



This is America

VOTER SUPPRESSION AND WHAT IT MEANS
FOR 'FREE AND FAIR' ELECTIONS

U.S. incarceration rates by
race and ethnicity, 2010

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Despite our technological advancements, the United States has a longstanding history of voter suppression. While realistically, all US citizens aged 18 and above should be able vote, not everyone can do so, or do so with as much ease as others.

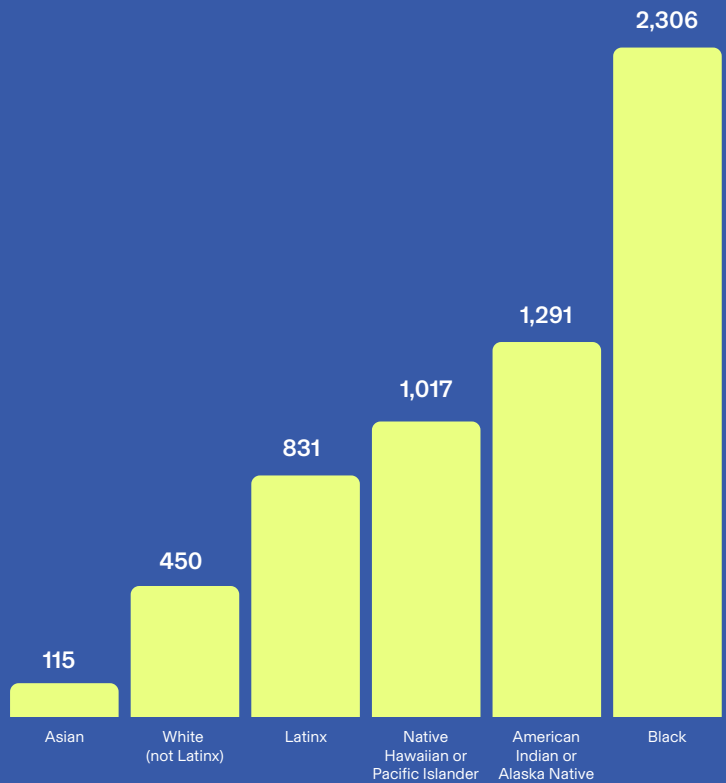
There are a number of ways voter suppression has manifested across the country, from systemic suppression through policy, to on-the-ground suppression via voter intimidation. For example, in all but two states the right to vote is taken away from all incarcerated individuals - ICYMI: mass incarceration has its own history of being weaponized against BIPOC communities and skewing voter participation is one way we see this manifest. The justice system disproportionately imprisoning BIPOC citizens means fewer frontline community members have the option to vote out oppressive policymakers.

Additionally, policies like requiring voters to register prior to election day, passing voter ID laws that don't meaningfully address election integrity and not having election day be a paid holiday/on a weekend, means many citizens face additional barriers when it comes to submitting their ballots.

These issues are reflective of our fraught history limiting equality and equity, despite the US Constitution's commitment to liberty and justice for all. At a time when claims of election fraud are skyrocketing, especially during a presidential election year, we want to equip readers with historical context and facts surrounding voter suppression, with the goal of instilling trust in our elections.

U.S. incarceration rates by race and ethnicity, 2010

Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in each racial or ethnic category



Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. For the full data set and sourcing details, see www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race_ethnicity_gender_2010.xlsx

While Black Americans make up around 13% of the US population, they make up a whopping 39% of the US prison population. Given that BIPOC tend to vote more progressively, revoking voting rights for 67.6k BIPOC Americans can have a significant impact on election outcomes.

In this toolkit, we will walk you through the key ways you can spot voter suppression in real time and how you can advocate for change.

Key Terms

Automatic Voter Registration - a process in which eligible individuals are automatically registered to vote when interacting with certain government agencies, such as a department of motor vehicles. Argentina, Chile, Hungary, and the Netherlands are all examples of countries with automatic voter registration.

Disinformation - false information deliberately and often covertly spread (as by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth

Gerrymander - to divide or arrange (a territorial unit) into election districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage: to subject to gerrymandering

Litigation - a legal action or proceeding (such as a lawsuit)

Misinformation - incorrect or misleading information

Suffrage - the right of voting

Voter Fraud - a clear intent or action aimed at depriving a voter of their right to vote or falsifying actual votes cast

Voter Intimidation - Voter intimidation is using threats, coercion, or attempts to intimidate or interfere with a person's right to vote for their chosen candidate.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VOTER SUPPRESSION

Surprisingly, there is no clear explanation around who gets the right to vote in the US Constitution. It wasn't until the 14th Amendment, where 'The Supreme Court has determined that... states may require a duration of residency as a qualification to vote.' However, that hasn't stopped many Americans and government officials from enacting laws that are subtly or overtly discriminatory, engaging in (sometimes violent) voter intimidation, and building systems that take away individual voting rights. Keep reading to uncover the American communities who have historically faced varying forms of voter suppression.



John Lewis from the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge during the voting rights campaign in Selma, africanamericancivilrights.org

Black Americans

Following the US Civil War and the constitutional amendments that affirmed citizenship for formerly enslaved Black Americans, some Americans and former enslavers were displeased with these new liberties. According to the [Bill of Rights Institute](#), this resulted in 'the development of a fierce and violent countermovement among white supremacists, who began organizing into opposition groups. Chief among these groups was the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).' This type of voter intimidation led not only to violent encounters against Black voters at the polls, but has impacted voter turnout for more than a century - and continues to impact Black voters' experiences at the polls to this day.

Despite the adoption of the Emancipation Proclamation, Black American voting rights would not gain legal protection until the [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#).



Suffragists campaigning for the right to vote in 1920, just before the amendment was ratified, Library of Congress.

Women

Before 1920, women in America did not have the right to vote, however the movement towards Women's Suffrage began more than 70 years prior in 1847 with the first Women's Rights Convention. Following years of advocacy and organizing by the American women who led this movement (many of whom were wealthy and white, and sought to exclude women of color), the 19th Amendment was officially ratified and prohibited the government from denying anyone the right to vote based on sex.



Komako Kimura, a prominent Japanese suffragist, marches in New York on October 23, 1917, Wikimedia Commons.

Asian Americans

Following years of discrimination through racist and xenophobic policies such as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and 1924 Immigration Act, the Asian American community fought hard against various forms of voter suppression 'through literacy tests, property restrictions, and voter intimidation.' However it wasn't until the mid-twentieth century that laws were passed affirming American citizenship and voting rights for many Asian American immigrants.



Committee of 100 on Indian Affairs.
Dec 13, 1923., Library of Congress

US Indigenous Communities

While US Indigenous communities were technically granted citizenship via the [1924 Indian Citizenship Act](#), their voting rights weren't federally protected, but instead were regulated by individual states, making their right to vote determinable by state leaders. They too faced voting barriers in the form of [English literacy tests](#), voter ID laws, and lack of access to polling locations. While US Indigenous voting protections were finally strengthened with the implementation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there is still work to be done - in fact, it was only recently that a bill titled the [Native American Voting Rights Act of 2019](#) validated tribal identification, increased access to polling places, and established a Native American voting task force grant program.

Today, [native tribes](#) are still calling for voting support on litigation around language assistance, redistricting, address requirements, and more.



Lyndon B. Johnson Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C., August 6, 1965., Britannica

Latine Americans

The path towards [citizenship](#) for Latine Americans has been complex - due to conflicting historic laws like those that determined whether or not Mexican Americans were granted citizenship and therefore voting rights. [According to research from Oregon's Secretary of State](#), "The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War, granted citizenship to those Mexicans living in regions ceded to the U.S. However, a 1790 immigration law declared that only 'free white' people could become citizens. Federally, this meant that Latinx people were legally 'white' because they were naturalized, not the other way around like other immigrants at the time." It wasn't until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that Latine American voting rights became protected.

These examples represent [just a few ways](#) voter suppression can be perpetuated to hinder specific groups from voting. With this toolkit, our aim is to highlight a few of the most common examples of voter suppression to give you the confidence to have important conversations about voting, combat mis- and disinformation, and seek action against these unjust practices.

WHO CAN AND CANNOT VOTE?

(According to [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov))

YOU CAN VOTE IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IF YOU:

Are a U.S. citizen (some areas allow non-citizens to vote in local elections only)

Meet your state's residency requirements (You can be experiencing homelessness and still meet these requirements).

Are 18 years old on or before Election Day (In almost every state, you can register to vote before you turn 18 if you will be 18 by Election Day. Some states allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 by Election Day to vote in primaries).

Are registered to vote by your state's voter registration deadline.
For example, North Dakota does not require voter registration.

WHO CANNOT VOTE?

Non-citizens, including permanent legal residents, cannot vote in federal, state, and most local elections.

Some people cannot vote after being convicted of a felony or if they are currently serving time for other types of crimes. Rules are different in each state. Check this guide from the Department of Justice [PDF, 541KB] to understand the laws in your state.

Some people who have a mental disability may not be able to vote.
Learn about your voting rights. Rules vary by state.

U.S. citizens residing in U.S. territories cannot vote for president in the general election.

Thanks to a number of voting protections that arose in the 20th century, more and more Americans now have the right to vote. However, there are still laws and norms that add unnecessary barriers to the voting process - preventing millions of eligible Americans from taking advantage of our democratic electoral system.

Across the country, 1 in 16 Black Americans cannot vote due to disenfranchisement laws.

Counties with larger minority populations have fewer polling sites and poll workers per voter.

