

MAY 26, 2021

Voter Suppression Bills: What/Where are they and how do we address them?

Presented by: Advocacy, Organizing, and Communications Teams

Agenda

Join us for an advocacy
adventure!

- Presenters, Housekeeping, and community norms
- Where are the voter suppression bills and what do they do?
- How to talk about these bills
- What can you do to organize around them
- What has the League done
- Questions

Presenting...

the LWVUS Legislative, Communication and Organizing Teams!



Dylan Vargas (he/him)

Legislative and
Policy Coordinator

dvargas@lww.org



**Priya Pandey
(she/hers)**

Legislative and Policy
Coordinator

kpandey@lww.org



Lizzy Ganssle

(she/hers)

Campaign Organizer

lganssle@lww.org



Kayla Vix

(she/hers)

Senior Communications
Manager

kvix@lww.org

Housekeeping

- All trainings will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.
- If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.
- Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions
- **Staff 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

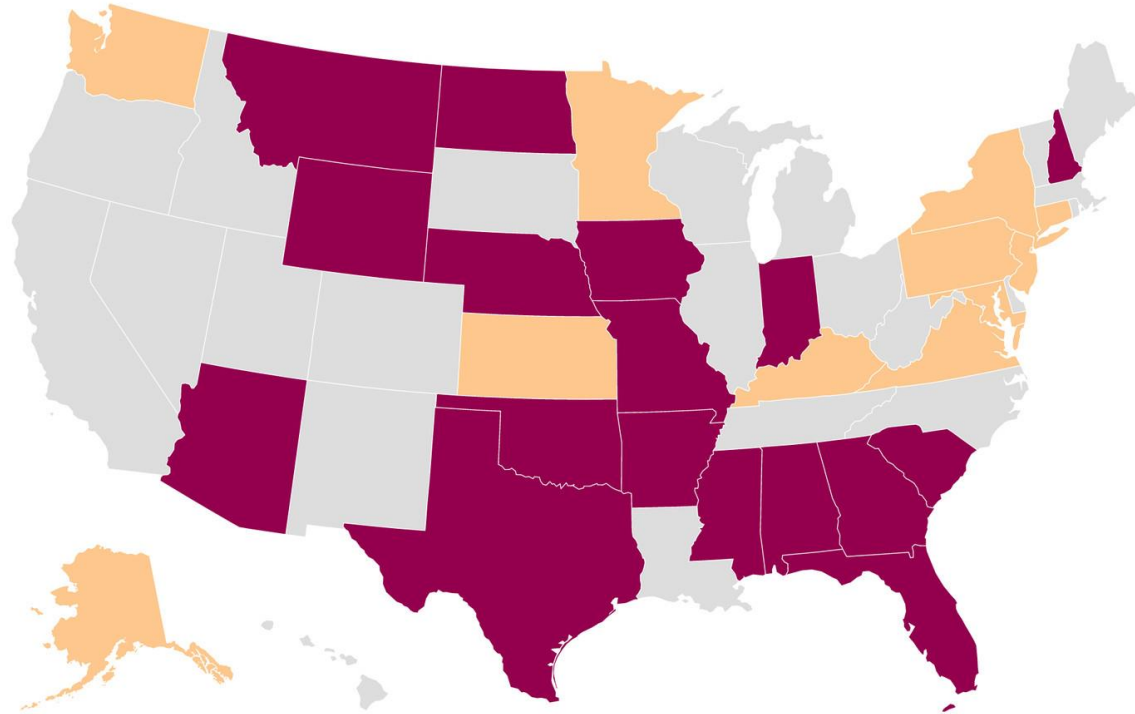
POLL!!!

Voter Suppression Legislation

States with legislation introduced to restrict voting rights

Proposals commonly involve mail voting, voter ID, registration, and/or maintenance of voter rolls

■ Republican control ■ Democratic control or divided government



As of January 2021

Source: Brennan Center for Justice; Ballotpedia

Georgia

Limit ballot drop boxes

Established voter ID for absentee ballots

Prohibits sending absentee ballot applications to all voters

Shorten Run-off voting

Shifts power in Election Board

Arizona

- Attacks to the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL) (SB 1485)
- Restrictive Voter ID when early voting (SB1713)
- Limits Ballot Curing (SB 1003)





Florida

the law prohibits local and state officials from sending a mail ballot to voters who did not request one

