

Election Protection Training

Wednesday, July 10, 2024



Power Coalition for Equity and Justice

Our Mission

We are a team of organizations who believe in the power of community and taking action. Our goal is to equip our fellow Louisianans with the knowledge and information they need towards equity, power and justice.



Power Coalition for Equity and Justice

Our Framework

The Power Coalition is building an integrated civic engagement strategy that amplifies the voices of those who have historically been ignored, and organize them into a unified movement.



The People Closest To The Problem Are Closest To The Solution

Those who are directly affected by harmful policies and inequitable systems should lead the movement for change.

Government Should Be Accountable To Citizens For Its Actions

Louisiana is at its best when it fulfills its Constitution's promise to "secure justice for all, preserve peace, protect the rights, and promote the happiness and general welfare of the people."

Intersectionality Is Mandatory In Policy Advocacy

Power is built by working together across issue and policy areas, and constructing a shared frame for advocacy with one voice.

About Election Protection

Election Protection was founded by a coalition of organizations.

Made up of more than 300 local, state and national partners, Election Protection uses a wide range of tools and activities to protect, advance and defend the right to vote.

Election Protection organizations are nonpartisan.

The national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition works year-round to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count.

Election Protection (866-OUR-VOTE) works 365 days to Advance and Defend Your Right to Vote. The Election Protection Coalition works in all 50 states.

What Does Election Protection Organizations Do?

Framework

Election Protection uses a wide range of tools and activities to protect, advance and defend the right to vote. We provide Americans from coast to coast with comprehensive information and assistance at all stages of voting – from registration, to absentee and early voting, to casting a vote at the polls, to overcoming obstacles to their participation.



Election Protection helps voters make sure their vote is counted through a number of resources

Throughout the election cycle, our volunteers provide voter information, document problems they encounter when voting and work with partners and volunteers on the ground to identify and remove barriers to voting.

Election Protection is Nonpartisan
Election Protection focuses on the voter - not on the political horse race - and provides guidance, information and help to any American, regardless of their voting choices.

Hotlines Who To Call

Hotlines:

Election Protection provides Americans from coast to coast with comprehensive information and assistance at all stages of voting – from registration, to absentee and early voting, to casting a vote at the polls, to overcoming obstacles to their participation. Election Protection helps voters make sure their vote

Suite of Voter Hotlines.

A suite of voter helplines administered by coalition members:

English: 866-OUR-VOTE – [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#)

Spanish/English:
888-VE-Y-VOTA – [NALEO Educational Fund](#)

Arabic/English: 844-YALLA-US – [Arab American Institute \(AAI\)](#)

Asian Languages/English:
888-API-VOTE – [APIAVote](#) & [Asian Americans Advancing Justice \(AAJC\)](#)

Voter Protection Field Programs

Legal: Managed by the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#)

Grassroots: Managed by [Common Cause](#)

Digital outreach tools: including [866ourvote.org](#), [@866ourVote](#), and [facebook.com/866OurVote](#)

When Should I Report An Election Protection Issue?

Polling Sites Accessibility:

Polling locations that are not ADA accessible can pose significant challenges for voters with disabilities. Here are a few examples of issues that might make a polling location non-ADA compliant:



Lack of Accessible Entrances. Some polling locations may have steps leading to the entrance without a ramp or elevator, making it impossible for individuals using wheelchairs or those with mobility impairments to enter.

Inadequate Parking. Polling places might lack designated accessible parking spaces that are close to the entrance. Additionally, the parking areas may not have adequate space for wheelchair users to maneuver.

Doorway Width. Entrances and internal doorways may be too narrow to accommodate wheelchairs or scooters, preventing access to the voting area.

When Should I Report An Election Protection Issue?

Polling Sites Accessibility:

Polling locations that are not ADA accessible can pose significant challenges for voters with disabilities. Here are a few examples of issues that might make a polling location non-ADA compliant:



Misleading signage suggesting that only one party's voters may cast ballots at certain sites during the early voting period is an example of when you should report to the Election Protection Hotline.

No Accessible Voting Machines. Some locations might not have accessible voting machines, such as those with audio ballots for visually impaired voters or those that can be adjusted for height to accommodate wheelchair users.

