NAACP FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE TRAINING MATERIALS

Voting Rights

110th NAACP ANNUAL CONVENTION
WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN
DETOUR, MICHIGAN JULY 20 - 24, 2019

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WASHINGTON BUREAU LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

QUICK RESPONSE MEMBERSHIP NETWORK

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name *(Please print legibly)*

Title

Address or P.O. Box

City __________________________ State __________ Zip Code __________

Telephone __________ / __________ - __________ Fax __________ / __________ -

Do you have internet access? Yes ______ No ______

E-mail __________________________

Branch Name __________________________ Branch President’s Name __________________________

Branch Address __________________________ Branch Telephone __________ / __________ -

Name of Congressional Representative __________________________

Congressional District __________________________

Do you have a Political Action Chair? Yes ______ No ______

Name of Political Action Chair __________________________

NAME OF FAX ACTION ALERT POINT PERSON __________________________

Address __________________________

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Phone __________________________

Fax __________________________

Email __________________________

(Please use back page for additional comments if necessary)

You can also join our Membership Network online at www.naACP.org
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau


**H.R. 1 / S. 949 WOULD IMPROVE ACCESS TO OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS, STRENGTHEN VOTING RIGHTS PROTECTIONS AND SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRACY**

THE ISSUE:
On March 8, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act and sent it to the Senate for consideration. On March 28, 2019, Senator Tom Udall (NM) introduced S. 949 the For the People Act in the US Senate. H.R. 1 / S. 949 is a comprehensive bill with provisions to protect, support, and make it easier for eligible American citizens to cast a free and unfettered vote and to be sure their vote was counted. The For the People Act would enact automatic, online, and same-day voter registration; support policies to help ensure no individual waits longer than 30 minutes to vote; require paid time off for voting during early voting periods or on Election Day; require early voting; and implement voter pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds. H.R. 1 / S. 949 would also expand the franchise to allow ex-felony offenders the right to vote; increase the penalties for false or deceptive electioneering; reform the campaign finance structure to increase the voice of every-day Americans; prohibit the counter-democratic process known as “prison-based gerrymandering”; and provide clear ethics guidelines for all federally elected and appointed officials, including the President, the Vice President, every member of the President’s cabinet, every Senator, and every member of the U.S. House of Representatives, so we are not constantly distracted by the “scandal of the day.” H.R. 1 / S. 949 the For the People Act, is a comprehensive response to many of the current challenges with, as well as the promises of, our democracy.

While there have been a number of NAACP-supported bills introduced this year which would deliver crucial, individual “fixes,” H.R. 1 / S. 949 represents a comprehensive effort to protect and promote the voting rights of all Americans. This vital legislation includes many of the tools the NAACP has identified throughout our nation as improving voter registration and turn-out and successful voter participation. The For the People Act also promotes secure voter registration via the internet and gives much-needed resources and additional authority to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), a federal agency created in 2002 by the NAACP-supported Help America Vote Act. The EAC is charged with determining and promoting the best, most secure practices to safeguard our democracy.

The For the People Act also begins to fix the damage done to the crucial 1965 Voting Rights Act by the US Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder and states the sense of Congress that the residents of the District of Columbia should be allowed representation in Congress. Finally, but no less importantly, H.R. 1 contains strong provisions to bring about genuine campaign finance reform measures which will withstand the scrutiny of the Courts.

In short, H.R. 1 / S. 969, the For the People Act makes voting and participation in the democratic process easier, not throwing up barriers which may seem insurmountable to whole groups of eligible voters.

SEE HOW EVERY MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE VOTED
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact both your Senators and URGE THEM SUPPORT H.R. 1 / S. 949. To contact your Senators you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

THE MESSAGE

• H.R. 1 / S. 949, the For the People Act is a comprehensive bill to make it easier to vote and harder to disenfranchise any eligible American;

• The For the People Act also increases the penalties for false or deceptive electioneering, reforms the campaign finance structure to increase the voice of every-day Americans, and provides clear ethics guidelines for all federally elected and appointed official, including the President, the Vice President, every member of the President’s cabinet, every Senator, and every member of the U.S. House of Representatives;

• The For the People Act also begins to fix the damage done to the crucial 1965 Voting Rights Act by the US Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder;

• This vital legislation includes many of the tools the NAACP has identified throughout our nation as improving voter turn-out and successful voter participation including automatic voter registration, early voting, and same day registration;

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
(date)

The Honorable ______________________________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

LEGISLATION TO GREATLY IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE DEMOCRATIC VOTING
PROCESS

Dear Senator ________________________,

As your constituent, I would like to urge you, in the strongest terms possible to support
through passage H.R. 1 / S. 949, the For the People Act, legislation intended to expand
Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the discriminatory influence of big money in
politics, prevent voter fraud, and strengthen ethics rules and accountability for public
servants. H.R. 1 passed the US House of Representatives on March 8, 2019.

