



February 16, 2022

Open letter to the Senate in support of election reform in the 117th Congress

We, the undersigned, are members of Fix the System — a crosspartisan coalition of political reform groups who care about improving the capacity of Congress and strengthening elections.

As members of the Senate begin to discuss a bipartisan path forward on election issues like the Electoral Count Act, we write to encourage the bipartisan Senate working group — and the entire 117th Congress — to also find a bipartisan path forward on key issues like election funding and security, voting rights, and addressing threats to election officials. There is a rich bipartisan history for many election reforms and innovations, and now is the time to act to show the world that in American democracy, voters come first.

The 2020 presidential election had the highest turnout in more than 100 years and was one of the most secure elections in our nation's history. It was a remarkable achievement for the thousands of election officials and frontline poll workers who run our elections — individuals who expertly adjusted to modified voting rules while maintaining the highest degree of accuracy and security.

The 2020 election also highlighted the need to invest in our elections like any other piece of critical infrastructure through more regular federal funding for states and localities. There has not been comprehensive legislation to upgrade our election infrastructure since the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, which was extremely successful. With a more reliable stream of federal HAVA funds, election officials will be able to better implement [best-in-class](#) election administration and security practices.

We also strongly urge members of both parties to find common ground on the historically bipartisan issue of voting rights. The Voting Rights Act has been reauthorized five times by Democrats and Republicans. After the landmark *Shelby County v. Holder* decision by the Supreme Court in 2013, which said the preclearance formula of the original Voting Rights Act of 1965 was out of date, SCOTUS directly invited Congress to update the formula. Congress should finally respond to this invitation, and modernize a law with a long, bipartisan history of support.

Finally, we call on Congress to address the intensifying threats to election officials and frontline poll workers across the country that have unfolded as a result of dangerous and pervasive disinformation. By expanding protections for election officials, their staffs, and their families — and providing federal funding to ensure their safety and security — Congress can send a clear message of support to these professionals at this urgent hour.

Now is a defining moment for our great American experiment and our shared values of freedom and democracy. We remain encouraged by the ongoing discussions in the bipartisan Senate working group and urge members of both parties to harness this momentum to both strengthen and shore up public trust in our sacred democratic system.

Sincerely,

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