

## Pass Election Protection Legislation Now

I am writing to ask that you make the passage of election protection legislation a priority before you break for the summer recess, starting with the bi-partisan DISCLOSE Act (H.R. 5175) which will mitigate the corrosive effects of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision to allow corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections. Two-thirds of Americans are opposed to this decision because it undermines our democracy and puts profits over people.

In addition, passage of other common sense legislation will protect the votes of millions of people who are unfairly kept from either voting or not having their lawfully cast vote counted. These include citizens who have wrongfully been purged from voter lists, voters challenged at the polls for various technicalities, felons who have been released back into society, others who have been given false information about the day or place of voting, and nuns and retirees who do not possess a state issued photo ID.

Many Congress Members have introduced legislation to address these and other barriers to a fair and representative election. Here is a list of legislation I want you to pass so every citizen who wants to can vote in the 2010 midterm elections.

Caging Prohibition Act of 2009 -- (Conyers; HR 103 and S. 528 PDF) This bill would prohibit election officials from preventing individuals from registering to vote or voting in any federal election or from permitting formal voter challenges to voters' registration status or eligibility if the basis of information gathered from voter caging documents or lists or unverified match lists. It would also establish requirements of individuals other than election officials who wish to challenge the voter eligibility of another individual, and prohibit challenges based on voter caging documents or lists or unverified match lists.

Provisional Ballot Fairness in Counting Act - (Holt; HR 3552) this removes the "wrong precinct" rule that many states have used to invalidate provisional ballots. Under this language, if you cast your provisional ballot in the correct state for state-wide federal races, or in the correct Congressional District for Congressional races, it must be counted. In addition, it would prohibit a state from certifying a result or commencing a recount prior to all provisional ballots being reviewed and counted in accordance with the foregoing requirements, and it would treat any rejected provisional ballots as voter registration applications. PDF

Protection Against Wrongful Voter Purges Act -- (Holt; HR 3835) this provides for advance notice of possible removal from the rolls, and an opportunity to challenge and remedy if your name is removed. In addition, it would prohibit a state from refusing to register a voter who has submitted all information required by the national (NVRA) form, notwithstanding additional information requested by the state form, and it would prohibit a state from refusing to register an applicant solely on the basis of a failure to match data contained in another state database.

Democracy Restoration Act of 2009 -- (Conyers; HR 3335 PDF and S1516 PDF) The Democracy Restoration Act (DRA) is federal legislation that seeks to restore voting rights in federal elections to the nearly 4 million disenfranchised Americans who have been released from prison and are living in the community.

Voter Access Protection Act - (Ellison, HR 4026 from the 109th Congress) to forbid the requirement of a photo ID in a federal election.

Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act -- (Conyers; HR 97) would criminalize the knowing and intentional communication of false and misleading information about the time, place, or manner of conducting elections, and the rules governing eligibility to register or to vote. It would also ensure that voters affected by deceptive or intimidating practices are provided with correct information from a reliable source in a timely manner. PDF

Poll Tape Transparency Act (Holt, HR 5228) Would require election officials to make poll tapes available to citizen observers as soon as the polls close on Election Day, along with a statement of the number of voters who signed in to vote, enabling the citizen observers to compare that precinct-based data to the data reflected for the precinct during the tabulation phase of the election in the following days.. In addition, it would require reported discrepancies to be posted on the election official's website, along with the resolution thereof. PDF

Vote Tabulation Audit Act (Holt, HR 5229) to require election officials to prepare a certificate listing the vote totals and other information as soon as the polls close and provide that information to citizen observers to enable them to compare that detailed and uniformly presented precinct-based data to the data reflected for the precinct during the tabulation phase of the election in the following days. In addition, it would require reported discrepancies to be posted on the election official's website, along with the resolution thereof. This is similar to the Poll Tape Transparency Act except that it requires the development, over time, of a standardized form for the presentation of Election Day results reporting to citizen observers, to allow for statistical comparisons across jurisdictions.

Federal Election Integrity Act (Susan Davis; HR 512) to make it unlawful for a chief state election administration official to take active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any election for federal office over which the official has supervisory authority (other than the official's own campaign or that of an immediate family member).

Student Voter Opportunity To Encourage Registration (VOTER) Act -- (Schakowsky; HR 1729) -- to provide for the treatment of institutions of higher education as voter registration agencies.

Veteran Voting Support Act (S 1556) The legislation would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, permit nonpartisan organizations to provide voter registration information

and assistance at facilities of the VA health care system, and, require each Director of a VA community living center, domiciliary, or medical center to provide assistance in voting by absentee ballot to resident veterans.

Absentee Ballot Track, Receive, and Confirm Act -- (Susan Davis; HR 2510; already passed in the House) -- to reimburse States for the costs incurred in establishing a program to track and confirm the receipt of voted absentee ballots in elections for Federal office and make information on the receipt of such ballots available by means of online access.

Prohibiting Unwarranted Voter Challenges Act (Jesse Jackson; HR 3489) to prohibit State election officials from accepting a challenge to an individual's eligibility to register to vote in an election for Federal office or to vote in an election for Federal office in a jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual resides in a household in the jurisdiction which is subject to foreclosure proceedings or that the jurisdiction was adversely affected by a hurricane or other major disaster.

Same Day Registration Act (Ellison; HR 3957) to require States to provide for same day registration.

Shareholder Protection Act -- (Capuano; HR 4537) to require the express authorization of a majority of shareholders of a public company for certain political expenditures.