The For the People Act represents a coordinated effort to protect and promote the
voting rights of all Americans. This vital legislation includes many of the tools identified
throughout our nation as improving voter turn-out and successful voter participation: it
includes provisions to promote automatic voter registration; same-day voter
registration; early voting; voting by mail; the re-enfranchisement of ex-felony offenders;
and an improvement in provisional ballots; while at the same time prohibiting voter
caging, voter deception and voter intimidation. H.R. 1 also promotes voter registration
via the internet and gives much-needed resources and additional authority to the
Election Assistance Commission (EAC), a federal agency charged with determining and
promoting the best, most secure practices to safeguard our democracy.

The For the People Act also begins to fix the damage done to the crucial 1965 Voting
Rights Act by the US Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder. This vital legislation
also establishes a strict code of ethics for all federally elected and appointed officials,
including the President, the Vice President, his cabinet, and every Member of Congress,
so we are not constantly distracted by the “scandal of the day.” Finally, but no less
importantly, H.R. 1 contains strong provisions to bring about genuine campaign finance
reform measures which will withstand the scrutiny of the Courts.

This should not be a partisan issue: the right to vote should be supported by all
Americans who believe in democracy. We should be making voting and involvement in
the democratic process easier, not throwing up barriers which may seem
insurmountable to whole groups of eligible voters. I look forward to hearing your
thought on this matter, as well as how I can help improve the promise and performance
of our democracy.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to
include your address)
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▲ = voted with the NAACP position and in support of H.R. 1
▼ = voted in opposition to H.R. 1
? = did not vote
V = seat is vacant
Comprehensive Voting Right and Election Reform
H.R. 1 / Final Passage / House Vote #118
H.R. 1 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on March 8, 2019, by a margin of 234 yeas to 193 nays
The NAACP strongly supported H.R. 1

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▲ = voted with the NAACP position and in support of H.R. 1
▼ = voted in opposition to H.R. 1
? = did not vote
V = seat is vacant
Comprehensive Voting Right and Election Reform
H.R. 1 / Final Passage / House Vote #118
H.R. 1 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on March 8, 2019, by a margin of 234 yeas to 193 nays
The NAACP strongly supported H.R. 1

MISSOURI
1. Clay  
2. Wagner  
3. Luettekemeyer  
4. Hartzler  
5. Cleaver  
6. Graves  
7. Long  
8. Smith

MONTANA
1. Gianforte

NEBRASKA
1. Fortenberry  
2. Bacon  
3. Smith

NEVADA
1. Titus  
2. Amodei  
3. Lee  
4. Horsford

NEW HAMPSHIRE
1. Pappas  
2. Kuster

NEW JERSEY
1. Norcross  
2. Van Drew  
3. Kim  
4. Smith  
5. Gottheimer  
6. Pallone  
7. Malinowski  
8. Sires  
9. Pascrell  
10. Payne  
11. Sherrill  
12. Watson Coleman

NEW MEXICO
1. Haaland  
2. Small  
3. Lujan

NEW YORK
1. Zeldin  
2. King  
3. Suozzi  
4. Rice  
5. Meeks  
6. Meng  
7. Velazquez  
8. Jeffries  
9. Clarke  
10. Nadler  
11. Rose  
12. Maloney  
13. Espaillat  
14. Ocasio-Cortez  
15. Serrano  
16. Engel  
17. Lowey  
18. Maloney  
19. Delgado  
20. Tonko  
21. Stefanik  
22. Brindisi  
23. Reed  
24. Katko  
25. Morelle  
26. Higgins  
27. Collins

NORTH CAROLINA
1. Butterfield  
2. Holding  
3. VACANT  
4. Price  
5. Foxx  
6. Walker  
7. Rouzer  
8. Hudson  
9. VACANT  
10. McHenry  
11. Meadows  
12. Adams  
13. Budd

NORTH DAKOTA
1. Armstrong

OHIO
1. Chabot  
2. Wenstrup  
3. Beatty  
4. Jordan  
5. Latta  
6. Johnson  
7. Gibbs  
8. Davidson  
9. Kaptur  
10. Turner  
11. Fudge  
12. Balderson  
13. Ryan  
14. Joyce  
15. Stivers  
16. Gonzalez

OKLAHOMA
1. Hern  
2. Mullin  
3. Lucas  
4. Cole  
5. Horn

OREGON
1. Bonamici  
2. Walden  
3. Blumenauer  
4. DeFazio  
5. Schrader
Comprehensive Voting Right and Election Reform  
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▲ = voted with the NAACP position and in support of H.R. 1  
▽ = voted in opposition to H.R. 1  
? = did not vote  
V = seat is vacant
CONGRESS INTRODUCES THE NAACP-SUPPORTED VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT TO REPAIR, RESTORE, AND STRENGTHEN THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965
URGE BOTH YOUR SENATORS AND HOUSE MEMBER TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT H.R. 4 / S. 561 THROUGH PASSAGE

THE ISSUE:
The right to vote is one of the most valuable constitutional rights granted to most Americans. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was enacted to insure that the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enforced and that no one, including federal, state or local government may in any way impede people from registering to vote or voting because of their race or ethnicity. Most provisions in the VRA, and specifically the portions that guarantee that no one may be denied the right to vote because of his or her race or color, are permanent.

