

# Democracy Awakening: Join us April 16-18 in Washington, D.C.!

Thousands of people are mobilizing in Washington, DC April 16th-18th to demand an equal voice in our democracy and a fully functioning government that works for all of us.

## **What's at stake for our democracy:**

The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down critical protections that ensure our right to vote and curb the power of money in politics in decisions like *Shelby County v. Holder*, *Citizens United v. FEC*, and *McCutcheon v. FEC*.

The 2016 Presidential election will be the first in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. And so far, candidates and outside groups have spent more than \$1 billion in the presidential election alone.

With the Supreme Court set to make key decisions, the Senate has made an irresponsible decision to leave a critical vacancy. They are denying a twice-elected President's nominee a fair hearing and vote—a decision they made without knowing who the nominee would be.

**Our out-of-balance system dominated by wealthy interests produces outcomes that fail to reflect the needs and concerns of everyday people.**

While the cost of a college education skyrockets, wallets on Wall Street bulge, and working class wages stagnate, and vulnerable communities bear the burden of environmental injustices.

## **What we're up against:**

Today we face new barriers that keep regular people out of the political process and prevent us from having a say in policies that affect our families.

North Carolina drastically restricted voting rules and eliminated public financing for judicial elections. Wisconsin enacted one of the strictest voter ID laws in the country, and also passed a law allowing unlimited secret money to legally flow into state elections. Texas, another state that enacted a strict voter ID law, also enacted the most burdensome voter registration restrictions in the country and eliminated many polling locations, particularly in communities of color.

In Arizona, with the Voting Rights Act gutted by the Supreme Court and the consequent absence of federal oversight, elected officials in Phoenix's Maricopa County, the largest in the state, were able to reduce the number of polling places there by 70 percent.

We need to strengthen our democracy so the power of our voices is not determined by the size of our wallet and government works for all of us. By making it easier for regular people to run and serve and restoring voting rights protections, we can build a government that is truly of, by, and for the people, where every voice is heard and every vote counts.

**We, the people, need to stand up!**