In 2018, Latinx and Black Americans were twice as likely as whites to be unable to get off work while polls were open.

Geographic isolation is a major barrier to Native American voters due to the inaccessibility of nearby polling locations in many reservations. In South Dakota, 32 percent of Native voters cite travel distance as a factor in deciding whether to vote.

More than one-sixth (18 percent) of voters with disabilities reported difficulties voting in person in 2020.

Nearly two-thirds of polling places had at least one impediment for people with disabilities.

Stats taken from ACLU's research on gerrymandering →

KEEP READING TO DISCOVER SOME OF THE MAIN WAYS AMERICANS FACE VOTER SUPPRESSION TODAY.

Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering has long been a part of US History, and has been practiced since even before the term came to be. Following the publication of [this cartoon](#) back in 1812 in the Boston Gazette, the term 'gerry-mander' was named after 'Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry, who approved rearranging district lines for political advantage'.

Redrawing political districts, which only happens every 10 years, has strategically been used to weaken political power in certain voting areas. This legal form of voter suppression affects Americans across the political spectrum, and has effectively been used to overpower political momentum within communities. Adding to the complexity is the fact that each state has different regulations around who leads the redistricting process. [CLICK HERE](#) for details on how individual states differ.

One recent example happened in 2018 in North Carolina, where liberal voters were packed into specific districts based on their race to dampen their political power. In particular, NC's District 12 was restructured to pack Black voters in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and Charlotte into one district - limiting their momentum and giving the GOP an opportunity to pass additional voter suppression laws. Deep dive into this example in Vox's video [The man who rigged America's election maps](#).

When self-serving politicians consistently redraw districts, we can begin to understand how a presidential candidate might lose the popular vote but win the electoral college - and therefore win the election.

How does this lead to voter suppression?

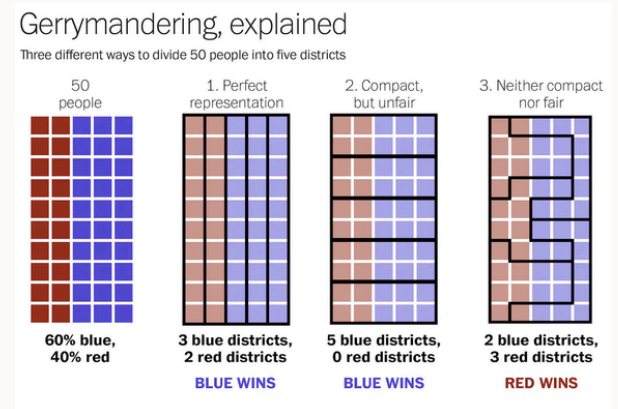
Take a look at [the image](#) here to see exactly how gerrymandering can sway voting power one way or another. Even though a majority might be present amongst a popular vote (in this example, Democratic voters), through systemic gerrymandering, our individual votes can easily be weakened or overruled (in favor of a specific party's votes).



Cartoon depicting gerrymandering, Bettmann Archive, Getty Images



Thumbnail from 'The man who rigged America's election maps' by Vox



WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WONKBLOG

Adapted from <http://bit.ly/1E3CuXi>

Diagram explaining gerrymandering, Washington Post

Amplifying Voter Fraud With No Data

With the rise of social media, and limited regulating power around misinformation and disinformation, political players have been known to amplify false claims of voter fraud. Such claims as deceased people voting and voter impersonation aim to discredit the legitimacy of our elections. But are these claims valid?

In a report by the Brennan Center for Justice titled ***'The Truth About Voter Fraud'***, the report 'found incident rates between 0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent. Given this tiny incident rate for voter impersonation fraud, it is more likely, the report noted, that an American "will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls.'" While voter fraud has been a hot topic, data from a number of nationwide studies have clearly shown that occurrences of voter fraud are ***minuscule and hardly a threat to elections.***

How does this lead to voter suppression?

Manufactured distrust around voting can lead to new laws and regulations being implemented around voting that in turn simply lead to more voter suppression. In fact in 2023, states introduced and implemented a near-record increase in restrictive voting laws - by *June alone*.

Amplifying voter fraud claims can also lead to questions around the legitimacy of mail-in ballots, and encourage individuals and elected officials to introduce legislation that eliminates voting regulations that make voting accessible. Sewing distrust for something like mail-in ballots disproportionately impacts Disabled and elderly individuals - furthering issues around voter suppression.



PBS News Hour Headline from post 2020 Election findings on potential 'Voter Fraud'



People voting on election day, Public Policy Institute of California

Incarcerated Individuals Are Stripped Of Voting Rights

The US has the highest incarceration rate of any nation in the world. *By a long shot.* With only 5% of the world's population, the US has 20% of the world's prison population.