Section 5 of the VRA requires certain states or jurisdictions which have an established history of laws or policies which discriminate obtain advance approval or “preclearance” from the US Department of Justice or the US District Court in D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. Examples of these changes which must be “precleared” include any change in the date, time, place, or manner under which an election is held. Federal approval is to be given as soon as the state or jurisdiction proves that the proposed change would not abridge the right to vote on account of race or language minority status.

On June 25, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of Shelby v. Holder in which the Court did not invalidate the principle of preclearance. The Supreme Court did decide, however, that Section 4(b) of the VRA, which establishes the formula that is used to determine which states and jurisdictions must comply with preclearance, is antiquated and thus unconstitutional and can no longer be used. Thus, although Section 5 prevailed, it is currently not being used. The U.S. Supreme Court also made it clear in its decision that a new, updated preclearance formula and should be designed by the U.S. Congress.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act was introduced in both the House (H.R. 4, by Congresswoman Terri Sewell, AL) and the Senate (S. 561, by Senator Patrick Leahy, VT, and was supported in the U.S. House by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus among others. This seminal legislation would: modernize the preclearance formula to cover states with an historical pattern and practice of discrimination; ensure that last-minute voting changes won’t adversely affect voters; protect voters from the types of voting changes most likely to discriminate against people of color and language minorities; enhance the ability to apply a preclearance review when needed; expand the effective Federal Observer Program; and improve voting Rights protections for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Furthermore, this legislation includes all of the priorities necessary for a strong VRA restoration as established by the NAACP National Board of Directors Lastly, H.R.1, the House-passed For the People Act states that Congress is committed to reversing the effects of Shelby County v. Holder as does the Senate companion to H.R.1, which is S. 949

We must tell Congress – both the House and the Senate – that the time to act is now! We have already endured a national Presidential election, as well as a mid-term election and several special elections without the full protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND STRENGTHENING OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT. URGE THEM TO CO-SPONSOR THE VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT S. 561 / H.R. 4. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**
  Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
  The Honorable (name of Senator)
  U.S. Senate
  Washington, D.C. 20510
  To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
  The Honorable (name of Representative)
  U.S. House of Representatives
  Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ **Send a Fax**
  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses. To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative”). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!!

THE MESSAGE
- As a result of the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, there are currently no states or jurisdictions which are required to comply with the “preclearance” directive under Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This means that states or jurisdictions with a proven history of discrimination are able to make changes to their election laws and policies without proving to the U.S. Department of Justice or the District Court in D.C. in advance that the proposed changes will not disenfranchise any voters;

- The US Supreme Court made it clear that Congress can fix this problem and pass a law to replace the criteria for which states or jurisdictions must comply with Section 5 “preclearance;”

- Members of the US House and Senate need to hear from their constituents that the repair, restoration, and strengthening of the 1965 Voting Rights Act is a priority and MUST HAPPEN NOW!!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naACP.org
(date)

The Honorable __________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515


Dear Senator / Representative ________________________:

As your constituent, I urge you in the strongest terms possible to work toward the repair, restoration, and strengthening of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA). Congress must act as soon as possible, so I hope that you will contact your leadership and demand immediate action. It is vital that we address this crucial issue. Specifically, I support and urge you to co-sponsor the in The Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4 / S. 561. This legislation would ensure maximum coverage, ensuring the right to vote of as many Americans as possible is protected.

As you know, as a result of the 2013 Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder, there are currently no states or jurisdictions which are required to comply with the “preclearance” directive under Section 5 of the VRA. This means that states or jurisdictions with a proven history of discrimination are able to make changes to their election laws and policies without proving to the U.S. Department of Justice or the District Court in D.C. In advance that the proposed changes will not disenfranchise racial or ethnic minority or language minority voters.

In Shelby County v. Holder the Supreme Court also explicitly said that Congress could and should update Section 4(b) of the VRA, which it struck, which establishes the formula to determine which states and jurisdictions must obtain preclearance before making any changes to the time, place, or manner in which its elections are conducted. Thus, it is now up to Congress to do the work which must be done to repair, restore and strengthen the 1965 VRA and allow it continue to protect all American voters, so we are assured that we are able to cast a free and unfettered vote and we can be assured that our vote has been counted.

We cannot allow Congressional inaction to dismantle more than 50 years of progress towards a more perfect union. Thus, I urge you again to contact your leadership and demand immediate action on the repair, restoration, and strengthening of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in light of the Supreme Court’s devastating decision in Shelby County v. Holder.

