

The Voter Suppression Manual

What They're Doing and How to Fight It

Voter suppression is not a relic of Jim Crow. It is a modern, active, well-funded operation that operates through legislation, court decisions, administrative action, and intimidation. This guide documents what is happening and what you can do about it.

Tactic 1: Voter ID Requirements

What it is: Laws requiring voters to present specific forms of photo ID to vote. The IDs required are often those less likely to be held by poor, elderly, and minority voters — while hunting licenses and gun permits are accepted but student IDs are not.

What to do: Know your state's requirements. Help others get the required ID. Organizations like VoteRiders.org provide free ID assistance.

Tactic 2: Voter Roll Purges

What it is: States remove voters from the rolls, often without adequate notice. Purges disproportionately affect minority voters and use error-prone methods like matching names across databases.

What to do: Check your registration before every election at [vote.org](https://www.vote.org). Verify your registration in September for November elections. Re-register if you've moved.

Tactic 3: Drop Box and Early Voting Restrictions

What it is: States have reduced the number of drop boxes, shortened early voting periods, and eliminated Sunday voting — a day historically used by Black churches for 'Souls to the Polls' voting drives.

What to do: Know your state's early voting schedule. Vote as early as possible. Encourage your network to do the same — early votes are bankable.

Tactic 4: Third-Party Registration Restrictions

What it is: Florida and other states have imposed strict rules on organizations that register voters — requiring registration of the organizations, imposing fines for errors, and limiting who can collect registration forms.

What to do: Support organizations like the League of Women Voters that are fighting these restrictions in court. Register voters through official channels.

Tactic 5: Partisan Gerrymandering

What it is: Drawing congressional and legislative districts to guarantee outcomes regardless of the overall vote. In some states, a party can win 45% of the total vote and hold 65% of the seats.

What to do: Support independent redistricting commission initiatives in your state. Ballot initiatives to reform redistricting have passed in multiple states — they can pass in yours.

Tactic 6: Election Administration Interference

What it is: Replacing independent election administrators with partisan appointees. In some states, legislatures have given themselves the power to override county election board decisions. Florida created a dedicated election police force.

What to do: Know who runs elections in your county. Attend election board meetings. Monitor for irregularities and report them to your state Democratic Party or the Election Protection hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

Tactic 7: The Proposed Election Emergency Order

What it is: A draft executive order circulating in Trump circles would allow the president to declare a national emergency over 'foreign election interference' to ban mail-in ballots and require re-registration for 2026.

What to do: Contact your senators and representatives NOW. Demand they publicly commit to opposing any executive action that restricts voting methods without congressional authorization. This is an unconstitutional power grab — make it politically costly.

Emergency Contacts

- Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)
- Vote.org — check registration, find polling place
- VoteRiders.org — free voter ID assistance
- ACLU Voting Rights Project — [aclu.org/voting-rights](https://www.aclu.org/voting-rights)
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund — [naacpldf.org](https://www.naacpldf.org)

They suppress the vote because they cannot win a fair election. That means a fair election beats them. Make sure everyone you know gets to vote.