Poor Signage. There may be insufficient signage indicating the location of accessible entrances, parking, or voting stations, leading to confusion and difficulty in navigating the polling site.

Obstacles in Pathway. The paths leading to and within the polling place might be obstructed by items like furniture, cords, or other barriers that impede mobility.

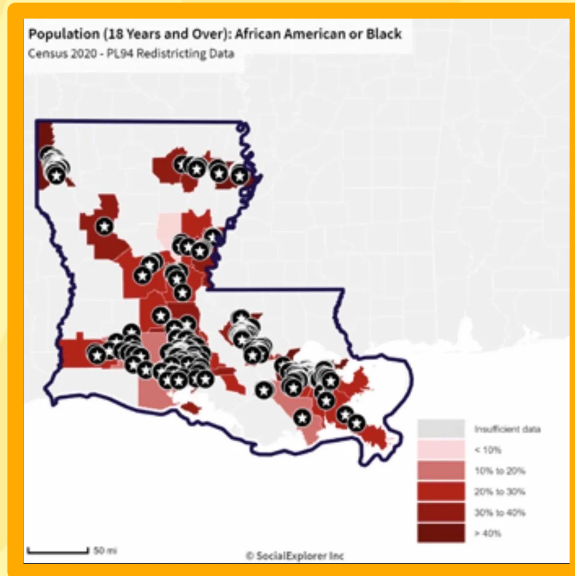
Election Protection Findings

Hotline Reports.

Across the multiple Louisiana elections held in 2022, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection Hotline received **228 calls** from roughly half of Louisiana's 64 parishes. While many of the calls regarded individual voters' questions about their registration, absentee ballots, or other individualized needs, broader issues reported included topics like **machine and technology issues and improper instructions from poll commissioners.**

Hotline Reports.

In 2022, the Louisiana team provided voter support and poll monitoring efforts during four elections with various municipal and statewide races on the ballots. The **data revealed important trends regarding issues such as poll site changes and accessibility concerns.**



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black voting age population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

Scenarios What To Do If:

What if I encounter a voter who needs help with any step of the voting process?

Share information with the voter about the nonpartisan [Election Protection](#) hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**. Voters can **call or text** the Election Protection hotline to get in touch with a trained volunteer about issues ranging from updating voter registration to absentee/mail-in voting assistance to impediments to voting during early voting and on Election Day.

What if their voter status was challenged by a poll watcher / worker?

Encourage voters to **ask those challenging their voter status for their reasons, and to get their names if they can**. Voters should not leave the polling location **without casting a provisional ballot**, and poll workers should be able to explain how they can check if their ballot was counted. **Immediately after**, they should **call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline** at 866-OUR-VOTE to report what happened and get additional guidance.

What if they are registered to vote at their location but forgot to bring needed identification and got turned away.

If they are still turned away, they should call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE to learn more about their local requirements. **In Louisiana**, the Voter should request a Voter Affidavit if they forget their ID to vote. In the Voter Affidavit the Voter must state their date of birth and mother's maiden name.

Scenarios What To Do If Continued:

What if there was an actual incident of voter intimidation or violence at the polling place.

If they think they're encountering or witnessing voter intimidation, advise them to immediately call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) to get voting help from a trained election protection volunteer. If they feel safe doing so, they can also try to de-escalate the situation.

What if their voter status was challenged by a poll watcher / worker?

Encourage voters to **ask those challenging their voter status for their reasons, and to get their names if they can.** Voters should not leave the polling location **without casting a provisional ballot**, and poll workers should be able to explain how they can check if their ballot was counted. **Immediately after**, they should **call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline** at 866-OUR-VOTE to report what happened and get additional guidance.

What if there are long lines at polling places.

It shouldn't take hours to vote, but long lines happen. Make sure they stay in line, even at the time their polling place closes. Most importantly, remember they can still vote if they are in line before polls closed. If they have questions or issues voting, they should call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Election Protection Leads to Policy Change

Our Election Protection volunteers are able to observe the voting process in action. Because of these observations, we have been able to identify areas to improve such as the 3-minute rule and expanding voting rights for people with disabilities.



Our Election Protection Impact 2021

Legislative Session SPRING 2021

HB 285

Sponsored by Rep. Ted James

Three Minute Rule



3 minutes is not enough time

for many people when we vote on Constitutional amendments, multiple offices, and local ordinances.