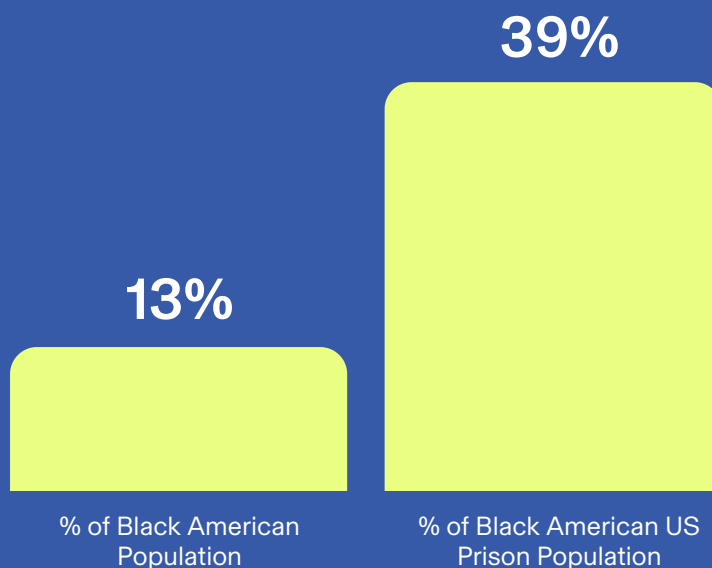
Incarceration disproportionately targets Black and brown communities, ruining individual's and family's lives and is largely ineffective at targeting the root causes of crime.

Another widespread effect of incarceration is the loss of voting rights. While each state has different rules around incarcerated individuals voting ([CLICK HERE](#) for a state-by-state breakdown), most incarcerated individuals around the country have had their right to vote stripped. In some cases, such as in Arizona, the laws are even more strict: for those who have been convicted of one felony crime, voting rights are only restored after completing incarceration, probation, parole, and restitution payments, which could be upwards of thousands of dollars. Some formerly incarcerated individuals will lose their voting rights indefinitely, depending on their conviction.

How does this lead to voter suppression?

The rules around incarcerated individuals and voting rights disproportionately targets Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. The Black American population alone reflects this stark impact: according to the [Federal Bureau of Prisons](#), while Black Americans make up 13% of the population, they make up 39% of the US prison population. By creating laws making it possible to systematically target Black and brown communities, the American political system has been set up to privilege those already in power.

U.S. incarceration rate of Black Americans



Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. For the full data set and sourcing details, see www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race_ethnicity_gender_2010.xlsx

While Black Americans make up 13% of the population, they make up 39% of the US prison population



Source: Library of Congress/Interim Archives/Getty Images

Disabled Americans Don't Have Equal Voting Protections

The US has a long way to go when it comes to equitable rights for Disabled Americans in general - and that certainly extends to voting. Currently, 1 in 4 Americans has a disability and as a result of old laws, many Disabled folks face discriminatory legislation and restrictions around voting. At best, these laws are offensive, unnecessary and outdated; at worst, they violate ADA laws and continue to systematically marginalize Disabled Americans. While each state's laws differ, some states bar anyone with a legal guardian from voting at all, even if they fully understand elections and voting.

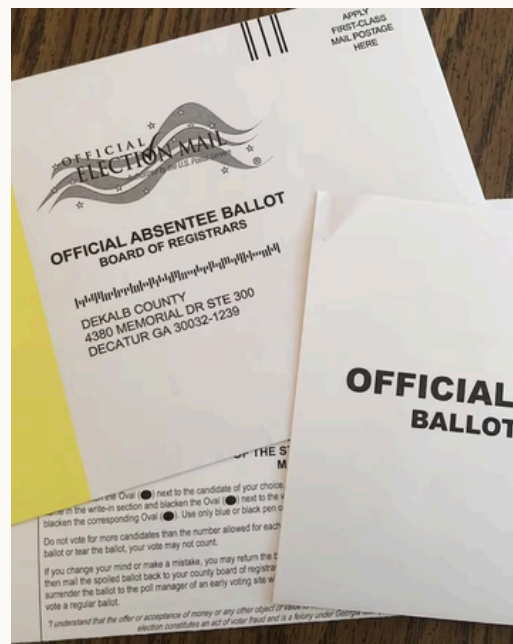
Here's just a few examples of voter discrimination that Disabled Americans face:

- Certain states give judges the ability to take away a Disabled individual's right to vote.
- Some election officials and poll workers have refused to give Disabled voters a ballot at their polling location (which is illegal), while other officials have refused to offer absentee ballots to folks just for living in institutions.
- Some state laws still feature offensive terminology, such as 'of unsound mind' and 'insane'.
- Due to differences among state absentee ballot laws, some states have additional requirements such as getting your ballot signed by a notary, requiring specific forms of ID, or requesting your social security number.

