

Jewish Dems

Voting Rights Toolkit

2022
Midterms

**Everything you need to know to
defend our democracy.**



**Jewish Democratic
Council of America**

The battle for the soul of our nation may have started with neo-Nazis marching in the streets of Charlottesville and continued with the insurrection on January 6, 2021 - but it has now moved to every state legislature challenging Americans' right to vote. No issue is more important in this moment than protecting our democracy and the fundamental right to vote. Republicans are attacking voting rights through:

Disinformation

What began as foreign interference in the 2016 election quickly took the form of a widespread domestic threat propagated by Donald Trump. In spreading the “Big Lie” that he had won the 2020 election, Trump influenced [two-thirds](#) of Republicans to believe him.

Delegitimization

Trump's effort to delegitimize the 2020 election results continued after his election defeat by more than seven million votes. It led to more than [60 legal challenges](#) alleging election fraud, all of which were found to be without merit or were dismissed by courts across the country, including the Supreme Court.

Disenfranchisement

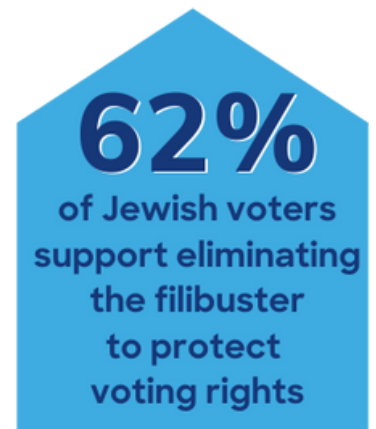
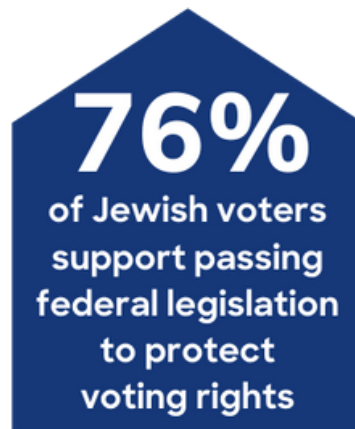
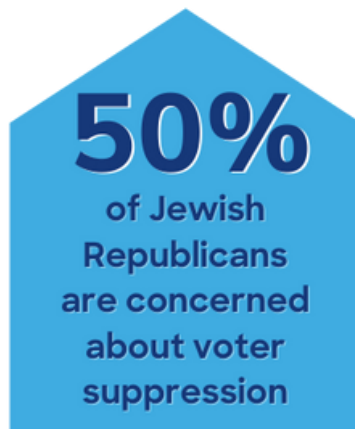
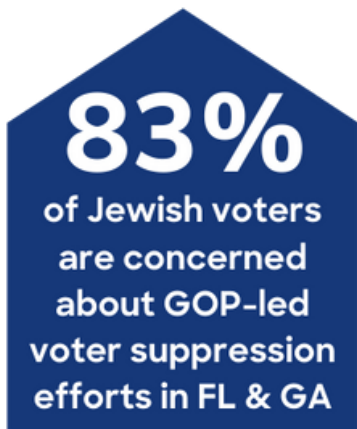
The Republican-led effort has expanded into a dangerous campaign – attempts to disenfranchise American voters through hundreds of proposed laws to restrict voting rights in nearly every state across the country. Some of these bills have already become law.

Read: [Protecting the Right to Vote is a Jewish Value](#)



Jewish Voters Support Federal Voting Rights Protections

A national survey conducted by the Jewish Electorate Institute in July 2021 showed **83% of Jewish voters** – including **50% of Jewish Republicans** – are concerned about Republican-led voter suppression efforts in states like Florida and Georgia. **76% of Jewish voters** support passing federal legislation to protect voting rights, and **62% of Jewish voters** support eliminating the filibuster to pass voting rights legislation – this includes **21% of Jewish Republicans**.



The battle for the soul of our nation may have started with neo-Nazis marching in the streets of Charlottesville and continued on January 6, but it has now moved to every state legislature challenging Americans' right to vote. Protecting our democracy is a Jewish value, and it's clear that in order to protect our democracy, we must abolish or reform the Senate filibuster.



Voter Suppression

440 bills that restrict voting access were introduced in **49 states** during legislative sessions in 2021, with a disproportionate impact on communities of color.

Republicans passed **334 bills in 19 states** last year restricting access to the vote. This is a direct attack on our democracy and we must take action to stop it.

Trump's Big Lie that he won the 2020 election has been proven false time and again. If Republicans successfully suppress the vote and regain control of Congress, they could overthrow future elections - like they attempted to do in January, 2021. If they succeed in suppressing the vote now, they will try again in the 2024 Presidential election.