There are a number of populations that are able to cast their vote independently **but may need more time:**

- ➔ people who **speak english as a second language**
- ➔ **elderly people**
- ➔ people with disabilities
- ➔ people who are not able to look up the ballot ahead of time



1481 words

Number of words on the November 2020 ballot in East Baton Rouge Parish.



714 words

Average number of words an adult can read in three minutes.

Contact Your State Senator to **Vote Yes On HB285!**



PowerCoalition.org/TakeAction

Legislative Session SPRING 2021

HB 285

Sponsored by Rep. Ted James

Three Minute Rule



HB 285 Passes the Senate Unanimously!!

This bill doubles the amount of time voters have to cast their ballots from 3 to 6 minutes.

What's Next?

The law goes into effect on January 1, 2022



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Our Election Protection Impact 2021

Legislative Session SPRING 2021

HB 286

Sponsored by Rep. Fred Jones

Early Voting
in Louisiana



Average Days
Early Voting in
the United States



Louisiana
Early Voting
Days

Contact Your State Senator to **Vote Yes On HB286!**



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Legislative Session SPRING 2021

HB 286

Sponsored by Rep. Fred Jones

Early Voting
in Louisiana



In 2020, Power Coalition won a lawsuit,
securing **3 extra days of early voting**
for the presidential election.

These 3 extra days gave voters more
opportunities to cast their ballot.



There was a
**175% increase in
early voting in 2020
compared to 2016.**

2016

2020

Contact Your State Senator to **Vote Yes On HB286!**



PowerCoalition.org/TakeAction

Legislative Session SPRING 2021

HB 286

Sponsored by Rep. Fred Jones

Early Voting
in Louisiana



Extending early voting means

- fewer lines on election day
- more opportunities to cast your ballot
- voting access will be more in line with neighboring states.



Contact Your State Senator to **Vote Yes On HB286!**



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Legislative Session SPRING 2021

HB 286

Sponsored by Rep. Fred Jones

Early Voting
in Louisiana



HB 286 Passes the Senate Unanimously!!

This bill extends early
voting for presidential
elections to 11 days!

What's Next?

Once the law is signed by the Governor, it will go
into effect on January 1, 2022



SPLC
Southern Poverty
Law Center

LDF
DEFEND EDUCATE EMPOWER



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Our Election Protection Impact 2022

Legislative Session SPRING 2022

We Need Poll Site Notifications! Support HB 1065

Sponsored by Sen. Candace Newell



Finding your polling location should be easy and efficient!

Tell your legislators to support HB 680 for poll site change updates!

Contact Your Legislators Today!



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Legislative Session SPRING 2022

**Poll Site Notifications
Bill HB 1065
Passes the Senate!**
33 Yeas and 0 Nays

We Need Poll Site Change Notifications!
HB 1065 is now moving back to the House for concurrence.

Tell Your Representatives to Support HB 1065!



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Our Election Protection Impact 2022

Legislative Session SPRING 2022

We Need Modernized Election Planning! Support HB 1082

Sponsored by Sen. Randall Gaines



Countless hurricanes and other disasters have shown us that **we NEED modernized Emergency Election Planning!** Tell your legislators to Support HB 1082!

**Contact Your
Legislators
Today!**



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Legislative Session SPRING 2022

**Modernized Election Planning
Bill HB 1082
Passes the Senate!**
32 Yeas and 0 Nays

**We need modernized
election planning!**
HB 1082 now moves
to the House for
concurrence.

**Tell Your
Legislators to
Support
HB 1082!**



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Our Election Protection Impact 2023

Legislative Session SPRING 2023

Legislative UPDATES



Bill HB 449

*Protect & Expand Voting Opportunities
for People with Disabilities*

**Will Be Signed
Into A Law By Governor
Edwards On July 10**

**HB 449 provides for
Increased poll
commissioner training**
and testing regarding
accessibility laws and best
practices.

The appointment of
an **Americans with
Disabilities Act (“ADA”)
Compliance Officer** in
the Office of the Secretary of
State.

**The creation of a “Voting
Accessibility Advisory
Group”** in the Department
of State, comprised of at
least 7 members with diverse
accessibility needs



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