



July 18, 2023

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening democracy across all levels of government, I am writing today in strong support of the Freedom to Vote Act.

This legislation is a transformative proposal that will increase Americans' access to the ballot box, neutralize partisan and racial gerrymandering, and increase transparency in our campaign finance system to counteract the impact of dark money secret spending.

The Freedom to Vote Act covers four general subject areas: voting rights, election security, redistricting and campaign finance. Specific provisions include:

### **Voting Rights**

- Establishing baseline national standards for automatic voter registration, same day voter registration, online voter registration, and early in-person voting in federal elections.
- Ensuring that all voters can vote by mail, without an excuse or other qualifications requirement, that the U.S. Postal Service will deliver mail-ballots free of postage in a timely manner, and that states will pre-process mail-in ballots to help expedite the final tally of election results.
- Requiring more equitable polling places with fair wait times.
- Restoring the right to vote in federal elections to all voters with felony convictions upon completion of any term of incarceration associated with their felony conviction.
- Making election day a federal legal public holiday.

### **Election Security**

- Limiting the ability of statewide election officials to suspend, remove, or relieve local election administrators of duty, except for gross negligence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.
- Strengthening legal protections for election officials and workers against intimidation, threats, coercion, or interference, including for those involved in counting, canvassing, or certifying election results.

- Enhancing voting system security and adopting voter-verifiable paper ballots for all federal elections.
- Requiring risk-limiting audits after federal elections.

### **Redistricting**

- Prohibiting mid-decade redistricting and partisan gerrymandering in congressional maps, as well as authorizing legal claims challenging partisan gerrymandering in federal courts.
- Setting forth new mandatory criteria for states to use when drawing congressional districts, including compliance with the U.S. Constitution’s “one person, one vote” requirements, protection of minority voters consistent with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and maintenance of existing communities of interest and neighborhoods.
- Enhancing transparency by requiring states to publish proposed maps and the data used to create them for the public free of cost.

### **Campaign Finance**

- Incorporating three major campaign finance reforms to improve transparency in elections and counteract the effect of secret spending, including the Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections (DISCLOSE) Act, the Honest Ads Act, and the Spotlight Act.
- Improving campaign finance oversight and enforcement by expanding the categories of activities that would cause an “independent” group, like a super political action committee, to be deemed a “coordinated” (rather than an “independent”) spender, and thus have its spending subject to contribution limits and other restrictions.
- Strengthening the Federal Election Commission's enforcement process by requiring a majority vote of Commissioners to shut down an investigation at the preliminary stages of the process, as well as extending the statute of limitations for pursuing civil and criminal enforcement of federal campaign finance law from five to ten years.
- Establishing a voluntary “small donor financing” program for House candidates that would amplify the voices of average Americans.

The Freedom to Vote Act is also essential to counteract the many dangerous laws recently introduced and enacted across the country that are designed to sabotage our elections.

An opposing bill, the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives last week. Despite the misleading name, the ACE Act is bad for voters. Rather than make our elections more secure, transparent, and accessible, the ACE Act erodes access to the ballot box, opens the door for wealthy donors to influence elections, imposes new burdens on nonpartisan election workers, restricts the franchise for voters in Washington, DC, and much more.

The Freedom to Vote Act, in deep contrast, is legislation that offers comprehensive advances to our democracy and addresses the most pressing challenges to our electoral process – the true recipe for voter confidence and trust. Campaign Legal Center strongly urges your support for this sweeping legislation, which would finally ensure that all voices are heard and create a government that represents all Americans.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Trevor Potter

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