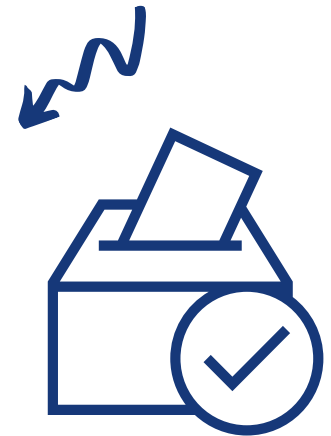
“Our democracy cannot sustain further erosion of democratic norms... the next elections could mark a turning point that undermines how we conduct and certify elections so deeply that we will not recover.”

- Marc Elias

Founder of Democracy Docket

Visit www.democracymarket.com

Watch Marc Elias discuss voter suppression with JDCA



Want to stay up to date on all things voting rights? Subscribe to On the Docket, the weekly newsletter from Marc Elias' Democracy Docket. From litigation to legislation, this newsletter is the one-stop shop for info around the state of voting in this country and actions you can take to protect democracy. [Subscribe here!](#)



At the State Level

The bills being introduced and passed by Republicans at the state level aim to curtail absentee voting, seek stricter voter ID requirements, make voter registration harder, expand voter roll purges, and limit early voting among other restrictions. Jewish voters are highly concerned about attacks on voting rights in FL and GA and you should be as well.

1. Georgia

Georgia's 90 page voter suppression law has enacted a long list of dangerous measures including removing the Secretary of State from the state board of elections which would make it easier for Republicans to overthrow a future election. Georgia proved to be a pivotal battleground state in the 2020 election. Due to grassroots voter mobilization efforts, its two Senate seats flipped blue with the historic election of Senators Warnock and Ossoff. Republicans are trying to make Georgia red again.

2. Florida

In Florida, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis signed the harmful S.B. 90 into law. Voting by mail was a key Democratic get out the vote strategy in 2020 and the law specifically makes it much harder to do so. The law "requires voters to provide a state ID number or the last four digits of a social security number to obtain a mail ballot."

83% of Jewish voters are concerned about voting laws in Florida and Georgia including 50% of Jewish Republicans

[Visit Voting Rights Lab to see how you can fight against voter suppression and subversion in your state](#)



GOP Obstruction and Abuse of the Filibuster

Despite near unanimity among Democrats about the path forward, there is no support among Republicans, who are blocking any clear path forward to ensure voting rights protections. By continually voting against key federal voting rights protections, every single Senate Republican has etched their name in history for prioritizing politics over democracy.

The filibuster is a procedural tool used in the US Senate to block or delay legislation. Republicans are abusing it to allow states to deny voting rights.

It takes at least 60 senators overcome a filibuster by invoking the cloture rule. Any senator can initiate a filibuster, which then effectively prevents legislation from being passed by a simple majority, or a 50 vote threshold.

Some defenders of the filibuster claim that it's inherently American and integral to the workings of the Senate, but the filibuster is not even in the Constitution. The Founding Fathers never intended for a filibuster. In fact, the modern filibuster has been most widely and famously used to defend Jim Crow laws and to block civil rights and anti-lynching bills.

62% of Jewish Americans support eliminating the filibuster to enact voting rights legislation

Action Item: [Sign This Petition](#) to Demand Action on the Filibuster



The Path Forward

Democrats have passed multiple voting right bills in the House, but efforts to sign voting rights protections into law have been stalled by Senate Republicans.

The [Freedom to Vote Act](#) would enact sweeping changes to many aspects of the electoral process such as voting options, election procedures, and campaign finance rules. The [John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#) would strengthen the Voting Rights Act by creating a new formula for “preclearance”, which requires states with a history of voter discrimination to get federal approval to changes of voting or redistricting practices.

Republican abuse of the filibuster has blocked these two critical voting rights bills.

Democrats attempting to circumvent Republican obstruction by combining both bills and bringing the combined bill to the floor for debate in January 2022. The combination bill, the [Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act](#), contains almost all of the main provisions of the previous two bills. The provisions included guaranteeing the right to “have one’s vote counted in elections for federal office” and adding key defenses against Republican voter suppression and election subversion. But Republicans yet again used the filibuster to prevent the bill from coming to a vote.

From state legislatures to Congress, the Republican Party has become anti-democratic in nature. By endorsing voter suppression and subversion, they have etched their name in history for prioritizing politics over democracy.



Take Action

We have a lot more work to do to make sure Democrats expand our majorities in the House and Senate in 2022. Now is not the time for complacency, especially as Republicans engage in an unrelenting attack on the right to vote. Stay engaged with JDCA and help continue our crucial work to get out the Jewish vote for Democrats, and to protect our democracy.

To take action, take these steps:

1. Tell the Senate to reform or abolish the filibuster
2. Tell Congress to defend our democracy
3. Sign up for Jewish Dems email alerts
4. Join a Jewish Dems state chapter
5. Become a JDCA member today



**Jewish Democratic
Council of America**

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@USJewishDems

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