To learn more about individual state laws, and for a guide to know your rights, we recommend the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law's [Know-Your-Rights Guide for Voters with Mental Disabilities and Advocates](#).

How does this lead to voter suppression?

With 25% of Americans living with varying levels of disability, the implications of voter discrimination against Disabled Americans is huge. As a result of outdated laws, illegal activity that violates ADA guidelines, and a general lack of understanding of disability, systemic ableism is allowed to thrive unchecked - while impacting basic voting rights for millions of Americans who should be able to easily do so.



Absentee ballots, envelopes and privacy sleeves mailed to Georgia voters for the state's primary on June 9, 2020, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Photo by [Lorie Shaull](#) via flickr

Voter Intimidation

Examples of voter intimidation in the US date back hundreds of years, as we've seen in the KKK's violent actions to deter Black men from voting in post-Civil War America. Even though the Voting Rights Act of 1965 formally protects voters against discriminatory practices, that doesn't mean the practice has been entirely eliminated.

While modern-day voter intimidation examples may be less outwardly violent, they have taken on their own insidious nature by taking advantage of today's technology. Just look at our last presidential election: in the summer of 2020, right wing activists Jacob Wohl and Jack Burkman 'sent 85,000 robocalls to purposefully scare voters in predominantly Black neighborhoods from voting.'

And ahead of a local Colorado election in 2021, a local volunteer group knocked on nearly 10,000 Coloradan's doors and "questioned residents' voting habits, interrogated them about fraudulent ballots and took pictures of people's homes." Even more alarming? The volunteers were encouraged to carry guns when doing so.

An extension of this issue is with poll worker intimidation. During the 2020 elections, Georgia poll worker Ruby Freeman was the target of online death threats - including lynching - after Rudy Giuliani tweeted a video of her counting votes. Following the tweet, Freeman had to flee her home when people discovered where she lived and intimidated her with bullhorns.

How does this lead to voter suppression?

These scare tactics, most of which are clearly targeted against BIPOC, are nothing new, but they are evolving. Regardless of how violent modern-day voter intimidation can be, the fact that they are focused on certain populations - populations who might already feel disenfranchised with the American political system - is no accident. And because BIPOC tend to skew more progressive on policies, conservative leaders and groups are doing what they can to maintain 'traditional' systems that keep progress from being implemented.

Latino voting rights group calls for investigation after Texas authorities search homes

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Latino voting rights group called Monday for a federal investigation after its volunteers said Texas authorities raided their homes and seized phones and computers as part of an investigation by the state's Republican attorney general into allegations of voter fraud

Associated Press Story from August 2024

The robocall script read:

"Did you know that if you vote by mail your personal information will be part of a public database that will be used by police departments to track down old warrants and be used for credit card companies to collect outstanding debts."

If this wasn't nefarious enough, in an effort to gain individuals' trust, the right wing activists programmed the robocaller to introduce herself with a 'Black-sounding name'.

Robocall sent to 85,000 voters in predominantly Black neighborhoods

Voter Purging: "Use It Or Lose It" Policy

The act of voter purging was designed to remove local individuals who are deceased, imprisoned, or who have moved out of state from local ballot access. However, real life examples of voter purging (whether exacted by state laws, or by individuals who purge other community members from voting) can extend far beyond this by removing perfectly eligible voters from participating in elections. As a result, some individuals might not realize they are no longer registered to vote in their county until they get to the polls.

Oftentimes, voter purging targets progressive and BIPOC individuals and communities. Rather than having voters be registered as a default, certain voter purging laws will even remove individuals for not having voted in a recent election.

A 2020 article from the American Bar Association shared that, “a federal court in Georgia, in a case brought by Fair Fight Action, denied a preliminary injunction seeking to restore the registration status of 98,000 Georgians who had had their registrations canceled solely because of a period of non-voting and non-return of confirmation notices.” And in a swing state like Georgia, removing nearly 100,000 voters from the registry has enormous implications.

How does this lead to voter suppression?

Regardless of how ‘well-intentioned’ voter purging might be, state laws and individuals who remove others’ ability to vote reflect a coordinated effort to prevent marginalized communities from exercising their right to vote.



Oklahoma's KFOR Headline from September 2024



Conservative activist Gail Lee is interviewed by Major Garrett, where Lee said she's filed about 500 challenges, CBS News.



Karli Swift, chair of the election board in DeKalb County, Georgia, during an administration hearing that will determine whether potential voters are removed from the rolls, CBS News.

Be sure to visit vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote to ensure you and your community are all set ahead of election day.



Registering To Vote

According to a [Pew Research Center](#) article, more than half of countries across the globe have some sort of compulsory voting registration. However in the US, eligible voters must regularly register in order to be able to submit their ballot.