I look forward to hearing from you soon to know what you are doing to move this issue along, and to also receiving your thoughts on what more I can do to precipitate action.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.
Jurisdictions Previously Covered by
Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act
Prior to the 6-25-2013 Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder

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DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT EXPANDS ACCESS TO AND MODERNIZES VOTING PROCESSES AND PROTECT VOTERS FROM SUPPRESSION, DECEPTION, AND OTHER FORMS OF DISENFRANCHISEMENT

THE ISSUE:
In a time when numerous states are considering or have already enacted legislation to restrict or suppress voter participation, the NAACP strongly the Voter Empowerment Act. This important legislation would expand and protect voters’ access to the polls and would increase accountability and integrity among election officials and poll workers. It also would expand eligibility to allow all ex-offenders who have been released from prison (even those who may still be on probation or parole) to register and vote in federal elections. The Voter Empowerment Act was introduced in the US House by Congressman John Lewis (GA) (H.R. 1275) and in the Senate by Senator Kristen Gillibrand (NY) (S. 549).

Specifically, the Voter Empowerment Act would:
- guarantee early voting – require that every state establish early voting sites that are open at least 15 days prior to a general election day;
- require automatic registration – the bill would use modern technology to automatically and permanently register all eligible voters;
- allow same-day registration throughout the country – the Voter Empowerment Act would ensure that voters could register to vote on election day at their polling place;
- ensure on-line voter registration – the Voter Empowerment Act would ensure that on-line voter registration is a viable option nationally;
- outlaw “voter caging” – makes illegal a practice by which mail is sent to a registered voter’s address and, if the mail is returned as “undeliverable” or if it is delivered and the voter does not respond, his or her registration is challenged;
- clarify and strengthen the use of provisional ballots – ensures that provisional ballots are counted;
- make voter intimidation and deception punishable by law – with strong and tough penalties so that people who commit these crimes suffer more than just a slap on the wrist, and establish a process for reaching out to misinformed voters with accurate information so they can cast their votes in time;
- encourage youth voters – the Voter Empowerment Act requires colleges and universities to offer and encourage voter registration to all students;
- assure voting by overseas residents – the legislation increases assurances that Americans who may be living overseas, especially those serving our country in the armed services, can cast a valid vote and be assured that their vote was counted.

Most of the provisions in the Voter Empowerment Act are also in H.R. 1, which passed the House of Representatives on March 8, 2019, and the Senate companion bill, S. 949, which was introduced 3/28/19
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO CO-SPONSOR AND ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT (H.R. 1275 / S. 549) TO EXPAND THE FRANCHISE. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**
  Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
  The Honorable (name of Senator)
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  Washington, D.C. 20510
  To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
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  Washington, D.C. 20515

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  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses. To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- The right of all eligible citizens to vote and to have their vote count is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is a fundamental civil right guaranteed by our Constitution.

- It is the obligation of Congress to guarantee that everything that can be done will be done to ensure that every eligible American is allowed to vote and to be sure that his or her vote has been counted.

- We need to ensure that that every eligible voter is registered and votes, and that eligibility is opened to all Americans age 18 or over, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, age, economic status, geographical location, disability or other characteristic which may place them in a minority status.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
(date)

The Honorable __________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

**RE: SUPPORT FOR THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT, H.R. 1275 / S. 549**

Dear Senator / Representative __________________________:

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to co-sponsor and support the *Voter Empowerment Act*, H.R. 1275 in the House and S. 549 in the Senate. The right of all eligible citizens to vote and to have their vote count is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is a fundamental civil right guaranteed by our Constitution. Furthermore, it is the obligation of Congress to ensure that everything that can be done will be done to ensure that every eligible American is allowed to vote and to be sure that his or her vote has been counted.

The *Voter Empowerment Act*, mandates many of the very issues that the NAACP has determined as being vital to increasing voter participation throughout our nation. In addition to guaranteed early voting throughout the country with no excuse required, the *Voter Empowerment Act* would use modern technology to automatically and permanently register all eligible voters; allow same-day registration nationally; ensure secure on-line voter registration; outlaw “voter caging”; clarify and strengthen the use of provisional ballots; make voter intimidation and deception punishable by law, with strong and tough penalties so that people who commit these crimes suffer more than just a slap on the wrist, and establish a process for reaching out to misinformed voters with accurate information so they can cast their votes in time; encourage youth voters; and increase assurances that Americans who may be living overseas, especially those serving our country in the armed services, can cast a valid vote and be assured that their vote was counted.

I would again urge you, in the strongest terms possible, to serve as an original co-sponsor of and support the *Voter Empowerment Act*, H.R. 1275 / S. 549. I look forward to working with you to see that every eligible voter is registered and votes, and that eligibility is opened to all Americans age 18 or over, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, age, economic status, geographic location, disability or other quality which may place them in a minority. Please contact me in the near future to let me know what you are doing to promote the important goal of increased voter participation and what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.*
ACTION ALERT

DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

THE NAACP URGES SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION WOULD REQUIRE STATES TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE SYSTEMS THAT FACILITATE AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION WHEN USING STATE SERVICES

THE ISSUE:
Just under 58% of eligible voters voted in the U.S. Presidential election in 2016. “Automatic Voter Registration” (AVR) makes two transformative, yet simple, changes to voter registration: eligible citizens who interact with government agencies are registered to vote unless they decline, and agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to election officials. AVR is gaining in popularity as a means of both modernizing voter registration and increasing voter registration, and potentially voter participation. As of mid-2017, just seven months after the 2016 election, eight states and the District of Columbia had already approved automatic voter registration, and 32 states have introduced automatic registration proposals.

