

LWVUS Advocacy Team Presents:

Trends from 2023 State Legislative Sessions

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Trends from 2023 State Legislative Sessions

Presenters



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Agenda

Housekeeping

Background

Making Democracy Work[®] Trends

Emerging Issue Trends

Audience Questions

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



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 LWVUS Legislative Trends report?

POLL!

Making Democracy Work®



Anti-Voter Legislation



Election Administration Trends

- Bans on donations for election administration
- Provisions that would interfere with or unjustifiably burden the roles of election officials
- **Texas: SB 1933** grants unprecedented authority to the Secretary of State, allowing the state to exert control over county election offices and impose oversight.

Voting Restrictions

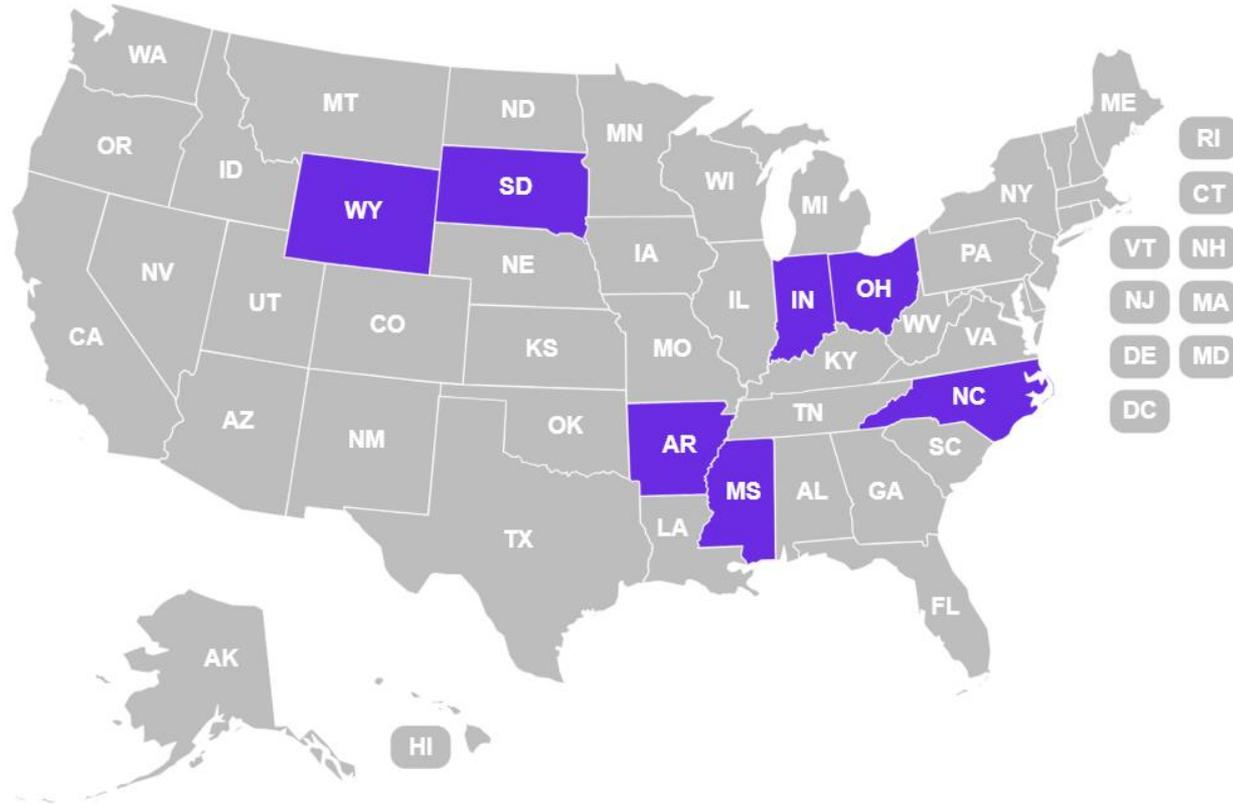


Voter ID Bills

- Introducing voter ID where it had not yet been in practice
- Further tightening existing voter ID laws
- **Ohio: HB 458** introduces the requirement of an unexpired photo ID for in-person voting, making it one of the strictest voter ID laws in the country.

