

UUSJ Democracy Action Team (DAT) Board Report, September 2022

The DAT has been busy working on two fronts, reform of the Electoral Count Act (ECA) and supporting the UU the Vote campaign and our broader democracy work.

Supporting the UU the Vote Campaign and Our Broader Democracy Efforts

Several of our DAT members are leading or participating in their congregation's UU the Vote work. As a large subset of the DAT we have taken a number of actions to support UU the Vote.

- We have organized an [event on September 21](#) featuring public commentator and scholar **Lee Drutman**, Senior Fellow, Political Reform program at New America. Lee has published numerous pieces in the **New York Times, Washington Post, Vox, NBC Think, and Foreign Policy**, among many other outlets. Lee will speak about the state of our democracy and what we need to do for it. He is also the author of "Breaking the Two-Party Doom Loop: The Case for Multiparty Democracy in America." **Please join us 9/21, Lee is a great speaker, and we want a big UUSJ audience.**
- We organized an event on [September 13](#) featuring **Andrea Miller**, Founding Board Member of Center for Common Ground (CCG) / **Reclaim Our Vote**, and an inspirational, unwavering fighter for racial justice and voting rights. **Similarly, Andrea is a great speaker.**
- We also held two meetings of UU the Vote congregation leaders, one in June, and the second on September 7, to share information with each other. At the most recent meeting **JaZahn Hicks**, UU the Vote Campaign Manager, was our guest speaker, and he discussed the effectiveness of various voter mobilization strategies. We have created and will maintain two documents for the congregation leaders to use:
 - A list of helpful [partner organizations](#)
 - A list of [current activities and events](#) being done by these partners

ECA Reform

The ECA as enacted in 1887, contains numerous ambiguous provisions that partisans may try to exploit, as we saw in the runup to the January 6 insurrection. A bipartisan group of senators, nine Republicans and seven Democrats, have been collaborating to update it. A very positive [hearing for the bill](#) took place on August 3 in the Senate Rules Committee. Attendees on both sides of the aisle spoke in support of the bill, and the need to pass it during the 117th Congress.

Information from a recent partners meeting of the [Declaration for American Democracy](#) (DFAD), a coalition of more than 250 members, indicates that two more senators have joined the bipartisan group - Republican Grassley and Democrat Hickenlooper. The sense of the DFAD meeting is that the bill is unlikely to come up for a vote in the Senate until after the midterm elections. There is also some likelihood that the House will introduce a different ECA reform bill

The DAT and the bipartisan group of senators all believe that it must move forward quickly during this session of Congress while it has bipartisan support in the Senate. UUSJ needs to push on our senators to help make this happen. We are asking our UUSJ members and friends to write to their senators in support of this bill. They can do this easily by using our automated system: <https://uusj.salsalabs.org/reformeca/index.html>