It wasn't always like this - widespread modern day voter registration laws didn't arise until the late 1800s, following the Civil War. These new laws added barriers to low income, Black, and immigrant voters, yet they were promoted to "preserve the purity of the ballot box," says a report from the [Institute for Responsive Government](#). "Advance registration requirements would give election officials the time needed to verify the eligibility of all prospective voters while placing on potential voters the burden of establishing their eligibility before the election." These voter registration requirements continue to this day, representing a long legacy of systemic discrimination against vulnerable communities - communities who serve to benefit the most from an overhaul of these laws.

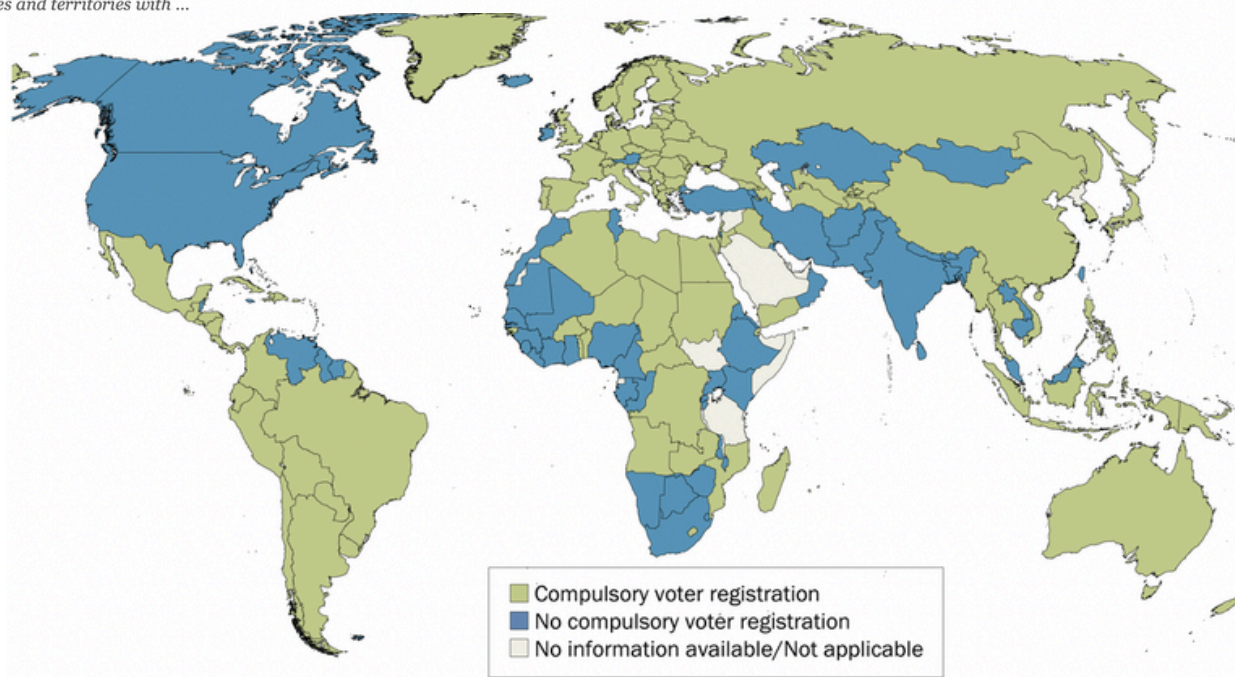
How does this lead to voter suppression?

Americans shouldn't have to jump through hoops to exercise their basic voting rights. And yet, the US is part of the less than 50% of the world where voter registration is still legally required in order to vote.

We know that the more steps one has to take in order to do something, the more 'drop off' there is, which means fewer people making their voices heard. **As one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world, the US can and should introduce a system that makes voting simple.**

Voter registration is compulsory in many countries, including most in Europe

Countries and territories with ...



Note: Data available for 226 countries and territories.

Source: ACE Electoral Knowledge Network database. Accessed October 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

US Territories Don't Get the Same Voting Rights

The United States currently occupies 16 territories, including five that have permanent inhabitants that are technically US citizens - Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. That said, just because citizenship is granted to residents of these territories, doesn't mean they have the same voting rights or equal representation in government.

Residents of these five territories are not able to vote in the US presidential election, nor are they able to elect senators or representatives into US Congress - however they do each have a non-voting member of the House of Representatives. While these territories have their own presidential primaries, the lack of meaningful representation in the US's federal decision making is intentional. In fact, there are over 3.5 million residents in these territories, almost all of whom are ethnic minorities.

Similarly, Washington DC - which does not have statehood status - does not have any senators and only has one non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives. While Washington DC residents are able to vote in the US presidential election, locals have been advocating for statehood as a racial justice issue, given that 40% of D.C. residents are Black and lack equitable representation in the federal government.

How does this lead to voter suppression?