Burdensome drop box requirements

Increase barrier to voting by mail: Timeline changes and ID requirement

It prohibits local and state election officials from relying on outside funding for election-related expenses, even during emergencies

Montana

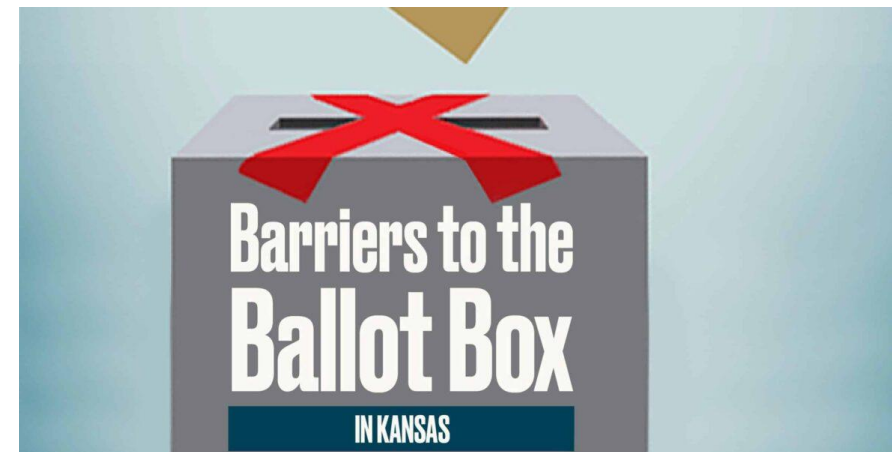
- SB 176: Abolished Same day registration
- SB 169: Tightens Voter ID laws to have further photo ID requirement



Kansas

HB 2183 & HB 2332:

- Strips election powers away from both executive and judicial branch
- The bill prohibits any third party who is not a state resident from sending ballot applications to voters



IOWA

- Shortens Early Voting to just 20 days.
- Requires all Mail-in Ballots to be received by Election day to be counted.
- Shortens Voting hours.
- Voters can be purged if they miss a single election.
- Officials are banned from sending out absentee ballot request forms unless requested.



Attacks on Ballot Initiatives

- So far in 2021, Republicans have introduced 144 bills to restrict the ballot initiative processes in 32 states, according to the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center, a liberal group that tracks and assists citizen-driven referendums. Of those bills, 19 have been signed into law by nine Republican governors.



*Messaging on
Voting Bills*

Messaging Guidance

Research from Leadership Conference and other partners

- Lead with these shared values
 - **Freedom:** freedom to vote
 - **Voices:** ensuring every voice is heard
 - **Inclusive democracy:** for democracy to work, it must include all of us
 - **Choices:** voters pick our leaders; our leaders do not pick their voters
- Research showed these values to be most effective in energizing our base and persuading those on the fence



INTERNAL GUIDANCE ONLY. DO NOT PUBLISH. DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF LEAGUE LEADERSHIP.

Messaging Guidance

Research from Leadership Conference and other partners

- Characterize the opposition as erecting deliberate barriers to silence specific voices, render clear the role that race plays
 - **Obstacles to voting** vs. **Deliberate barriers to voting**
 - **Voter suppression (bills)** vs. **Denying our freedom to vote, anti-voter bills**
 - **Fight voter suppression** vs. **Protect our freedom to vote**
- Focus on the creation of good rather than the amelioration of harm
 - **Fix our broken system** vs. **Guarantee every American can freely cast their ballot**
 - **Democracy reform** vs. **Fair representation, ensure Americans have a say in key decisions that impact our lives**
 - **Restore our democracy** vs. **Make the promise of democracy real for us all**



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Messaging Guidance

Research from Leadership Conference and other partners

- Avoid the opposition frame (e.g. fraud, security) and pivot to our frame of freedom
 - **Election security** vs. **Safe and accessible elections**
 - **Election integrity** vs. **Transparent process we can trust**
 - **Eligible citizens/voters** vs. **Americans, voters**
- DO NOT REPEAT accusations, even to refute (e.g. do not say “there is no evidence of fraud...”)



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Messaging Resources

- Talking points on League Management Site
 - Combatting Anti-Voter State Legislature Bills (adding more to this soon)
 - *For the People Act*
- Letters to the Editor
 - Template: *For the People Act*
 - Tips for LTEs and op-eds
- Messaging webinar with ReThink Media
 - June 1, 2:30pm ET
 - Are We Winning Yet? A Working Session on Messaging
 - Helpful for spokespersons





**Leverage
OutreachCircle**

"OutreachCircle has made the biggest positive change in our work this past year. It allows our League to be nimble and engage people we otherwise couldn't. We can respond quickly to key issues such as bills in our legislative session, and it has helped us share information and ways for people to get involved in our work more widely."

