



May 26, 2022

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of Reform Judaism  
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National Education Association  
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National Fair Housing Alliance  
Anthony Romero  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Liz Shuler  
AFL-CIO  
Fawn Sharp  
National Congress of American Indians  
Maria Town  
American Association of  
People with Disabilities  
Randi Weingarten  
American Federation of Teachers  
John C. Yang  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice |  
AAJC

**President and CEO**  
Maya Wiley

**The Honorable Xavier Becerra**  
Secretary of Health & Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health & Human  
Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 2020

**The Honorable Miguel Cardona**  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**The Honorable Marcia Fudge**  
Secretary of HUD  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban  
Development  
451 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20410

**The Honorable Merrick Garland**  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

**The Honorable Isabel Guzman**  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration  
409 3rd St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20416

**The Honorable Deb Haaland**  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

**The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas**  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th St, SW  
Washington, DC 20528

**The Honorable Denis McDonough**  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
U.S. Department of Veterans  
Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

**The Honorable Marty Walsh**  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20210

**The Honorable Janet Yellen**  
Secretary of Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC, 20220

Dear Secretary Becerra, Secretary Cardona, Secretary Fudge, Attorney General  
Garland, Administrator Guzman, Secretary Haaland, Secretary Mayorkas,  
Secretary McDonough, Secretary Walsh, and Secretary Yellen,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more  
than 230 national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human  
rights of all persons in the United States, and the 106 undersigned organizations, we write to  
emphasize the urgency for your departments and agencies to take additional steps to  
implement President Biden's Executive Order Promoting Access to Voting ("EO"), and to  
share specific ways we believe your department or agency can more fully meet the goals of  
the EO.

We first want to acknowledge the steps your agencies have already taken in response to President Biden's Executive Order Promoting Access to Voting. The EO has provided an unprecedented opportunity for federal agencies to think about how they can further a goal that undergirds our entire system of government: protecting and promoting the fundamental right to vote. We thank you for the important commitments your agencies have already made, commitments we expect you and your teams are working hard to fulfill.

These commitments and the work since the EO was issued more than one year ago are significant because our democracy is facing extraordinary threats. The recent attacks on our democracy are unlike any we have seen in more than half a century. Since the 2020 election alone, state legislatures across the country have introduced hundreds of bills and passed dozens of laws that make it harder for people to register and to vote. These laws, alongside the voter suppression measures enacted over the last decade, make it especially difficult for voters of color, young voters, low-income voters, voters with disabilities, Limited English Proficiency voters, and other marginalized communities to make their voices heard in our democracy.

Simply, there is an urgent need for meaningful federal action to protect and promote the fundamental right to vote. Efforts to enact a federal legislative solution to the assaults on our democracy have stalled for now. As such, the imperative for federal agencies to do *everything* they can to harness the significant potential of the EO is even greater than when it was issued. While the commitments your agencies have made so far are a good start, they do not represent everything that is within your authority to do, and in many respects, they fall far short of the kinds of meaningful actions within your agencies' reach that would ensure all eligible Americans are able to engage in the democratic process. **We are reaching out to each of you because we have identified specific ways your department or agency can more fully meet the goals of the EO.**

**First, we ask that your agencies commit to providing and supporting robust active voter registration services to the eligible Americans you and your partners serve.** Each day, your agencies and partners interact with millions of Americans—a significant number of whom face barriers to voting—through interactions that could include the opportunity to register to vote. To date, however, agency commitments have mostly entailed putting information on websites or in offices, and/or sending letters encouraging third parties to voluntarily provide voting and registration information. Our organizations know from many years of agency voter registration work that these types of *passive* activities do not translate into significant numbers of voters being added to the registration rolls. Instead, eligible people are successfully registered to vote when they are offered *active* voter registration services. This includes being asked if they want to vote or to update their registration, receiving assistance as they complete the voter registration process, and ideally having their completed registration application collected and transmitted to the appropriate election officials or, if that is impractical, receiving a stamped envelope in which they can submit their voter registration application.

