

Voter Protection

Making Waves for Democracy meeting

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Xiomara and I want to chat with you today about what we can all do to prevent the Republicans from keeping voters from voting. You all have been hearing about the kinds of outrageous strategies they are using, for example:

- a. Sudden changes in polling places or closing polling places so people can't get to vote
- b. Did you know that naturalized citizens are 1 in 10 eligible voters; and ¼ of naturalized citizens live in CA? The ICE sweeps and threats to have ICE at polling places is frightening immigrant voters, even though there is a clear CA law against this
- c. Requiring a passport or birth certificate, making it harder to vote
- d. Making it harder to vote by mail
- e. Then after voting: stealing ballots, hiding ballots, destroying ballots, and
- f. Threatening to arrest people for voter fraud, and spreading lies about the election results

WHY is it IMPORTANT to protect voting?

Making it harder for eligible voters to vote CHANGES THE OUTCOMES OF THE ELECTION so you don't know how Americans would really vote or what they'd vote for - because they can't vote

And we know why Republicans and this regime are trying to keep people from voting - SO THAT THEY CAN SEIZE AND HOLD POWER by controlling the results of the election! This is brazen! This is serious!

David Binder Research, excellent researchers, did focus groups in Dec 2025 and found that talking to people about the **anti-voter agenda** increases desire to vote and motivates people to engage in politics (David Binder Rsch focus

groups, Dec 2025). People become upset when they learn that they are being blocked from voting, and they want to do something about it. THINK ABOUT THAT - WE CAN DO THIS!

HOW DO WE PROTECT ELECTIONS? **EARLY TURNOUT IS VOTER**

PROTECTION! Getting people to talk about voting, to plan how and when they are going to vote, and to actually vote as soon as possible after they receive their ballots is the best voter protection strategy.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO SAY TO PEOPLE? I HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED IMPORTANT STRATEGIES FOR MESSAGING

We want to inspire “**ragency**” – rage and agency! We are – and should be – angry about efforts to undermine democracy and voting, and we are – and should be – determined not to let that happen. Voting is how we impact our lives.

I have also learned that it’s very important to use concrete descriptive language, not abstractions (eg, do not say “voter suppression” but say “keeping people from voting”)

Here’s what we say to folks:

“In America, most of us believe voters should pick our leaders, but this regime wants to keep people from voting so they can control our elections and seize more power. Most Americans want every voter to vote and every vote cast to be counted. We will decide our future, choose our leaders, and ensure the will of the people prevails.

An authoritarian regime tries to keep you from voting. This regime knows they’re losing, so instead of courting our votes, they are trying to keep us from voting. Republicans are trying to make it impossible for **eligible voters** to vote, so that they can **seize and hold power**. They will do anything to hold onto power. So **Voting is an act of resistance**. What happens next is up to us. Our country is strongest when all of us show up, speak out and refuse to be intimidated. Every eligible voter should have equal say in the decisions that impact our lives. All Americans, across races and parties, want free and

democratic elections. Your vote can accomplish something important!” (from Indivisible training, “Hands off our Votes”)

You’ll get your ballot this week, or you have it already. YOUR action on voting can change the future of our country. Other messaging examples:

1. Are you concerned about ELIGIBLE Americans being blocked from voting? We are more concerned about this than voter fraud, which is rare. When eligible voters are prevented from voting, it changes the election results, so we don’t know what Americans really would vote for.
2. UNITY – even if we have differences about specific issues, VOTING IS IMPORTANT FOR DEMOCRACY.
3. What issue concerns you the most? YOUR VOTE can (*issue that concerns them*) (*use an active verb*) e.g., your vote can slash your health care costs. Your vote can stop unnecessary war and cut gas prices. Your vote can get ICE out of our neighborhoods.
4. What can you do? **Be sure to vote. Vote early. Fill out your ballot carefully. Use drop boxes – it’s the safest way to vote.** If you vote by mail go to PO and have your ballot hand stamped. Be sure you are registered to vote – you can check your registration at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or local website (<https://www.lavote.gov/vrstatus>)
5. Make your neighbors safe to go to the polls – help them vote early, talk to everyone you know about how they will get their ballots in.
6. PLAN ahead, commit to voting early – decide now when and how you will vote. Your vote will make a difference.