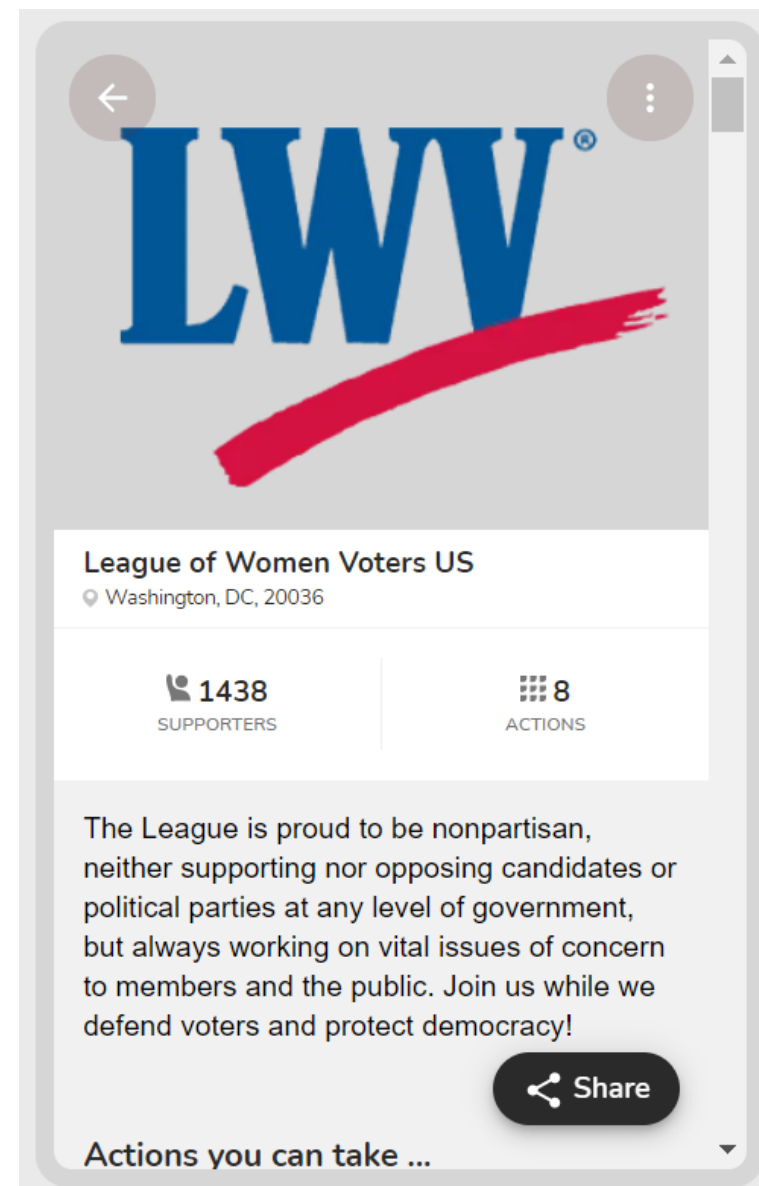
- Nancy Leifer, LWV of MT



What is it and why use it

OutreachCircle is LWV's premier digital and relational organizing tool. We use it to:

- Reach new audiences
- Build a ladder of engagement
- Create a rapid response muscle
- Support other Leagues and organizations
- And more!

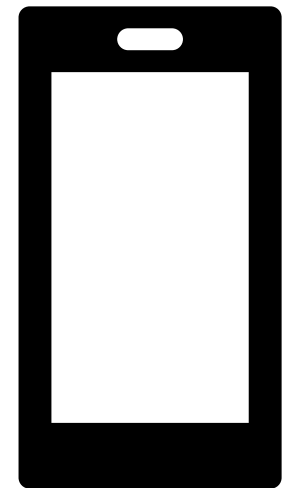
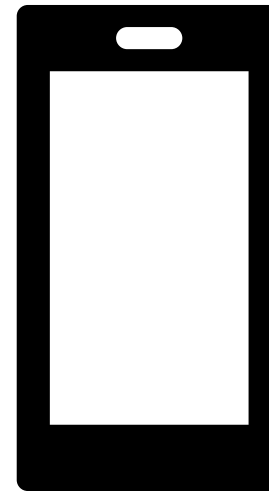


What can your
League do with
OutreachCircle?



