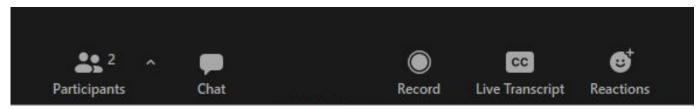


The Fight Against Voter Suppression SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021

RAISING YOUR HAND ON COMPUTER

STEP ONE: Click on the **"Reactions"** button at the bottom of your Zoom screen.

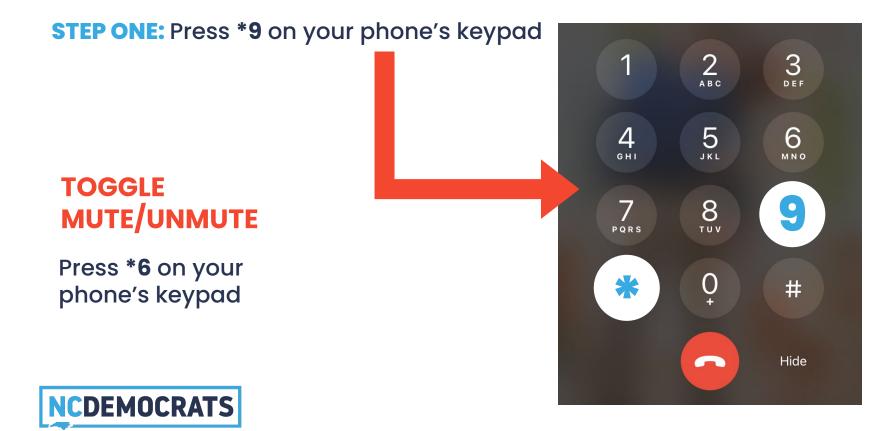


STEP TWO: A menu that looks like this will appear. Click **"Raise hand"**





RAISING YOUR HAND ON YOUR PHONE





NCDEMOCRATS

Be Respectful
Be Present
Ask Questions
Use the Chat





MEET YOUR DEMOCRATIC FAMILY

What's the most prevalent form of voter suppression in North Carolina?

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS:

The fight against Voter Suppression in North Carolina

"Our rights are being taken away from us...and we should not stand idle." ~ Mother Rosanell Eaton



IN MEMORY OF MOTHER ROSANELL EATON (4-12-1941 – 12-8-2020) **CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION**

In June 1963, President J.F. Kennedy asked Congress for a comprehensive civil rights bill.

•In his radio and TV speech he recognized legislation alone could not fix it all; it was a moral issue too.

•There was massive resistance to desegregation, he had to deploy National Guardsmen to Alabama, and the murder of Medgar Evers made this Act imperative and imminent.



•President J.F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

•President Lyndon Johnson pressed hard to secure the bill's passage the following year.

• In 1964, Congress passed Public Law 88-352 (78 Stat. 241)., effectively the Civil Rights Bill of 1964.



KEY PROVISIONS

- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- It prohibited discrimination in hiring, firing, and promoting,
- It prohibited discrimination in public accommodations and federally funded programs.
- It extended voting rights to all Americans.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT 1965

•Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, provided qualifications for voter registration to be applied equally to all.

•It prohibited a voter from being rejected for non-material errors on an application.

•It outlined specific requirements for literacy tests.



KEY PROVISIONS

It strengthened the enforcement of voting rights.

It ensured states with a history of discrimination and Jim Crow laws, sought federal approval for changing voting rights laws.

Directed Attorney Generals to challenge the use of Poll Taxes for state and local elections.

VOTER SUPPRESSION



VOTER SUPPRESSION

WHAT DOES VOTER SUPPRESSION LOOK LIKE?

WHO BENEFITS FROM VOTER SUPPRESSION?

HOW DOES VOTER SUPPRESSION NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE FUTURE?

VOTER SUPPRESSION DEFINED

Voter Suppression is the deceptive efforts by others to prevent people from voting by:

- Challenging court rulings
- Intimidating Voters
- Closing polling places
- Misinformation/Disinformation
- Gerrymandering

LAWS ARE CONTESTED



•Under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Sections 4b and 5 notes that States with a history of discrimination and voter suppression could not pass election legislation without the federal government assessing the law's effect on voters (preclearance).

 In 2013, Shelby County, Alabama challenged Sections 4b and 5 of the VRA in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Shelby County case:

Offered evidence to show that the Voting Rights Act had helped close gaps in voter registration and turnout rates.

Posited that "Blatantly discriminatory evasions" of the law were rare.

Stated that "minority candidates held offices at higher rates than ever before."

