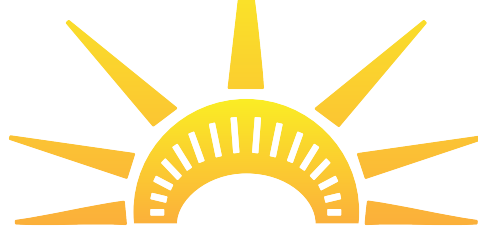


# Declaration for American Democracy Coalition of 240+ Diverse Organizations, Supports the Freedom to Vote Act



The Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD) is a diverse coalition of more than 240 organizations from the labor, environmental, faith, social justice, good government, civil rights, reproductive rights, and many other important communities that have organized in strong support of the Freedom to Vote Act. This transformational legislation, which stems from the House-passed For the People Act, would create national standards to protect our freedom to vote, get big money out of politics, combat partisan election subversion, and help guarantee that congressional districts are drawn to give fair representation for all.

## Fixing Our Democracy Is Connected to Every Other Issue

- Making pro-democracy reforms a first priority is the key to making progress on all the other pressing policy issues facing our country.
- If Congress passes comprehensive democracy reforms, we will see a domino effect take place, with rapid progress on the issues American families care about most, from the environment and affordable healthcare, to fair labor laws and millions of good-paying jobs, to racial justice and gun violence prevention.
- We must have a healthy democracy that responds to the needs and priorities of voters -- not wealthy donors and corporate interests, which have dominated our system for far too long.
- Along with the passage of the Freedom to Vote Act, Congress must similarly prioritize H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and H.R. 51, which would grant statehood to the long disenfranchised citizens of Washington, D.C.
- A "first priority" of the Biden Administration is to lead on a comprehensive set of democracy reforms like those reflected in the Freedom to Vote Act.



This [bill] isn't about Democrats and Republicans; it's literally about who we are as Americans. It's that basic. **It's about the kind of country we want today, the kind of country we want for our children and grandchildren tomorrow.**

— *President Joe Biden*

# What Does the Freedom to Vote Act Do?

## Protect and Strengthen the Sacred Right to Vote

**Improve Access** – Expands and protects access to the ballot box by sharply reducing institutional barriers to voting. Patchwork and cumbersome voter registration systems, disenfranchisement and limited voting hours are roadblocks to a more participatory democracy. The Freedom to Vote Act will create automatic and same-day voter registration across the country; ensure that individuals who have completed felony sentences have their full rights restored; expand early voting and simplify absentee voting and vote-by-mail; and modernize the U.S. voting system, including by making election day a public holiday.

**Prevent Election Sabotage** – Establishes federal protections to protect nonpartisan state and local officials who administer federal elections from undue partisan influence or control; establishes voter verification standards in states that require identification; ensures that American elections are decided by American voters without interference by enhancing federal support for voting system security, particularly voter-verified paper ballots, reliable post-election audits, and increasing oversight over election vendors.

## Get Big Money out of Politics

**Ban Partisan Gerrymandering** – prevents politicians from cherry-picking voters by requiring states to abide by specific criteria for congressional redistricting and making judicial remedies available for states' failure to comply. Allows states to choose how to develop redistricting plans, including the option of having an independent redistricting commission. Takes effect immediately and applies to all 2022 federal election maps.

**Guarantee Disclosure** – Shines a light on dark money in politics by strengthening disclosure for online political ads and requiring all organizations involved in political activity to disclose their large donors. It also breaks the so-called 'nesting-doll' sham that allows big-money contributors and special interests to hide the sources that fund their political spending.

**Empower Citizens** – Gives political power back to hard-working Americans by creating a robust matching system for small donations to candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, thereby allowing Americans of modest means to amplify their voices in politics and enable more diverse Americans to run for and win elected office. This new 21st century system of citizen-owned elections will break special interests' stranglehold on Congress and lay the groundwork for an agenda that serves the American people.

**Strengthen Oversight** – Ensures that there is a robust referee on the field to enforce our campaign finance laws. It tightens rules on super PACs and improves the ability of the Federal Election Commission to carry out oversight and enforcement responsibilities.

## Reforms in the Freedom to Vote Act Are Popular & Continue to Pass at the State and Local Levels

**Reforms in the Freedom to Vote Act are popular across the country with ideologically diverse voters.** Poll after poll continues to show that voters prioritize anti-corruption measures and support bold democracy reforms to get big money out of politics, protect and strengthen the right to vote, and other policies to return power to the people.

**Reforms in the Freedom to Vote Act are tried and true** -- and have taken hold across the nation. Driven by everyday voters, reforms have passed in red, blue, and purple states and localities, often with bipartisan support.

For more information or for any questions, please contact Aaron Scherb ([ascherb@commoncause.org](mailto:ascherb@commoncause.org)) or Mike Sozan ([msozan@americanprogress.org](mailto:msozan@americanprogress.org)), co-chairs of the Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD) Hill working group.



DECLARATION FOR  
**AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY**