



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND SECURING AMERICA'S ELECTIONS

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, but for too long this right was denied to African Americans and other racial minorities. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was landmark legislation that helped ensure that African Americans and other people of color could access this right. However, the Supreme Court struck down portions of the VRA in 2013, leaving American voters vulnerable to tactics of voter suppression and discrimination.

Under Republican leadership, the Committee did nothing to address this gutting of the VRA and the slew of bills and other actions to suppress the vote that many states adopted in its wake. In 2019, under Democratic leadership, the Committee held a series of hearings on barriers to voting, continuing evidence of voting discrimination, and Congress's legal authority to act. The Committee and the House then passed legislation to restore key provisions of the VRA and to bolster its guarantee against voting discrimination by states and localities on the basis of race, color, or language-minority status.

The right to vote can lose its significance if American elections are not secure and can be hacked by domestic or foreign adversaries. That is why the Committee also held several hearings on securing America's elections, including oversight of the government agencies working to secure our elections from domestic and foreign threats.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic poses significant risks to the ability to vote safely in November. That is why the committee held a hearing on protecting the right to vote during the pandemic and worked with other committees to secure important election provisions in both the CARES and HEROES Acts.



COMMITTEE WORK

H.R. 4, the “John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020”
[Marked Up, Passed House]*

Hearing: H.R. 1, the “For the People Act”

Hearing: History and Enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Hearing: Enforcement of the Voting Rights Act in the State of Texas

Hearing: Continuing Challenges to the Voting Rights Act Since Shelby County v. Holder

Hearing: Discriminatory Barriers to Voting

Hearing: Evidence of Current and Ongoing Voting Discrimination

Hearing: Congressional Authority to Protect Voting Rights After Shelby County v. Holder

Hearing: Legislative Proposals to Strengthen the Voting Rights Act

Hearing: Securing America’s Elections

Hearing: Securing America’s Elections Part II: Oversight of Government Agencies

Hearing: Protecting the Right to Vote During the COV-

ID-19 Pandemic

Hearing: Citizens United at 10: The Consequences for Democracy and Potential Responses by Congress

Spotlight: The Judiciary Committee’s first hearing after Democrats assumed the Majority was on H.R. 1, the “For the People Act.” H.R. 1 is comprehensive legislation that strengthens voting, campaign finance, lobbying, and government ethics laws in numerous ways to renew our nation’s commitment to government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” This legislation also incorporates the “Democracy Restoration Act of 2019,” which would restore federal voting rights for citizens with felony convictions. Ex-offender disenfranchisement is wrong and anti-democratic in and of itself, and many of these laws also have a particularly disproportionate impact on communities of color.