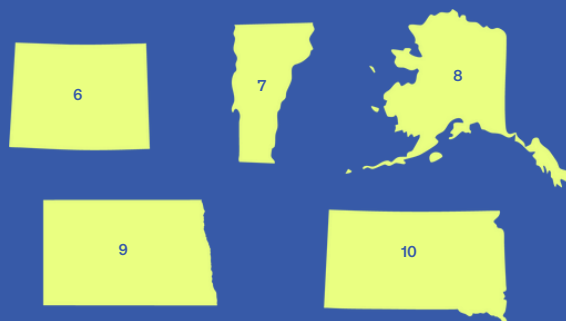
The lack of representation among US territories is not without intention. Given the diverse backgrounds among residents within these territories - including Washington DC which has a Black population of 42% - it's unsurprising that meaningful representation is withheld. Given that diverse populations tend to skew more progressive when it comes to voting, we can begin to understand why the federal government has prevented diverse communities from having the same voting rights and access as other US citizens.

3.5M U.S. Citizens



=

3.5M U.S. Citizens



There are more than 3.5 million U.S. Citizens in Puerto Rico (1), Guam (2), the Northern Mariana Islands (3), American Samoa (4), and the US Virgin Islands (5) that DO NOT have the right to vote in the Presidential election. This population is EQUIVALENT to the number of residents in the five least populated US states: Wyoming (6), Vermont (7), Alaska (8), North Dakota (9), and South Dakota (10).

*States and territories are NOT TO SCALE

Ballot Box Discrimination: Polling Locations, Midweek Election Day, And Language Barriers

Voter suppression happens well before Election Day as well as on the day itself. There are several tactics that are used at the ballot box to make voting more difficult:

1) **Polling Locations:** Did you know Black, Indigenous, and Latine Americans face higher rates of polling location closures than white Americans? Closures like this can decrease voter turnout by adding extra travel time or making those locations inaccessible without a car.

To prevent polling location closures and updates, Campaign Legal Center recommends advocating for state-level voting legislation like the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of New York, which establishes “preclearance for polling place changes so that local governments cannot make changes that have discriminatory results.”

2) **Midweek Election Day:** Historically, Election Day in America is held on Tuesday because Sundays were reserved for the Sabbath, and Mondays were reserved for travel, which left Tuesday as the best option for casting votes. However, this practice is extremely outdated, especially considering that most individuals work on Tuesdays.

By not making Election Day a nation-wide holiday, many workers aren’t able to take the time off to go vote, especially for those who have families to take care of. Until Election Day becomes a federal holiday, or it gets moved to a weekend day, this is still considered a form of voter suppression.

3) **Language Barriers:** Something that may come as a surprise is that the US doesn’t have an official language. While English is most commonly spoken in the US, there are still more than 8 million voting-eligible Americans who don’t speak English well enough to complete a ballot.

With election officials who fail to translate ballots, a lack of multilingual poll workers, and limited enforcement of accessible language requirements, many non-English speakers are left without sufficient support when it comes to voting.

