

Voter Suppression in the 2020 election



Presentation by Navjot Pal Kaur Civic Engagement Coordinator for
Church World Service

Zoom Protocol

- Ensuring a successful education on Voter Suppression through digital means is incredibly important.
 - Please remember to mute yourself, if you are not speaking
- We can have an interactive session if utilize the chat box and send questions our way
- You have the option of showing your camera or not. But please make sure you are not in a distracting environment.

Who is here?

- Drop your name/city you're from and are you registered to vote?
- What does Voter Suppression mean to you? Have you seen it before?
 - When have you been prevented from voting?

What is Voter Suppression?

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the definition of voter suppression is:

“Politicians are passing measures making it harder to cast a ballot. The goal is to manipulate political outcomes, and the result is a severely compromised democracy that doesn’t reflect the will of the people. “

In contemporary times, as we deal with the fallout from the COVID-19 virus, we’re dealing with the concerted effort by the Trump administration to prevent people from voting. They are sabotaging the United States Postal Service -which would be delivering the Vote by Mail ballots that are expected to be in heavy demand for vulnerable voters- the Trump Administration has been sabotaging the Census by pushing up the deadline of the conclusion of the count of the nation’s population and they are actively undermining the response to the COVID-19 pandemic by refusing to let public health experts provide useful guidance to states on safe election administration



What does Voter Suppression look like?

- **Voter ID laws.**
- **Cuts to early voting.**
- **Mass purges of voter rolls and institutional disenfranchisement.**

- **Before Elections happen, Legislators can redraw district lines that determine the weight of your vote.**
- **Voter Registration Restrictions**
- **Felony Disenfranchisement**

- **Being an election administrator and running the terms of YOUR election and others.**
- **Gutting the United States Postal Service in the time of COVID-19**
- **Lack of language access**

Voter Suppression in Action: Georgia



GENERAL KNOW YOUR RIGHTS GUIDELINES

Know your rights before heading to the polls. You have rights to free from intimidation harassment and threats when you show up on election day. Here are some scenarios you may encounter on election day:

- **If the polls close while you're in line-** Stay in line. If you happen to be in line when the polls close, you still have rights to cast your ballot. Make sure to stay in place and cast your vote.
- **If you make a mistake on your ballot-** You have the right to request a new ballot
- **If the machines are down, ask for a paper ballot.** Technology has the power to fail us when we need it the most.
- **If you run into issues at the polling place, you're not alone -** There is a hotline staffed by election protection professionals you can contact The Election Protection Hotline at:
 - English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683
 - Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682
 - Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287
 - For Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683

History of Exclusionary Voting Laws



What Organizations are fighting Voter Suppression?

- League of Women Voters lvw.org
- American Civil Liberties Union aclu.org
- Fair Fight <https://fairfight.com/>
- Let America Vote <https://letamericavote.org/>
- Common Cause <https://www.commoncause.org/>
- Spread The Vote: <https://www.spreadthevote.org/>
- Election Protection <https://866ourvote.org/>
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice/Asian Law Caucus <https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/>
- Brennan Center for Justice <https://www.brennancenter.org/>
- Alliance for Youth Action:
https://allianceforyouthaction.org/news/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwv7L6BRDxARIsAGj-34o4DQm8Q4QoX_NiHOM-FRHLudcdEel5eQNiINHhvCZWkRyMFoyrJ70aAmsQEALw_wcB
- Headcount: <https://www.headcount.org/>
- Protect Democracy <https://protectdemocracy.org/>
- Movement Vote: <https://movement.vote/>
- <https://blueprintnc.org>

Conclusion

- Civic Engagement goes beyond just voting. Being an active and informed voter helps you make better decisions about who to elect to represent you in the halls of power.
- Becoming an advocate for yourself at the polls is important to combat voter suppression. It is also critical to understand where you can find assistance when you are facing an infrastructure that is bent on preventing you from voting and exercising your right to vote.