Included in the AVR proposals is the requirement that voter registration systems must be updated with 21st century technologies and procedures to maintain their security. Many states currently have voter registration systems which are inaccurate, costly, inaccessible and confusing, with damaging effects on voter participation in elections and disproportionate impacts on young people, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities. AVR creates a seamless process that is more convenient and less error-prone for both voters and government officials. This policy boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, makes voting more convenient, and reduces the potential for voter fraud, all while lowering costs.

Congressman David Cicilline (RI) has introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act, H.R. 645. The purpose of this NAACP-supported legislation is enable the State and Federal governments to register all eligible citizens to vote with accurate, cost-efficient, and up-to-date procedures; to modernize voter registration and list maintenance procedures with electronic and Internet capabilities; and to protect and enhance the integrity, accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of the electoral process for all eligible citizens. The Automatic Voter Registration Act has four components: it digitizes voter registration and shifts from an “opt in” to an “opt out”; it makes sure that once citizens are signed up, they remain registered when they move within their states; it allows citizens to register to vote online; and it gives people the opportunity to register or update their information at the polls. AVR is also contained within the House-passed H.R. 1 and its Senate companion, S. 949.

The goal of AVR is to ensure that every eligible American can vote. It would add up to 50 million eligible voters to the rolls, save money, and increase accuracy — while protecting the integrity of elections. It’s time to modernize voter registration, bring our system into the 21st century, and ensure all eligible voters have a say in our democracy.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION ACT, H.R. 645. To contact your Senators and
Representative, you may:
✓ Make a Phone Call:
  Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol
  Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The
  switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).
✓ Write a Letter
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
    The Honorable (name of Senator)
    U.S. Senate
    Washington, D.C. 20510
  To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
    The Honorable (name of Representative)
    U.S. House of Representatives
    Washington, D.C. 20515
✓ Send a Fax
  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s offices (through
  the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached
  sample letter or the message box, below).
✓ Send an E-Mail
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your
  Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.
  To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Find
  Your Representative” (on the right hand side of the screen) and enter your zip code.
  This should take you to a screen that identifies who your Representative is and how to
  get in touch with him or her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!!

THE MESSAGE
• Just under 58% of eligible voters voted in the U.S. Presidential election in 2016.

• “Automatic Voter Registration” is gaining in popularity as a means of both
  modernizing, protecting and increasing voter registration, and potentially voter
  participation.

• Automatic Voter Registration boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, makes
  voting more convenient, and reduces the potential for voter fraud, all while reducing
  costs.

• Automatic Voter Registration would add up to 50 million eligible voters to the rolls,
  save money, and increase accuracy — while protecting the integrity of elections.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacc.org
(date)

The Honorable ____________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Dear Senator / Representative ____________________________:

As your constituent, I strongly encourage you to look into the benefits of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). I think you will find this a successful means of strengthening our democracy, and I would hope that you will co-sponsor H.R. 645, The Automatic Voter Registration Act.

AVR is gaining in popularity as a means of both modernizing voter registration and increasing voter registration, and potentially voter participation. Included in the AVR proposals is the requirement that voter registration systems must be updated with 21st century technologies and procedures to maintain their security. Many states currently have voter registration systems which are inaccurate, costly, inaccessible and confusing, with damaging effects on voter participation in elections and disproportionate impacts on young people, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities. AVR makes two transformative, yet simple, changes to voter registration: Eligible citizens who interact with government agencies are registered to vote unless they decline, and agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to election officials. These two changes create a seamless process that is more convenient and less error-prone for both voters and government officials. This policy boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, makes voting more convenient, and reduces the potential for voter fraud, all while lowering costs.

Just under 58% of eligible voters voted in the U.S. Presidential election in 2016. Given the importance of voting to our Democracy and our nation we can and must do better. AVR would add up to 50 million eligible voters to the rolls, save money, and increase accuracy — while protecting the integrity of elections. Please co-sponsor The Automatic Voter Registration Act, H.R. 645, and help to make good on the promise of our democracy. I look forward to hearing of your thought on this important matter, as well as any suggestions you may have on what more I can do.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP OPPOSES ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS TO PRESENT A PHOTO ID WHEN VOTING
PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS WOULD DISPROPORTIONATELY CAUSE RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES, LOW-INCOME AMERICANS AND THE ELDERLY TO LOSE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

THE ISSUE:
There are racially discriminatory and disenfranchising proposals, at the federal, state and local levels, which would require all voters to show some form of federally or state-approved photo identification before being able to register or cast their vote. These proposals fly in the face of our right, guaranteed by the Constitution, to cast a free and unfettered ballot, as well as the recently reauthorized 1965 Voting Rights Act, which mandates that no state or municipality shall in any way infringe on our right to vote.

