



A Resolution addressing Voter Suppression

Committee: Voter Education

Resolution: VTE-20-02

1. **WHEREAS**, Enactment of the 15th Amendment in 1870 extended the right to vote to
2. African American men and African American women wouldn't be allowed to vote until
3. the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.
4. **WHEREAS**, The 24th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned many
5. racially discriminatory and suppressive voting practices.
6. **WHEREAS**, The 2013 Supreme Court decision Shelby County, AL vs Holder the court
7. voted 5-4 strike down Section 4(b) of the VRA that supplied the coverage formula that
8. allowed the Justice Department to enforce the preclearance provision.
9. **WHEREAS**, States that have previously had to clear their changes with the Justice
10. Department have greater reign to enact new laws that have made it harder to cast a ballot
11. including restricting early voting, reducing polling places and enacting restrictions.
12. **WHEREAS**, As of 2019 ten states permanently ban people with certain convictions from
13. voting unless they proactively appeal to have their rights restored.
14. **WHEREAS**, The most recent comprehensive state-level research from 2016 found that
15. 6.1 million Americans were disenfranchised due to a felony conviction, 1 in 13 African
16. Americans compared to 1 in 56 non-African Americans.
17. **WHEREAS**, Widespread closure due to COVID-19 of government offices where people
18. either register to vote or obtain the required ID to do so. This lack of access to online

19. voter registration in some places have posed new barriers in underserved communities of
20. color with low registration rates.
21. **WHEREAS**, A study from Brennan Center found that African American voters who vote
22. in person on average wait 45 minutes longer than white voters.
23. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women supports the Voting Right
Act
24. of 2020.
25. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** That NOBEL Women supports efforts to expand the
26. right to vote, whie includes but it not limited expanding access to early voting, the
27. restoration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, restoring the rights of convicted felons,
28. expanding election day voting, and challenging collusion.

Introduced by the Honorable Laura Hall

Alabama Legislature