**Additionally, we ask you to work actively to invite and accept designations by states as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).** To date, only two federal agencies have offered themselves up for designation, and those in only a small handful of states. As far as we know, none yet have succeeded in being designated. Following the examples of motor vehicle offices and other state agencies, designation as an NVRA agency would provide a road map to ensure the voter registration services your agency provides are high quality and effective, and in turn to ensure all eligible people your agency serves have the meaningful opportunity to register to vote. While official designation

must come from the state, agencies can encourage such designation through active conversation with states and commitments to accept designation – commitments two agencies have already made.

We know that, for nearly all federal agencies, integrating this type of voter registration services into existing programs is new. Our organizations stand ready to provide assistance to you, your staff, and partners as you work to enhance your voter registration and voting access plans. We also encourage you to reach out to state and local election officials who have years of experience helping state government agencies providing voter registration services per the requirements of the NVRA. Some of the undersigned organizations have been in communication already with your agencies, and we would be thrilled to meet with you and your teams further to share our expertise and provide support as you determine what more your agency can do to meet the call of the EO and the urgency of this moment. Should you make more meaningful commitments in the coming months, our organizations stand ready to help drive successful registration through your agencies by educating the public about the ways you and your staff have risen to the challenge of the EO.

In the year since the EO has been issued, our country's collective project of building a multiracial, inclusive democracy has faced grave threats. The urgency for the administration and federal agencies to do everything within your power to confront those threats, before it is too late, is greater than ever. **We urge you to review the steps your agencies have taken so far and to work with your staff to make the additional meaningful commitments described here, to the full extent of your authority.** In addition, some of our groups have already met with your agencies regarding implementation of the executive order and, to assist with those additional actions urged in this letter, **we request additional meetings to specifically strategize about how your agency can commit to providing meaningful voter registration services and can pursue designation under the NVRA.**

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to hearing your additional plans to ensure your agency is doing everything possible to maximize the important role it can play in communities across America in service of protecting the fundamental and sacred right to vote. If you have any questions or to schedule follow up conversations, please contact Leslie Proll, Senior Director of Voting Rights at The Leadership Conference, at [proll@civilrights.org](mailto:proll@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)  
Advancement Project National Office  
ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
Andrew Goodman Foundation  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Blue Wave Postcard Movement  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Broward for Progress  
Business for America  
Campaign Legal Center  
Campus Vote Project  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Common Ground  
Clean Elections Texas  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Common Cause  
CommonDefense.us  
Declaration For American Democracy Coalition  
DemCast USA  
Democracy 21  
Democracy Initiative  
Democracy Initiative  
Demos  
Earthjustice  
EDF Action  
End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund  
End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund  
Fair Elections Center  
Fair Fight Action  
Fix Democracy First  
Food Research & Action Center  
Friends of the Earth  
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church  
Healthy Democracy Healthy People Initiative  
Human Rights Campaign  
Indivisible  
J Street  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Michiganders for Fair & Transparent Elections  
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action  
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition  
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)  
NALEO Educational Fund  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Action Network  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation/Black Women's Roundtable  
National Community Action Partnership

National Congress of American Indians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Negro Women  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Education Association  
National Housing Law Project  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Urban League  
Native American Rights Fund  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
People For the American Way  
Planned Parenthood Action Fund  
Prison Policy Initiative  
Progressive Turnout Project  
Project On Government Oversight  
Promise of Democracy Foundation  
Public Citizen  
Public Wise  
Rock the Vote  
Secure Elections Network  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club  
SiXAction  
Sojourners  
Sojourners  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Stand Up America  
Students Learn Students Vote Coalition  
The Civics Center  
The Sentencing Project  
The Workers Circle  
Transparency International U.S.  
UnidosUS  
Union for Reform Judaism  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity  
Vote.org  
When We All Vote  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Young Invincibles  
YWCA USA

Cc Vice President Kamala Harris  
Cc Ambassador Susan Rice