Absentee Ballots

- Banning drop boxes
- Shortening time frames for submitting absentee ballots
- **Indiana: HB 1334** not only adds a photo ID requirement to submitting absentee ballots but also restricts assistance and guidance on filling out absentee ballot application forms.



Map created at www.fla-shop.com

Voter Registration, ERIC, & Purges

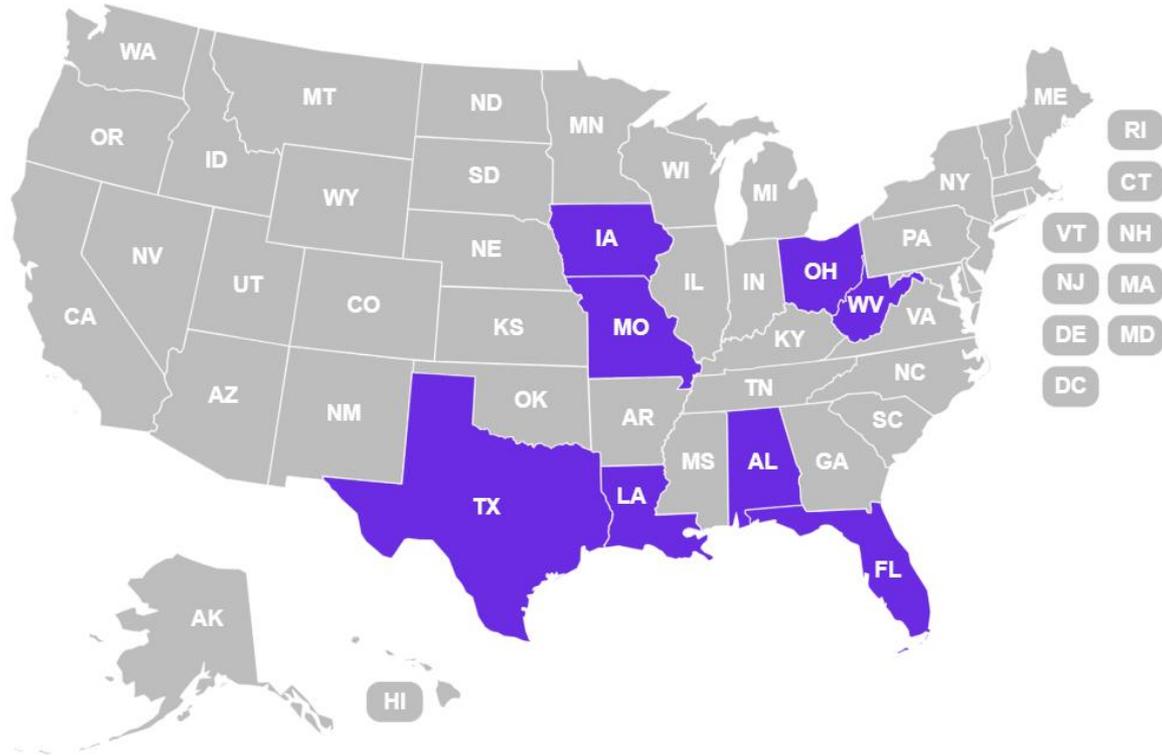


Voter Registration

- Obstructing or banning third party voter registration groups
- Criminalizing registration assistance
- **Florida: SB 7050** changes rules for requesting mail ballots, imposes new rules and fines on voter registration organizations, and changes voter registration list maintenance processes.

ERIC

- The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is an interstate compact for sharing voter registration data.
- The states that have left the compact are **Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and West Virginia.**



Map created at www.fla-shop.com

Voter Purges

- Purges of voters after an inactive period of time (i.e. not voting in the past two presidential elections)
- Purges by directive of Secretaries of State
- **Mississippi: HB 1310** allows for voters to be purged from voter rolls and moved to an “inactive” list more quickly and easier than before.

Threats to Direct Democracy

- Increases in thresholds for passing ballot initiatives
- Changes to signature requirements
- **Arkansas: HB 1419** requires petition signatures to be gathered from 50 out of the state's 75 counties, instead of the previous requirement of 15 counties.

Pro-Voter Legislation



Expansive Changes to Election Law

- Automatic voter registration
- Extending in-person early voting
- **Minnesota:** pro-voter provisions found throughout the 313-page budget.

State Voting Rights Acts

- Several states have sought to implement some form of a state-level Voting Rights Act to enhance accessibility, restore rights, and most importantly, fight discrimination in voting.
- **Connecticut:** The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of Connecticut
- **Minnesota:** The Democracy for the People Act

Emerging Issues

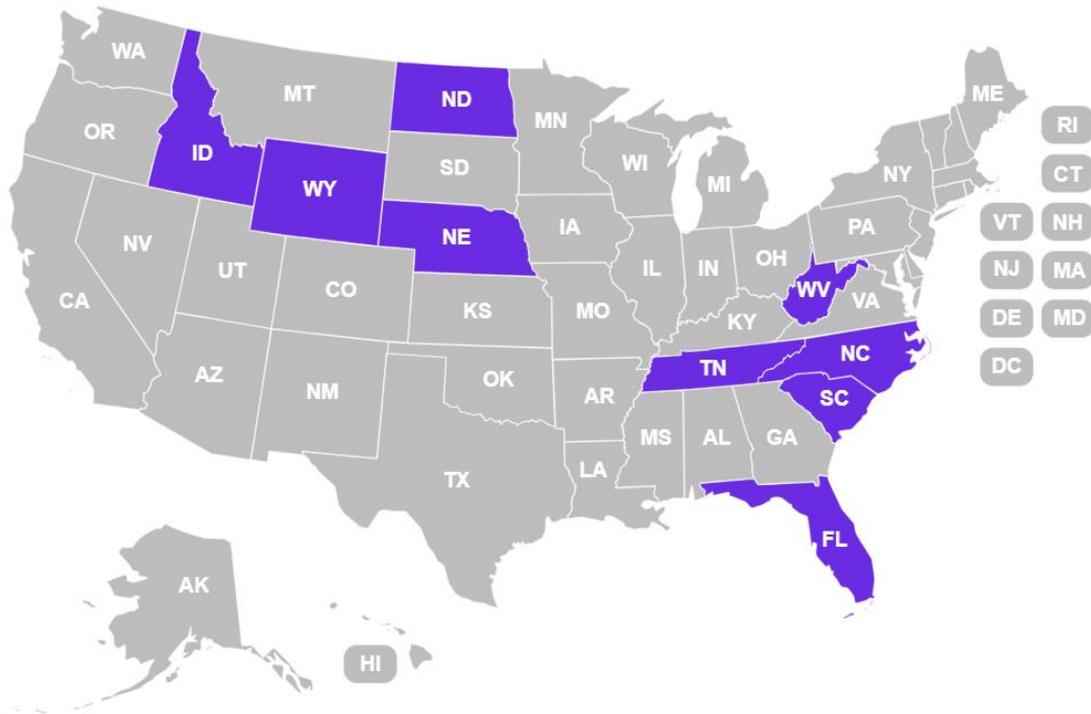


Anti-Transgender Rights Legislation

- Bans and restrictions on gender-affirming care
- State-imposed bathroom use restrictions
- **Kansas: SB12** sought to ban gender-affirming medical care for individuals under a certain age.

Attacks on Reproductive Rights

- Abortion bans
- Extreme abortion restrictions
- **North Dakota: SB 2150** became one of the most restrictive abortion bans in the US, allowing exceptions only for cases of rape or incest within the first six weeks of pregnancy, before most even know they are pregnant.



Map created at www.fia-shop.com

Equal Rights Amendments (ERA)

- The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex.
- In the absence of a federal amendment, states are beginning to chart a path establishing their own versions.
- **New York** proposed their own state version in 2023

Additional Trends



- Book bans
- Classroom censorship
- Florida: HB 1069 requires school districts to remove within five days any book challenged by a parent until the complaint is resolved

Questions?

Upcoming fall webinars!

- LWVUS Supreme Court Review: October Term 2022 (9/27)
- Program Planning I: Learn About the Process for Choosing LWVUS Program 2024–2026 (10/12)
- Redistricting 2030: Laying the Groundwork Now (10/19)
- Fighting Voter Suppression Bills: Going on the Record (10/26)



THANK YOU!