"Voter eligibility tests had not been used for close to 40 years".

The Act created an "extraordinary federalism and cost burdens to "preclearance"."

Their position: The Civil Rights Act of 1965 sections 4b & 5 could not be justified.

In the Shelby County, Alabama court case, the Supreme Court ruled Section 4b & 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was unconstitutional.

PERMANENT INJUNCTION ON ENFORCEMENT!

Justice Roberts wrote "It gave the federal government unprecedented power over state legislatures with a specific goal ...the provisions had accomplished its goal."

The Act "imposes current burdens and must be justified by current needs Congress was using 50-year-old guidelines and formulas to maintain the federal government's authority over state voting laws."

Within 24 hours, Alabama:

- Required photo identification to vote.
- •Driver's license offices were closed in black areas (reopened).
- •Officials pushed for a proof-of-citizenship mandate (rejected).
- Dozens of polling places were closed (reopened).
- A Get-Out-The-Vote group was hamstrung.
- Voter rolls were purged.
- •Felon re-enfranchisement was not publicized.

VOTER INTIMIDATION PROTECTION

18 USC 594 says that "no person ... shall intimidate, threaten, coerce... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to vote or to vote as he may choose.

52 USC 10307 lists additional prohibited acts.



VOTER INTIMIDATION TACTICS

- aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications to vote, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters' rights
- falsely presenting oneself as an election's official
- spreading false information about voter requirements, displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and the related criminal penalties
- other harassment, particularly toward non-English speakers and voters of color.

REPORT VOTER INTIMIDATION

OTER INTIMIDATION THINK BEFORE YOUR SHARE!

OCUMENTING

REPORT INTIMIDATION TO THE ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE: 1-866-0UR-VOTE/1-866-687-8683

FIND MORE TIPS: wit.to/VoterIntimidation-US

WITNESS

WHAT TO FILM

- Film voters being intimidated, harassed, arrested, or attacked
- Show if voters are peaceful and if agressors have uniforms, weapons, or are part of an organized group
 If safe, get shots of police vehicles,
- If safe, get shots of police vehicles, uniforms, badge numbers, indications of rank
- Capture visual records like long lines, people blocking the entrance, flags, stickers, misleading flyers
- Make your footage easier for journalists and media to verify by filming street signs, landmarks, newspapers or other visuals that show location, time and date

POLL CLOSURES

- Closing polling places is the 21st century's version of a poll tax The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, a bipartisan independent study group started in 1957, found that states claimed polling-place closures were intended to save money, centralize voting operations, and complying with Americans with Disabilities Act – but really the goal was reducing voter turnout, particularly among minority voters who were historically disenfranchised.
- Using publicly available data, federal lawsuits brought against states and counties the report documents clear patterns of discrimination.
- These closures, often done with little notice or public accountability, have occurred across communities of varying racial and <u>demographic characteristics</u> which create longer wait times to transportation obstacles affecting voters of color, older voters, rural voters, voters with disabilities and poor working <u>people in general</u>.

long lines

- Long lines at the polls are one of the most visible forms of voter suppression.
- Every election, some voters are forced to wait in hours-long lines before entering the voting booth.
- Long voting lines disproportionately impact Black and Latino voters.
- Minority voters wait in line to vote 29% longer than whites.



Misinformation vs Disinformation F @ > @ f2 6 in o o



- Misinformation is incorrect or misleading information.
- is designed to confuse people about the voting process.
- Misinformation can decrease voter confidence

•Disinformation is false or misleading information that is spread deliberately to deceive. This is a subset of misinformation.

- is designed to confuse people about the voting process.
- Disinformation can decrease voter confidence



GERRYMANDERING DEFINED

Gerrymandering is a practice intended to establish an unfair political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts, which is most commonly used in first-past-the-post electoral systems. It happens often, but mainly during redistricting (defined on next slide)

GERRYMANDERING (VIDEO)



FEDERAL LEVEL: Supreme Court rules federal courts have no role in policing partisan gerrymandering.

In June 2019, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Lamone v. Benisek and Rucho v. Common Cause that federal courts lacked jurisdiction to hear challenges over partisan gerrymandering.

STATE LEVEL: The Supreme Court remanded the cases to the state level.