Use OutreachCircle for Friendbanks!

Like a textbank or phonebank, volunteers will reach out to individuals to encourage them to take action; except instead of contacting strangers from a voter file, you will be reaching out to your own contacts! Friendbanks are especially effective because people are more likely to act if they have been asked by a trusted messenger—like you!



National Support to the Field



- LWVUS will regularly post actions on our Circles
- We will share opportunities from the field, in particular events that are open to attendees across the country!
- Syndicated content can be created by national so local and state Leagues can add it to their Circles when relevant

OutreachCircle Onboarding Process



- The demos are designed for Leagues who have not yet decided if they are going to use OutreachCircle
- If a League knows they are going to use OutreachCircle, they can skip the demo and go straight to the Starter Kit. They will follow the steps in the Starter Kit on their own to create their circle, then connect with the Organizing team about additional training and resources



League of Women Voters US
5/10/2021

Take Action! Tell the Senate to Support S1!

The For the People Act (S1) is the democracy reform bill the American people want and deserve. This legislation will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. It is now time for our Senators to fulfill their duty for our democracy and pass S1!



[Contact your Senators Today!](#)

 Email: 44  Text: 69

 247

Some actions you can take on our National Circle today!



League of Women Voters US
5/14/2021

Read Virginia Kase's Op Ed with Democracy Docket!

LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase wrote an Op Ed for Democracy Docket, "Less Time for Map Drawing Requires National Standards". Check out what she said about what census delays mean for the redistricting process this year!


[Read the op ed here!](#)

Call your Senator about S1!

Passing the #ForThePeopleAct is about moving closer to the America we aspire to be—but we can't do it alone. Take action to help pass this bill with Michelle Obama, our co-chairs, ambassadors, and supporters by calling your senators today. Click below to get connected to your Senator and encourage them to support the For the People Act!



[Click here to get connected!](#)

 You & 41



Advocacy at LWVUS

Responding to State Actions at a National Level

Creating	Creating national standards (S1)
Gathering	Gathering intel and information to respond to future litigation opportunities
Providing	Providing resources and intel to State Leagues
Working	Working with Congress and partners on federal legislative advocacy

National Actions

- **Support the For The People Act in the Senate (S1)**
- **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**