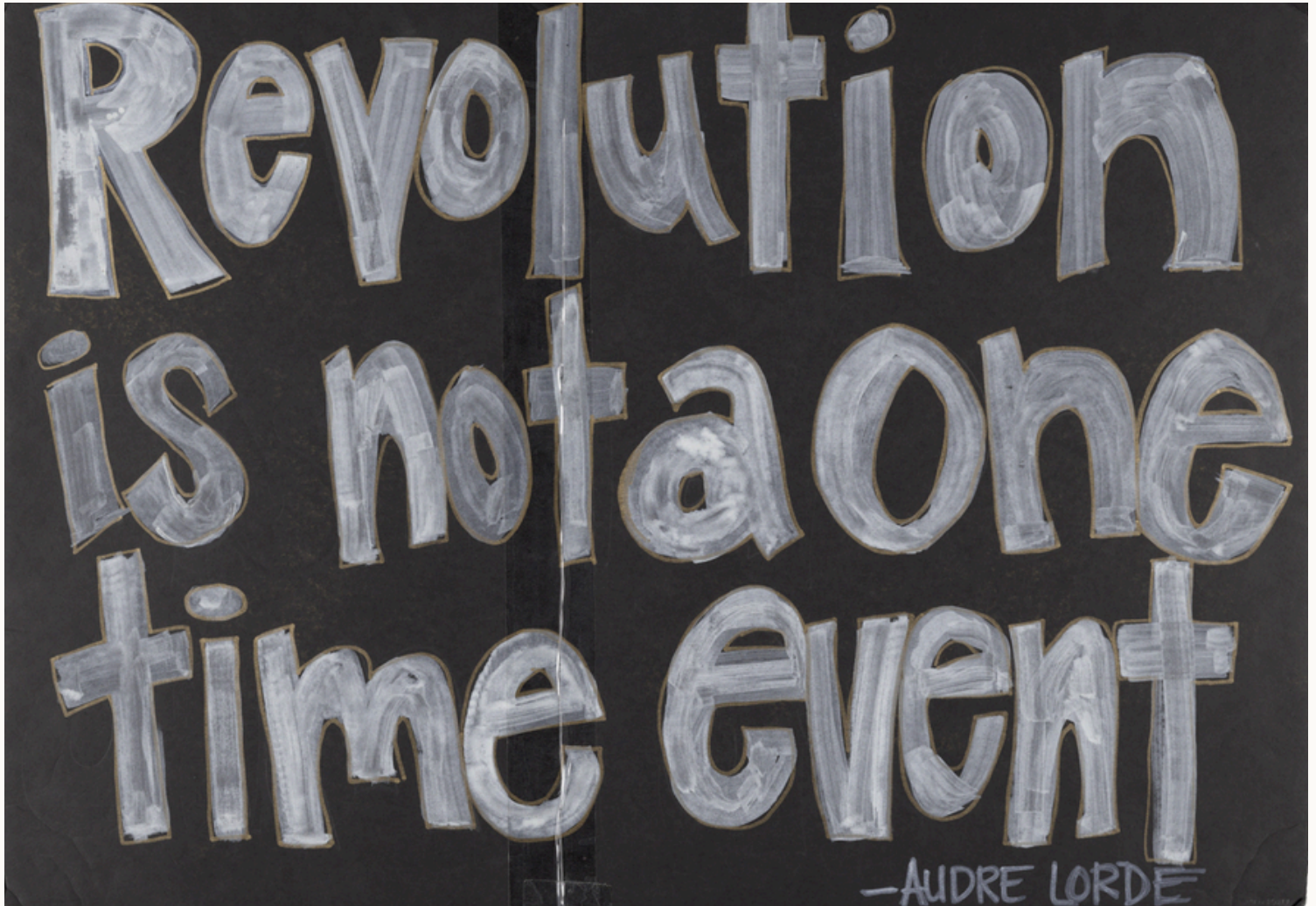
Texas closes hundreds of polling sites, making it harder for minorities to vote

Guardian analysis finds that places where black and Latino population is growing by the largest numbers experienced the majority of closures and could benefit Republicans

Story from The Guardian, March 2020



Photo by Erik Hersman [via](#) Flickr



A poster from the 2017 Women's March on Washington with the message, "Revolution Is Not A One Time Event", Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

There's clearly a lot of work to do when it comes to ensuring the democratic process remains **accessible, equitable, and fair**. As a result of systemic discrimination and outdated laws that allow racist institutions and systems to go unchecked, voter suppression continues to thrive by disproportionately harming BIPOC, low-income, Disabled, incarcerated, non-English speaking, and other targeted and underserved communities.

As we know, many communities have fought long and hard to ensure that our right to vote is protected, and it's our duty as Americans to prove that their work was not for naught. Take a look at the resources below to see what you can do now to make sure you and your friends are all ready for the upcoming election.

"Whether the discrimination is subtle and uses dog whistles to mask itself as protecting 'the purity of the ballot box', or is blatantly discriminatory such as with racial gerrymandering, we have a long way to go to stop voter suppression."

-Sabs Katz

1

Check your registration

Checking your registration is the first step in ensuring you are ready to take action. You can also encourage all your friends and family members to check their registration as well. Don't forget to check again leading up to the election in case your name was purged from the voter record.

vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote

2

Mark your calendar

Remember that Election Day is the last day you can vote. You can be proactive by taking advantage of early voting so you can make a voting gameplan.

vote.org/early-voting-calendar

3

Drop your Absentee Ballot off IRL

Need an absentee ballot? Request one online through this link, and when your ballot is submitted, be sure to track it by mail. Sometimes ballots aren't accepted based on their signature, but it can be fixed - just make sure you're keeping track.

vote.org/absentee-ballot

4

Stay up to date on policy around voting rights

Stay informed about new legislation and policy connected to automatic voter registration, the current election landscape, and more.

<https://www.brennancenter.org>

[Merriam-Webster](#)

[Democracy Docket](#)

[The Constitution Annotated](#)

[Bill of Rights Institute](#)

[Oregon Secretary of State](#)

[National Archives](#)

[United States Senate](#)

[Stanford University](#)

[Brennan Center for Justice](#)

[History](#)

[Vox](#)

[ACLU](#)

[U.S. Department of Justice](#)

[Prison Policy Initiative](#)

[Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#)

[Vote.org](#)

[Democracy Docket](#)

[Pew Research Center](#)

[American Bar Association](#)

[The New York Times](#)

[CBS News](#)

[Institute for Responsive Government](#)

[KFOR - Oklahoma News 4](#)

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