Supporters of these initiatives purport to be combating “voter fraud,” a “problem” which, as numerous studies have shown, is not really a problem. We have found that when voter fraud does occur, it is by elected or municipal officials who are trying to dilute or eradicate the votes of a certain population. Rather, photo ID laws create a barrier to keep the up to 21 million Americans, or 11% of the entire voting-eligible population, who do not have government-issued photo IDs, out of the ballot booth. Sadly, a disproportionate number of these people who do not have government-issued IDs are racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly or low-income Americans. A full 25% of African Americans who would otherwise be eligible to vote do not have a qualified photo ID. According to one study, state photo ID laws and other efforts to suppress voting rights could result in as many as five million eligible voters not being able to register and vote in 2012.

These proposals re-create new obstacles in voting akin to a modern day “poll-tax” by forcing Americans to pay for government approved ID. Many of our most vulnerable citizens do not have or cannot easily obtain the paperwork needed to obtain a photo ID, such as passports, birth certificates or naturalization papers. Furthermore, obtaining a photo ID may require taking as much as a day off of work or traveling far distances, both of which may prove to be almost insurmountable chores. The requirement that all voters present a photo ID before being able to cast a regular ballot will disproportionately disenfranchise African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans, as well as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, Americans living in rural areas, students, Native American voters, the homeless, and low-income people who are less likely to have or carry a photo ID.

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To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO OPPOSE ANY PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER OR VOTE. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "Find Your Senators". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "Write Your Representative" (on the left hand side, just under "find your Representative"). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE
- Photo ID requirements, as we are seeing them at the federal, state and local level, are creating a barrier to keep the up to 21 million Americans, or 11% of the entire voting-eligible population, who do not have government-issued photo IDs, out of the ballot booth.

- Sadly, a disproportionate number of these people who do not have government-issued IDs are racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly or low-income Americans. A full 25% of African Americans who would otherwise be eligible to vote do not have a qualified photo ID.

- According to one study, state photo ID laws and other efforts to suppress voting rights could result in as many as five million eligible voters not being able to register and vote in 2012.

- These proposals fly in the face of our right, guaranteed by the Constitution, to cast a free and unfettered ballot, as well as the recently reauthorized 1965 Voting Rights Act, which mandates that no state or municipality shall in any way infringe on our right to vote.

- The NAACP opposes a photo ID requirement to register or vote.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.
(date)

The Honorable
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: MY STRONG OPPOSITION TO DISENFRANCHISING, RACIALLY DISPARATE PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE OR VOTING

Dear Senator / Representative __________________________: 

As your constituent, I am writing to let you know of my strong opposition to any bill or amendment which would require voters, or potential voters, to produce a government approved photo ID before registering to vote or voting. While many of these restricting amendments are being enacted at the state level, I support federal legislation which would prohibit election officials from requiring individuals to provide photo identification as a condition of obtaining or casting a ballot in an election for Federal office or registering to vote in elections for Federal office. I urge you to support and co-sponsor this legislation.

While supporters of these initiatives purport to be combating “voter fraud,” (a “problem” which, as numerous studies have shown, is not really a problem), what these laws are in fact doing is creating a barrier to keep the up to 21 million Americans, or 11% of the entire voting-eligible population, who do not have government-issued photo IDs, out of the ballot booth. Sadly, a disproportionate number of these people who do not have government-issued IDs are racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly or low-income Americans. A full 25% of African Americans who would otherwise be eligible to vote do not have a qualified photo ID. According to one study, state photo ID laws and other efforts to suppress voting rights could result in as many as five million eligible voters not being able to register and vote in 2012.

These proposals re-create new obstacles in voting akin to a modern day “poll-tax” by forcing Americans to pay for government approved ID. Many of our most vulnerable citizens do not have or cannot easily obtain the paperwork needed to obtain a photo ID, such as passports, birth certificates or naturalization papers. Furthermore, obtaining a photo ID may require taking as much as a day off of work or traveling far distances, both of which may prove to be almost insurmountable chores. The requirement that all voters present a photo ID before being able to cast a regular ballot will disproportionately disenfranchise African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans, as well as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, Americans living in rural areas, students, Native American voters, the homeless, and low-income people who are less likely to have or carry a photo ID.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my concerns. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the right to vote is protected and all Americans are encouraged, rather than restricted, from their Constitutional right to vote.

Sincerely,
(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

NAACP SUPPORTS VOTING RIGHTS AND STATEHOOD FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LEGISLATION WOULD GIVE D.C. RESIDENTS FULL VOTING RIGHTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE US SENATE, AS WELL AS OTHER BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH STATEHOOD

THE ISSUE:

Despite the fact that they pay federal taxes, serve on juries and defend our Nation in times of war like most other Americans, the residents of the District of Columbia are barred from having voting representation on the floor of the U.S. House or Senate. This classic example of “taxation without representation” is contrary to everything that this nation is founded on. This means that over 600,000 people, more than half of whom are African American (with Caucasians making up less than 40% of the population), are paying money to and dying for a government in which they have no say. It also means that the federal government is receiving and spending $4 billion without having to account for it. In fact, the residents of the District of Columbia pay more federal taxes per capita than all but one other state.

