

# DEMOCRACY AWAKENING 2016

## VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT

The Voter Empowerment Act (H.R. 12) would go a long way toward fixing the broken and outmoded procedures that on Election Day have forced far too many Americans to stand in line for hours at their precincts and persuaded millions of others to stay away from the polls altogether.

In recent years, many Americans were unnecessarily forced to cast provisional ballots, while others were victims of false information scams or subjected to draconian and reduced early voting period.

This legislation advances reforms to ensure that eligible voters can register and cast ballots without undue burden, regardless of race, age, economic class or disability. It includes necessary protections to ensure that all ballots are counted as cast. Put simply, this legislation modernizes our elections in keeping with the standard we should expect in a leading democracy.

GOAL	VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT SOLUTION
<b>Ensuring Access to the Ballot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modernizes voter registration systems.</li> <li>• Ensures online voter registration.</li> <li>• Ensures military and overseas Americans' ballots are counted.</li> <li>• Allows same day voter registration.</li> <li>• Notifies voters when changes are made to polling locations.</li> <li>• Encourages youth to become voters.</li> <li>• Assists voters with disabilities.</li> <li>• Guarantees early voting in every state.</li> <li>• Restores rehabilitated citizens' right to vote.</li> </ul>
<b>Preserving Integrity of Voting Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages recruitment of informed, trained and reliable nonpartisan poll workers.</li> <li>• Counts all provisional ballots, provided that the voter is eligible to vote.</li> <li>• Requires audits of randomly selected precincts, consisting of hand count of voter-verified paper ballots.</li> <li>• Prohibits voter caging (using the mail to target voters and challenge their eligibility).</li> <li>• Protects voters from deceptive practices and intimidation.</li> </ul>
<b>Demanding Accountability in Election Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a national voter information hotline.</li> <li>• Ensures ballots are counted accurately.</li> <li>• Reauthorizes the Election Assistance Commission.</li> </ul>

## GET INVOLVED

We need your voice in this movement. As of April 5, 179 Representatives have joined Representative Lewis on the bill. If you are not yet among them, contact Jamila Thompson in Representative Lewis's office regarding H.R. 12.