



Talking Points: Democrats Protect the Right to Vote in Virginia

Core Message

Democrats are overturning the racist and unjust voter suppression laws written and passed by Republicans. Claims of voter fraud are Republican lies. Voter fraud has been studied by government agencies, nonprofits, and universities, all of whom consistently report that voter fraud is very rare. Republicans deploy voter fraud as a fear tactic to pass restrictive voting laws. If Republicans take back control of the VA General Assembly, voter suppression laws will return to Virginia!

Democrats Are Restoring Democracy

Made Voter Registration Easier

- Automatic voter registration via DMV
- Same-day voter registration

Expanded Vote by Mail

- No excuse needed for absentee voting
- Permanent absentee voter list
- Drop-off boxes
- Process to cure errors on absentee ballots
- No witness signature during pandemic

Expanded In-Person Voting

- Election Day now a legal holiday
- Early voting on Sundays

Repealed Photo ID Requirement

- Other non-photo IDs, such as utility bill, paycheck stub, and bank statement, added to the list of acceptable IDs

Promote Voting among People of Color and Youth

- Election materials in minority languages, based on the district percentage of single-language minority population
- Pre-registration for ages 16 and 17

Prohibit Partisan Gerrymandering

- Passed legislation establishing the criteria by which the Virginia Redistricting Commission must draw district boundaries, thereby preventing either party from gerrymandering

Background

Years of Republican-controlled legislatures have resulted in laws making it more difficult to vote. Voter suppression laws disproportionately affect Black, brown, low-income, and young voters. Beginning with the 2020 session, Democrats control both chambers. Together with Gov. Northam (D), Democrats have overturned the voter suppression policies created by Republicans.

Read Local Majority's complete report:
[*Democrats Protect the Right to Vote in Virginia*](#)

VA leads the South in passing Voting Rights Act

The Virginia Voting Rights Act is a historic piece of legislation modelled on the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. It requires that any proposed changes in election law must be reviewed before being implemented. Examples of changes subject to review include closing polling locations, altering local election district boundaries, or creating local at-large seats on governing bodies that would dilute the power of minorities to elect representatives.

When **Republicans** controlled the VA General Assembly, they passed restrictive voting laws that:

- Made it more difficult to vote.
- Disproportionally affected Black, brown, low-income, and young voters.

Under the Republicans, Virginia was ranked as the second hardest state in which to exercise the right to vote.