Furthermore, Congress is consistently interfering with D.C. laws; dictating what the city can and cannot do and how it may spend its own money. Often times Congress acts in direct opposition to the will of the residents of D.C., as expressed in referendum and through the electoral process.

To begin to correct this gross injustice, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC) has introduced H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. These bills will make the District of Columbia the 51st state in the Union.

The NAACP strongly supports full representation for all the residents of the District of Columbia, and we further consistently oppose efforts by some members of Congress to impose their legislative priorities or programs on the residents of D.C. The democratically elected government of the District of Columbia should decide what is best on local issues, and we need to make it clear that the residents of the District of Columbia should not be used as test subjects for questionable programs.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT FULL
REPRESENTATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. To contact your
Senators and Representative, you may:
✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol
Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman’s offices. The
switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).
✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s offices (through
the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached
sample letter or the message box, below).
✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your
Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.
To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write
Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative). This
will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!!

THE MESSAGE
- Despite the fact that they pay federal taxes, serve on juries and defend
our Nation in times of war like most other Americans, the residents of the
District of Columbia are barred from having voting representation on the
floor of the U.S. House or Senate. This classic example of “taxation
without representation” is contrary to everything that this nation is
founded on.

- This means that more than 600,000, more half of whom are African
American (with Caucasians making up just under 40% of the population),
are paying money to and dying for a government in which they have no
say.

- The NAACP supports full statehood for the District of Columbia.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
(date)

The Honorable __________________________
United States Senate / U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RIGHTS AND STATEHOOD FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dear Senator / Representative __________________________:

As your constituent, I am outraged that the residents of the District of Columbia do not have voting representation in Congress, despite the fact that they pay federal income taxes, serve in the military and on federal juries. This is wrong, and contrary to everything our nation’s forefathers fought and died for over 225 years ago. I therefore urge you, in the strongest terms possible, to support granting statehood to the District of Columbia.

The residents of the District of Columbia – our nation’s capitol and to many the seat of democracy – are the only Americans who pay full federal income taxes yet are not allowed voting representation in either the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate. This is contrary to the basic tenets of the democracy upon which this nation was founded, and is, quite simply, morally wrong. As a result of this law, over 600,000 people, more than half of whom are African American, and just under 40% of whom are Caucasian, pay $4 billion in federal taxes each year, yet have no say in how that money is spent.

By supporting legislation to provide statehood to the District of Columbia, and all of the rights contained in statehood to her residents, you will be letting those residents of the District of Columbia -- as well as your constituents back home -- know that you support and believe in democracy for all Americans. I hope that you agree with me that this egregious error needs to be rectified, and that you will support statehood for the men, women and children in D.C. Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know what you are doing to expedite passage of this legislation and what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
ACTION ALERT

DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

FEDERAL VOTER RE-ENFRANCHISEMENT LEGISLATION FOR EX-FELONY OFFENDERS INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE "DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT" WOULD CLEAR A PATH TO ALLOW EX-FELONY OFFENDERS TO REGISTER AND VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS UPON RELEASE FROM PRISON

THE ISSUE:
Over 5.8 million Americans are not allowed to vote because they have been convicted of a felony, regardless of the nature or seriousness of the offense. More than one-third of these people are African Americans, and while the laws vary from state to state, in some states, including Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia, more than one in five African-Americans have lost the right to vote.

The "war on drugs" has had a disproportionate impact on African Americans; between 1985 and 1995, there was a 707% increase in the number of African Americans in state prison for a drug offense, compared to a 306% increase for whites over the same period. Thus African Americans are disproportionately losing their right to vote, and having greater difficulty in reclaiming it, even after they have paid their debt to society.

Because voting is such an integral part of being a productive member of American society, the NAACP has worked closely with other like-minded groups to develop legislation that would allow felons who are no longer incarcerated to reintegrate themselves into society and vote in federal elections. The NAACP supports the "Democracy Restoration Act," which allows ex-offenders to register and vote in federal elections as soon as they have been released from prison. The Democracy Restoration Act, H.R. 196 / S. 1068 has been introduced in the 116th Congress by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY) and Senator Ben Cardin (MD). It is also contained in H.R. 1, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on March 8, 2019, and the Senate companion to H.R. 1, S. 949.

Ex-felony offender re-enfranchisement got a big boost on February 11, 2014, when U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder urged states to repeal laws that prohibit the formerly incarcerated from voting. Although he cannot change state laws, it marked the Attorney General’s latest effort to eliminate laws that he says disproportionately keep minorities from the polls. “It is unwise, it is unjust, and it is not in keeping with our democratic values. These laws deserve to be not only reconsidered, but repealed.”