The For The People Act

Expand Voter Access and
Participation

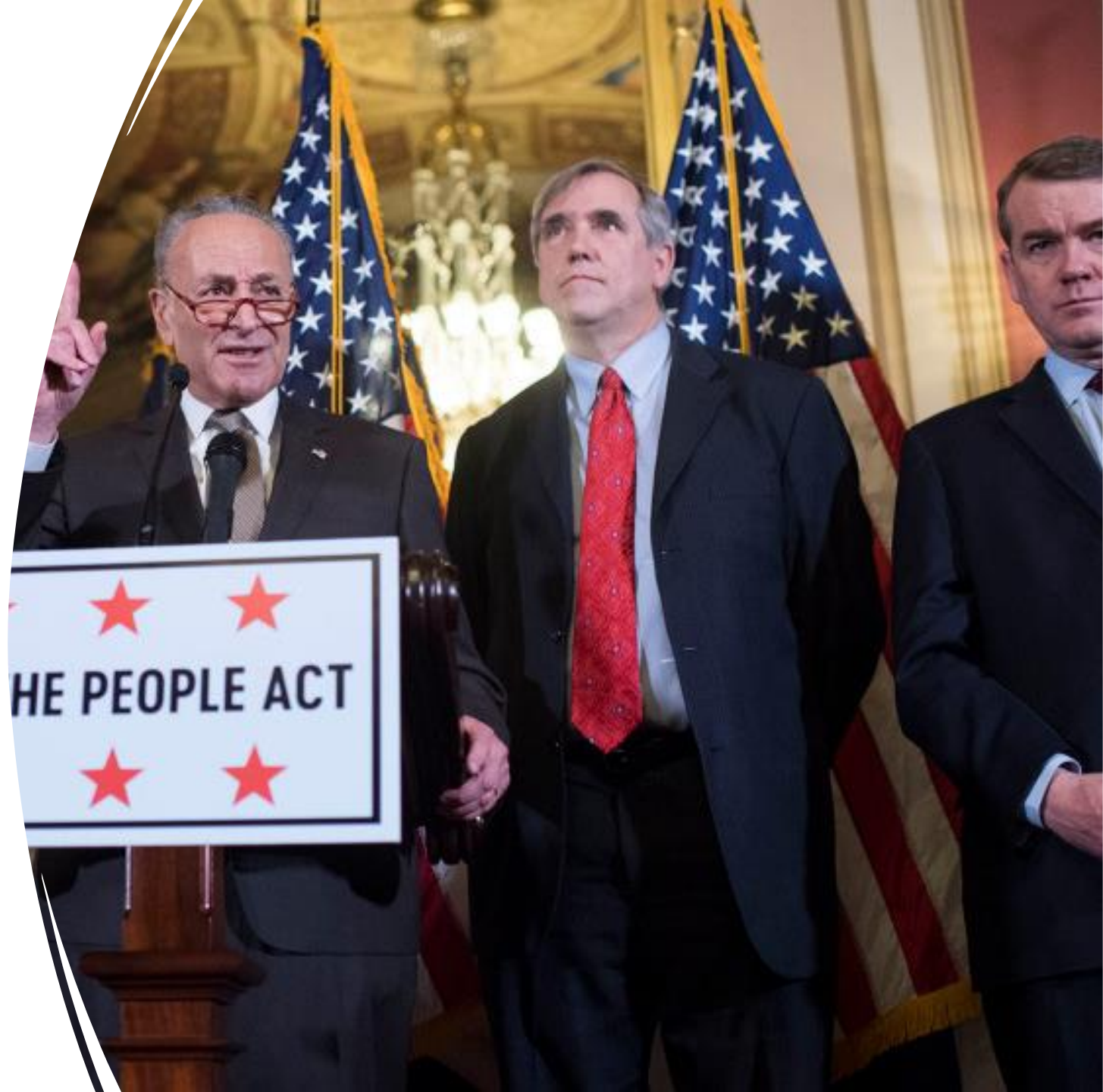
End Dominance of Big Money
in Politics

Redistricting Reform

Ethics and Accountability

How the For The People Act Addresses State Anti Voter Legislation

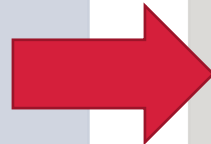
- **Promoting Voter Access:**
- Expands early voting availability
- Reduces long lines
- Creates automatic voter registration and same-day registration
- Limits how states can purge voter rolls
- Reforms campaign finance law
- Ends partisan gerrymandering



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

Brief Example: Georgia SB202

SB 202 VOTER SUPPRESSION BILL IN GEORGIA

- Makes it harder to vote by mail by reducing the amount of time voters must request absentee ballots, limiting the availability of drop boxes to return them,
- Makes it harder to vote in person by disqualifying the ballots of voters who vote in the correct county but at the wrong polling place.
- Gives partisan legislators more control over how elections are conducted by taking power away from election officials

HOW THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT ADDRESSES THESE ISSUES:

- Would allow voters to request absentee ballots up to 5 business days before an election and designate someone to return their ballot on their behalf. It would also require states to make an adequate number of drop boxes available 24 hours a day for 45 days prior to the election.
- Would require states to take steps to **ensure that voters don't have to wait more than 30 minutes to vote**, and to **count every ballot** cast in a race the voter is eligible to vote in, even if they find themselves at the wrong polling place
- Fair nationwide baseline standards

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

- 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.
 - New Preclearance Formula
 - Redefining Voting Rights Violations
 - Transparency

JL VRAA and State Voting Rights

- Cannot reverse state bills however...
 - Restoring preclearance for changes
 - Protect and empower voters
 - Responds to 2013 Supreme Court Decision Shelby County v. Holder that eviscerated key provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 that blocked discrimination before it occurred





LWVUS Advocacy on The Federal Level

Declaration for
American
Democracy
Coalition

Voting Rights
Taskforces

Partnerships on
Capitol Hill

Letters and
Memos to
Members of
Congress

Action Alerts
and Grassroots
Actions

LWVUS Support for In State Actions

PPFM Federal Fix and State Fix
Groups

1:1 Check In Calls

Outreach Circle Resources and
Toolkits

Support to build out Action Alerts

Litigation work



Resources and Opportunities for Action

LWVUS Taking Action Page

Talking Points uploaded on League Management Site

Letter Templates to write to your U.S. Senator

Blog post and Press releases

State by State For The People Act Report

Questions?