

An Open Letter to [Board Members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)

As members of the U.S. Chamber's principal governing and policymaking body, your commitment to the freedom to vote and fair elections is critical, particularly at a time when the integrity of our elections and democratic institutions are under [attack](#).

We therefore call upon you to use your influence to support the recently introduced Freedom to Vote Act, both through your companies and the U.S. Chamber, for the following reasons:

It's Good for Business

Many business leaders recognize that corporations have a self-interest and responsibility to use their collective influence and expertise in government affairs to defend and strengthen the institutions and norms of democracy. As an important voice for American business, this is particularly true for the U.S. Chamber and its leadership. Just as the Chamber [called for a peaceful transition](#) after the January 6 insurrection, it is time for business leaders to defend the integrity of our elections and our democracy by supporting the Freedom to Vote Act.

Business leaders increasingly [recognize](#) the importance of leading their companies for the benefit of all stakeholders, including customers, employees, suppliers, communities and shareholders, and are staking out positions on more than just economic policy. In its [2021 Trust Barometer](#), Edelman found that a significant majority — 68 percent — agreed that “CEOs should step in when [the] government does not fix societal problems,” while 65 percent agreed that “CEOs should hold themselves accountable to the public, not just to the board of directors or stockholders.”

As the Brennan Center has [noted](#), standing for democracy is also good for business and something that corporate employees, customers and

[shareholders](#) have increasingly come to expect from business leaders in our democratic political system: “Polling shows that voters across partisan lines are in widespread agreement that companies should support Americans’ voting rights and that they would reward businesses that take a stand. A remarkable [82 percent of Americans](#) — including more than 7 in 10 Republicans — reported that they would be more favorable to a company if they supported policies to make it easier for Americans to vote and register to vote. A [separate survey found](#) that 76 percent of people were more likely to want to work for a company that promoted democracy, while 81 percent were more likely to buy that company’s products or services and recommend it to their friends or family.” Additionally, the 2021 proxy season was a [record breaking](#) year for shareholders supporting increased transparency around how companies engage in politics, and the Securities and Exchange commission has [indicated](#) that it is interested in making this a requirement for companies.

It Counters Attempts to Undermine The Integrity of Our Elections

[Experts](#) from across the political spectrum have repeatedly supported the policies that would be established by the Freedom to Vote Act.

The Act’s [key provisions](#) would [not only defend the freedom to vote and election integrity](#), they would set consistent national standards. The new law will do this by expanding access, modernizing voter registration standards, preempting efforts to suppress the vote or subvert the election process, ending partisan gerrymandering and establishing fair and transparent campaign finance standards by eliminating “dark money.”

Most importantly, the Freedom to Vote Act would [help counteract](#) new state election laws that make it harder for targeted voters — especially voters of color — to participate in elections.

Companies that claim to be committed to [supporting racial justice](#) must recognize that voter suppression is a key form of structural racism in America. Attacks on voting rights have [accelerated across the country](#)

since early January. The Freedom to Vote Act is essential to preempting and countering those attacks and defending the rights of every voter, especially communities of color, younger and older voters, and voters with disabilities.

Americans Support the Freedom to Vote Act

Polls have found majority support across the political spectrum for the policies contained in the Freedom to Vote Act. Shortly after it was introduced, a [poll](#) found widespread support for the Freedom to Vote Act. [Another](#) poll found a supermajority of voters support the measures it would establish to protect the integrity of elections and make it easier for eligible voters to participate, regardless of their political affiliation. Both polls showed support for these reforms across party lines.

It's Up To You To Stand Up For Our Democracy

In the past year hundreds of corporate leaders and small business owners have stood up and publicly expressed their opposition to the wave of restrictive voter legislation introduced in state legislatures across the country. With such laws enacted in [at least 18 states](#) already, many corporate leaders have come to recognize the urgency of passing the Freedom to Vote Act.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Chamber has not stated its support for this much needed piece of legislation. Instead, the Chamber advised members of the [House](#) and [Senate](#) to vote against the earlier For The People Act, [mischaracterizing](#) the provisions in the bill.

Companies that claim to stand for racial justice and fair elections need to adopt standards of transparency for engaging the trade associations that represent their interests on this and other key pieces of legislation. This means making it clear to policymakers and the public whether or not they are aligned with the U.S. Chamber on the Freedom to Vote Act. When your

company's position is not aligned with the Chamber, particularly about this critical legislation, your company should clarify to the public and your shareholders where you disagree.

As the governing body of the U.S. Chamber, it is your responsibility to direct the Chamber to reconsider its position. We therefore call upon you and your companies to affirm your support for voting rights and the integrity of our elections by taking the following actions:

1. Join the many [business leaders](#), [corporations](#), and [investors](#) that have publicly endorsed the Freedom to Vote Act.
2. Communicate your support to Members of Congress.
3. Change the U.S. Chamber's position to support the Freedom to Vote Act.

Ultimately, companies' actions will be the measure of their commitment to election integrity, voting rights, racial justice and democracy.

We hope you agree that the threat to democracy at this time is too critical for your company to passively stand by as the U.S. Chamber works to undermine legislation critical to counteracting those threats, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Accountable.US

American Sustainable Business Council

Black Voters Matter

Blue Wave Postcard Movement

Build Back Better USA

Change the Chamber

Clean Elections Texas

Common Cause

Declaration for American Democracy

DemCast USA

End Citizens United/Let America Vote Action Fund

Fix Democracy First

Greenpeace USA

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action

Network for Responsible Public Policy

Public Citizen

RepresentUs New Mexico

Secure Elections Network

Vote.org

Un-PAC

U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development

Voices for Progress

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