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
For more information, call your local NAACP branch or visit www.naACP.org
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Call, fax, write or e-mail your Representative and BOTH your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE “DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT,” H.R. 196 / S. 1068. To contact your elected federal representatives, you may:
✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senator and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senator/Congressman’s office. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).
✓ Write a Letter
To write a letter to your senator, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senator or Representative’s office (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for his/her fax number (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).
✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an email to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and on the home page click “Representatives”. This will allow you to click your Representative either by state or by name. Click on your Representative and you will be directed to his / her web page, which will have instructions on how to send an e-mail. The homepage of www.house.gov also has a tool to help you identify who your Representative is.
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.
DON’T FORGET TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS

THE MESSAGE:
• Over 5.8 million Americans are not allowed to vote because they have been convicted of a felony, regardless of the nature or seriousness of the offense.

• More than one-third of these people are African Americans.

• Because the definition of a felony varies from state to state, as do felony disenfranchisement laws, there is a vast disparity in which ex-offenders may vote, based on where they live. In some states, writing one bad check may result in you losing your voting privileges for life!

• In some states, including Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia, more than one in five African-Americans has lost the right to vote.

• With voting such an integral part of becoming a productive member of American society, we should be encouraging ex-felons to vote, not prohibiting them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.
(date)

The Honorable ______________________
U.S. House of Representatives / U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515 / 20510

RE: RE-ENFRANCHISEMENT OF REHABILITATED EX-FELONY OFFENDERS

Dear Congressman / Senator ______________________:

As your constituent, I am writing to let you know of my strong support for allowing ex-felony offenders, men and women who have served their time and paid their debt to society, to regain their right to register and vote once they have been released from incarceration. Specifically, I strongly support legislation that would allow people who have been convicted of a felony and who are not incarcerated to vote in federal elections, and thus urge you to support H.R. 196 / S. 1068, the Democracy Restoration Act.

This legislation is needed to address existing felony disenfranchisement laws that currently disqualify more than 5.8 million Americans, and disproportionately African Americans, from voting. More than one third of these men and women are African American. Furthermore, because ex-felon disenfranchisement laws vary dramatically between states, as does the definition of a felony, it is possible that a young man or woman who writes one bad check can be banned from voting for the rest of his or her life. In some states, including Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia, more than one in five African-Americans has lost the right to vote.

Because the right to vote is such an integral and basic element of being an American citizen, it seems to me that we should be encouraging ex-felons to participate in the electoral process, not prohibiting it. Thus I strongly urge you to support any and all legislative initiatives that would achieve this goal. At the federal level, I hope that you will co-sponsor and strongly support the Democracy Restoration Act, H.R. 196 which was introduced by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY). Please contact me soon to let me know what you are doing to promote this legislation, and what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAACP!

Membership in the NAACP means joining the leading civil rights organization in the nation. By lending your name and your energy to the NAACP, you stand with other members on the front line of change.

You are now an important part of a network of hundreds of thousands of members and supporters throughout the nation. A stronger NAACP with a larger, more active membership is the best hope for ensuring equality and advancing our gains.

Now over 100 years old, the NAACP is persisting in its fight for equality. Members like you have helped the NAACP achieve the following recent victories:

* Curtail voter suppression
* Shed light on racial profiling and call for an end to “Stop and Frisk” policies
* Register a record number of voters and engage 1.2 million voters in 2012
* Bring more attention to health disparities like obesity and HIV
* Provide financial education, banking information, and combat discrimination
* Continue advocacy to repeal the death penalty, and much, much more.

As a member, you receive many benefits aside from the knowledge that you stand with other members seeking equality. You are entitled to:

* A subscription to The Crisis Magazine
* A vote for Annual Image Awards winners

Thank you for joining the legacy dedicated to social justice and equality for all people. We appreciate your support. Visit www.naacp.org

Lily Moore

Membership Type: Silver Life Subscribing  Exp. Date:  
Unit: 3134-B Detroit Central Branch   June 28, 2020
Member Number: M-00000033
WASHINGTON BUREAU LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

QUICK RESPONSE MEMBERSHIP NETWORK

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (Please print legibly)________________________________________________________
Title_______________________________________________________________
Address or P.O. Box_____________________________________________________
City________________________________________State__________________Zip Code__________
Telephone_______/_________ - _________ Fax _________/_________ - __________
Do you have internet access? Yes______ No_______
E-mail_______________________________________________________________
Branch Name________________________________Branch President’s Name_____________________
Branch Address________________________________Branch Telephone_______/_________ - ________
Name of Congressional Representative________________________________________
Congressional District____________________________________________________
Do you have a Political Action Chair? Yes______ No_______
Name of Political Action Chair_____________________________________________
NAME OF FAX ACTION ALERT POINT PERSON________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________
Phone____________________________________________________________________
Fax______________________________________________________________________
Email____________________________________________________________________

(Please use back page for additional comments if necessary)

You can also join our Membership Network online at www.naACP.org