



John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Sixty years after the initial passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, voting rights still require protection. Supreme Court decisions [*Shelby County v. Holder*](#) (2013) and [*Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*](#) (2021) stripped provisions from the Voting Rights Act that helped protect voters in jurisdictions with histories of discrimination and made it more difficult to bring challenges to racially discriminatory voting laws. Since then, states have proposed or enacted [many voting laws](#) that would restrict access to voting. For example, [in 2024](#), at least 10 states enacted 19 such voting laws, while at least 317 such laws were considered in about 40 states.

When access to voting is restricted, Americans pay the price. In 2021, Georgia's [S.B. 202](#) significantly restricted absentee voting and established provisions allowing for the mass challenges of voter registrations. Between 2021 and 2023, just six right-wing activists used this law to [challenge the registration](#) of 89,000 Georgians. The [vast majority](#) of these challenges were unsuccessful while still massively increasing the administrative burden to run elections. Meanwhile, voter purges in [Texas](#) and [Alabama](#) may have disenfranchised eligible voters, and at least 38 cases have been brought in 12 states to [challenge](#) unfair maps.

The *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* would reinstate and reinforce voting rights protections by:

- **Restoring geographic preclearance** so that jurisdictions covered under the updated formula are subject to appropriate scrutiny when changing their voting practices;
- **Creating new, nationwide known practices preclearance**, which requires jurisdictions with sufficient minority populations to obtain preclearance for changes to voting practices that have historically had discriminatory effects; and
- **Bolstering protections against vote dilution, denial, and abridgement** by codifying legal standards for those claims and reversing the overly stringent standards established by the Supreme Court.

This legislation is being reintroduced by U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock, Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Booker, Senator Blumenthal, and Leader Schumer.