we count on you to act?

- Take our action alert to contact your Senator*!
- June 19th: Black Voters Matter will host "Freedom Rides" from Mississippi to DC! Sign up to partner or participate!
- Register for the June 23rd LWV Friendbank!
- Participate in the June 24th Phil A Busted Day of Action!
- [Follow LWVUS on OutreachCircle](#) to stay up to date on key actions and activities

**DC residents do not have a Senator, but the For the People Act can help change that!*



Questions?