State courts had to lead the charge. North Carolina did in Common Cause vs. Lewis (2019)

- On September 3, 2019, the 3-judge panel (2 Democrat, 1 Republican) of the Wake County Superior Court unanimously struck down North Carolina's current legislative map as unconstitutional, without referring to federal law.
- The Court ruled that the map violated the state constitution's guarantees of free elections, equal protection, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.
- The decision cited the Hofeller files as evidence of the goal of the Republican Party to maximize the number of Republican seats in the General Assembly.
- The Superior Court gave the North Carolina General Assembly two weeks to draw up a new map prior to the 2020 election.
- The Senate President pro tempore <u>Philip E. Berger</u> announced that the Republican caucus would comply with the ruling and would not appeal to the <u>North Carolina Supreme Court</u>.

COMMON CAUSE VS. LEWIS (2019)

- The decision quotes a three-judge panel in Wake County Superior Court, which wrote that district maps are unconstitutional if they are drawn "with a predominant intent to favor voters aligned with one political party at the expense of other voters."
- The suit calls the state's congressional map "the most extreme and brazen partisan gerrymander in American history."
- It cites the Republican legislative leaders who established "partisan advantage" as an official criterion and directed that the map be drawn to "maintain the current partisan makeup of North Carolina's congressional delegation."

NATIONWIDE BILLS PENDING

As of today, there are over 200 bills in 43 states that are seeking to change voting laws. The majority restricting, some expanding.

Unfortunately, the direction of the bills are consistent with political parties. Republicans are trying to restrict/suppress/bar people from exercising their right to vote.

Democrats are on the right side of the law, today, and are fighting to expand rights.

Some bills will make it harder to vote by:

- requiring identification,
- purging voters from state voting rolls,
- restricting same day registration,
- closing poll locations,
- restricting voting by mail and
- decreasing early voting hours.

Some bills will make it easier to vote by:

- Not requiring identification,
- Expanding same day registration,
- Expanding poll locations and hours,
- Expanding voting by mail
- increasing early voting days and hours.

 Holmes v. Moore – questioning the statute NC wants in place. The reason we did not need identification to vote in 2020. Stayed.

• NC NAACP and Clean Air Carolina vs. Tim Moore & Philip Berger, in their official capacity, Honorable Justice G. Bryan Collins wrote "An illegally constituted General Assembly does not represent the people of North Carolina and is therefore not empowered to pass legislation that would amend the state's constitution." This was "illegally constituted" due to the ruling in Covington vs. North Carolina. Superior Court Judge Collins voided the amendment.

NC SENATE BILL S722

- An ACT to provide that City Councils shall evaluate existing District boundaries in the year of the release of the federal decennial census information.
- In the year of the release of federal decennial census information, in any city which elects where the members of its council are elected on a district basis, or where candidates for such office must reside in a district in order to run, the council shall evaluate the existing district boundaries to determine whether it would be lawful to hold the next election without revising districts to correct population imbalances.

REDISTRICTING

In the United States, each state has a number of members of the <u>House of</u> <u>Representatives</u> proportional to the state's population determined by the <u>US Census</u> conducted every ten years under <u>Article One of the United</u> <u>States Constitution</u>, with each state having at least one Representative regardless of its population size.

A state that has more than one representative must <u>redistrict</u> after the new census to ensure that each district continues to have an equal number of people.

STATUS OF SENATE BILL S722

- This bill is currently in the committee.
- This bill is important!!!
- This bill needs to be voted on before the 2022 election.
- Please call your legislators in the House and Senate and support this bill!!!

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT, 2021

The For the People Act is a bill in the United States Congress to:

- Expand voting rights.
- Change campaign finance laws to reduce the influence of money in politics.
- Limit partisan gerrymandering.
- Create new ethics rules for federal officeholders.
- Prohibit misinformation and disinformation and gives teeth to enforcement.
- Prohibit voter caging (purging undeliverable mail).
- Prohibit and installs safeguards for Foreign interference in elections.

WHO IS BENEFITING FROM THIS?



Politicians who want to remain in power!!!

In North Carolina, we faced serious gerrymandering by gerrymandering guru Thomas Hofeller.

When asked about his goal, he remarked: "I think electing Republicans is better than electing Democrats... so I drew this map to help foster what I think is better for the country."

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Volunteer to monitor any Voter or Election Laws in your area. Call or write your NC legislators and Senators who are representing your district.

2

Inform the communities that are directly affected. Let them stance on matters that affect them.

3

Continue registering people in non-election years. Work with Precinct Chairs to register people and Organize! Organize! Organize! Precincts.

5

BOTTOM LINE:

Voter suppression efforts are aimed at making it too difficult, confusing, or risky to vote. Those who want to maintain power by any means necessary are benefiting Voter Suppression hurts us ALL!!! Voting is a seat at the table. We need to ensure we claim ours!

ANY QUESTIONS??? COMMENTS??? CONCERNS???

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS OF THE JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION!!!

