

VOTING RIGHTS & REPRESENTATION

THE ISSUE

South Carolina ranks 43rd in the nation in the "cost of voting" - the time & effort required to cast a vote (no automatic voter registration, lack of drop boxes, etc.)

Based on recent Presidential elections, it is estimated that 40% of voters in South Carolina lean Democratic. However, due to local gerrymandering, only 30% of the SC General Assembly is Democrat.

Federal Courts found that 2021 Congressional redistricting illegally used race as a factor in moving a large portion of Black voters out of District 1 (R-Nancy Mace) into District 6 (D-James Clyburn) weakening the power of the Black vote.

One out of 27 African-American voters is disfranchised (not allowed to vote) in SC, compared to 1 out of 65 of SC voters.

Across the nation, over 300 bills have been introduced to restrict voter access or election administration.



THE LAW

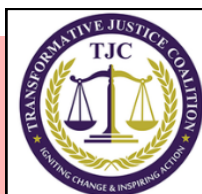
As of the 2022 general election, South Carolina implemented a two week, no excuse needed, in-person early voting period - a step forward for voter access. More than half a million voters in SC took advantage of this option.

Individuals in SC convicted of any felony are barred from voting until full completion of their sentences, including any term of incarceration, probation or parole. These individuals must register to vote again in order to participate in an election.

S.108 (2022) made it more difficult to vote absentee and increased penalties for election workers who don't adhere to their responsibilities

H.4229 (2022) would have created an independent citizens commission for fair redistricting. Republicans killed this bill.

GROUPS TO JOIN/FOLLOW



The Voting Rights Alliance

Democrats commit

to the sacred principle of "one person, one vote"—and we fight to achieve that principle for every citizen, regardless of race, income, disability status, geography, or English language proficiency. We stand united against the determined Republican campaign to disenfranchise voters through onerous voter ID laws, unconstitutional and excessive purges of the voter rolls, and closures of polling places in low-income neighborhoods, on college campuses, and in communities of color. Americans should never have to wait in hours-long lines to exercise their voting rights.