



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
1156 15TH STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

ACTION ALERT

DATE: January 18, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

**NAACP URGES SWIFT PASSAGE OF H.R. 1,
THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT,
COMPREHENSIVE VOTING RIGHTS
AND ELECTION PROTECTION LEGISLATION**
*H.R.1 WOULD IMPROVE ACCESS TO OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS,
STRENGTHEN VOTING RIGHTS PROTECTIONS AND SAFEGUARD OUR
DEMOCRACY*

THE ISSUE:

The first legislation to be introduced in the 116th Congress is H.R. 1, the *For the People Act*. H.R. 1 is a comprehensive bill with provisions to protect and support eligible American citizens to cast a free and unfettered vote and for the American people to be sure their vote was counted. The *For the People Act* would also increase the penalties for false or deceptive electioneering, reform the campaign finance structure to increase the voice of every-day Americans, and provide 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. H.R. 1, 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 represents a coordinated, 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: 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. 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*. 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.

In short, H.R. 1, 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. Voting is not a partisan issue; nor should support for HR 1 be limited to just one party.

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and **URGE HIM OR HER TO COSPONSOR AND SUPPORT H.R. 1, THE *For the People Act***. To contact your Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

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

✓ **Write a Letter**

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

A SAMPLE LETTER
IS ATTACHED

✓ **Send a Fax**

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

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

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.

THE MESSAGE

- H.R. 1, 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* would also increase the penalties for false or deceptive electioneering, reform the campaign finance structure to increase the voice of every-day Americans, and provide 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;
- Voting is not a partisan issue; nor should support for HR 1, the *For the People Act* be limited to just one party.

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

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1, THE *FOR THE PEOPLE ACT* LEGISLATION
TO GREATLY IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE DEMOCRATIC VOTING PROCESS**

Dear Representative _____,

As your constituent, I would like to urge you, in the strongest terms possible to co-sponsor and support through passage H.R. 1, 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.

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.

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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)