



Write Here! Write Now!

**Urge Your Senators to Pass the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the
*John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act***

Democracy in the United States is in a state of crisis. It is critical that we act NOW to protect voting rights for every person in our country. You can make a difference.

Please Note: The *For the People Act* has been updated and renamed to the *Freedom to Vote Act*.

Call to Action: Write each of your Senators and ask them to support both the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. Please also encourage them to urge their Senate colleagues to support the bills as well, and not let the filibuster rules prevent them from passing. (A sample letter is below, but please speak from your heart and use your own words to express your concerns about voting.)

UU Grounding: As UUs, we affirm the sacredness and power of each voice and vote. Our 5th UU Principle compels us “to advocate for a healthy, inclusive democratic process.” On June 26 the UUA General Assembly approved an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), a resolution to [Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy](#).

You can implement this resolution by supporting both the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. We are deeply concerned that states today have placed many unnecessary barriers on voting, making it especially difficult for voters of color, indigenous people, and young voters to register and vote -- the very people voting laws are supposed to protect. We are equally concerned that partisan gerrymandering, as well as enormous and often hidden monetary contributions, are undermining the integrity of representative government.

New Restrictive Voting Laws: Just this year, 18 states have enacted 30 voter-restrictive laws, and 49 states have introduced more than 400 such bills as of July. [Click here](#) to learn what voting legislation your state has passed or proposed this year that might restrict voting. We need both of these bills to pass in order to address these issues and ensure a free, fair, and accessible electoral system in our country:

- The *Freedom to Vote Act* will make it easier for all citizens to vote; end gerrymandering so that electoral districts are fairly drawn; and reduce the impact of big money in politics.
- The *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* will restore the full protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act against discriminatory voting laws. The Voting Rights Act, which as recently as 2006 received overwhelming bipartisan support for re-authorization, has long been viewed as the key engine of voting equality in our country, but unfortunately it was largely undermined by the Supreme Court in 2013.

Time is of the essence, as efforts to make voting more difficult have ramped up, and some states are rushing ahead with highly partisan redrawing of district boundaries. Thus, there is an urgent need to have national standards that protect everyone’s voting rights. We must do this now. Thank you for your time and interest in helping protect our democracy.

We must act NOW to ensure that all people can vote and that every vote is counted.

Sample Letter to Your Senators

(NOTE: This is ONLY a sample letter. Please use your own words and write from your heart!)

[Today's date]

Dear Senator _____, *[write to each of your Senators separately]*

As a constituent, I'm deeply concerned about the state of our democracy. I'm a Unitarian Universalist and support the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. This organization is part of a nationwide, multi-faith community of organizations and congregations who share the fundamental principles of respect for all people, the democratic process, justice, and equity.

I urge you to take action to pass the badly needed reforms in the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. Please encourage your colleagues to support these bills and not let the filibuster rules prevent them from passing. Together, the two bills will fight voter suppression, make sure every person can vote, and that every vote counts.

[ADD in your own words here. Tell a personal experience, a story, or CONCERN relating to voting, voting rights, and recent state legislation on voting. Draw from the points on the previous page.]

I look forward to hearing that you have done all that you can to help pass the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* and the *Freedom to Vote Act*. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME and COMPLETE ADDRESS]

WHWN Congregation Organizers: All letters are due by September 24th, 2021; 4pm ET

- **Use our online platform** to write and send letters [HERE](#)
- **Email** scanned or computer generated letters to advocacy@uusj.org or **upload them** using this [Submission Form \(upload\)](#)
- **Mail handwritten letters** to: UUSJ c/o Paulette DeMers, 3745 Tech Dr. NW, Rochester MN 55901

Questions: advocacy@uusj.org or 202.600.9132