

Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote

Introduction and Tactics to Protect the Vote

Although the right to vote is at the heart of civic engagement, there are often attempts — some successful — to make it more difficult for individuals to register to vote and/or cast a ballot. To protect the vote, it is important to understand both the landscape of voting rights in this country, as well as potential threats.

While working on voter protection, remember the rules that govern NCJW as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. See “Q & A On NCJW’s 501(C)(3) Status On Election Related Activities” (Resource 1.3) or Alliance for Justice’s “The Rules of the Game: A Guide to Election-Related Activities for 501(c)(3) Organizations” (<https://bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Rules-of-the-Game.pdf>) for more information.

The courts are a crucial element for protecting the right to vote and preventing laws that would make it more difficult to vote. There are also a number of tactics that individuals and organizations can use to protect the vote:

- **Education:** Understand the voting rights landscape — and threats to voting rights — at the federal level and in your state, including the particular voter ID, felony disenfranchisement, and voter registration laws your state may have in place (see resources in this section for more information). The “Know Your Rights” poster on the next page is a resource you can use to start educating NCJW members and your community.
- **Advocacy:** Advocating *for* expanded voting rights at the state and federal level is one way to protect the right to vote. It’s also important to advocate *against* measures that would make it more difficult for people to vote and/or cast a ballot. (See Voting Rights Advancement Act talking points in the appendix of the guide for federal legislation on which you can take action.)
- **Remedy:** Contact the Election Protection Hotline, run by the Lawyers’ Committee on Civil Rights: **1-888-OUR-VOTE**.

Together, we can ensure that every eligible voter is able to vote, and that every vote cast is counted.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

You Have the Right to...

- **Receive a Ballot**
If you are a registered voter, but your name is not on the rolls, you have the right to request a provisional ballot.
- **Use an Accessible Polling Place**
If you are a person with physical disabilities and/or in need of language translation, you must be provided with accommodations and assistance in voting.
- **Review a Sample Ballot Before Voting**
If you want to see a sample ballot in order to help you vote properly, you are entitled to do so.
- **Cast a Vote As Long As You Arrive Before the Poll Closes**
If you are in line before the polls close, you are entitled to vote, no matter how long it may take.
- **Have Your Vote Count**
If you fail to vote in some of the races on the ballot or if there is an error on your ballot and you fill out a provisional ballot instead, your vote must still be counted.

If you experience or witness voter disenfranchisement, call:

I-866-OUR-VOTE

I-888-VE-Y-VOTA