

## Digital Toolkit: A Tale of Two Democracies Report

This is a digital toolkit for sharing the findings from [Voting Rights Lab's new report](#) demonstrating how a wave of state legislation on voting rights and election administration is transforming our democracy, creating a new fault line between states strengthening our democracy and those restricting it. **Please share far and wide** to let our leaders know that we will fight for an America where citizens wield the power of their vote to build a government that truly represents the people.

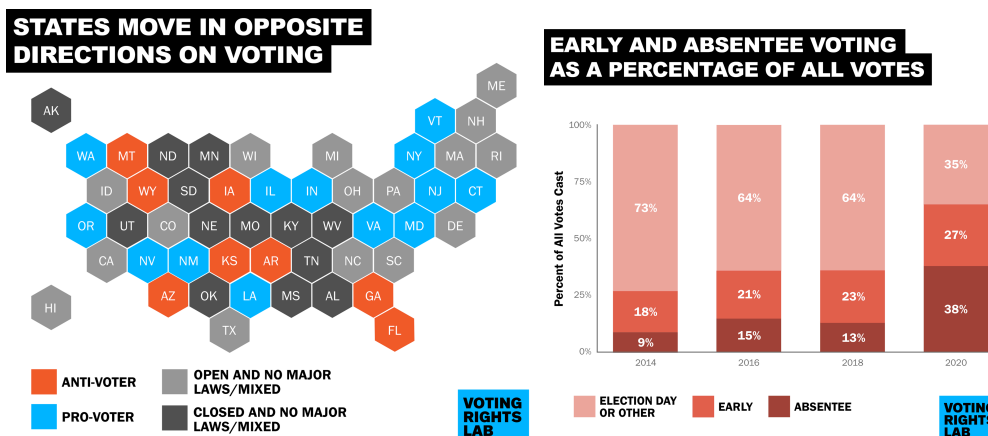
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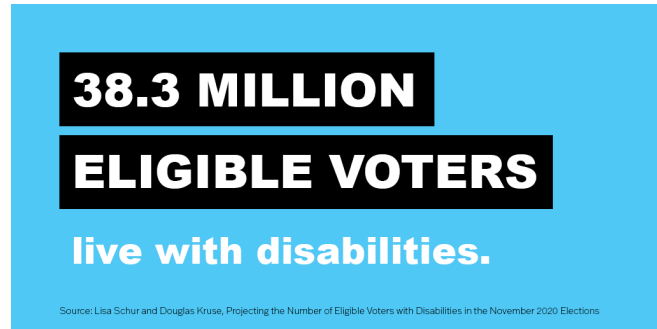
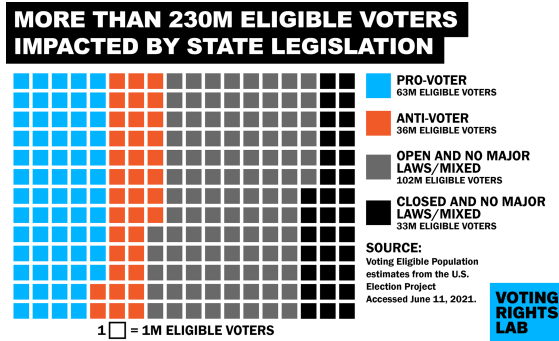
The 153 new election laws enacted this year leave us with a disparity that both violates our country's promise and echoes its history: Two Americas, two unequal populations. One group heard, one group silenced. A democracy divided. Read the full report: <https://votingrightslab.org/a-tale-of-two-democracies-how-the-2021-wave-of-state-voting-laws-created-a-new-american-fault-line>

With a Senate action on #ForThePeopleAct looming, check out this new report from [@votingrightslab](#) to learn about the divide between states strengthening our democracy and those restricting it. <https://votingrightslab.org/a-tale-of-two-democracies-how-the-2021-wave-of-state-voting-laws-created-a-new-american-fault-line>

BREAKING from [@votingrightslab](#)'s new 2021 report: 26% of eligible voters (63M) live in states that improved their laws, 15% (36M) live in states restricting them & nearly half (102M) are awaiting final action: <https://votingrightslab.org/a-tale-of-two-democracies-how-the-2021-wave-of-state-voting-laws-created-a-new-american-fault-line>

### Shareable images





### Key Messages:

- A wave of state legislation on voting rights and election administration is transforming our democracy, creating a new fault line between states strengthening our democracy and those restricting it.
- Approximately one-quarter of eligible voters live in states that improved their laws this year, 15% live in states that enacted restrictive laws this year, and nearly half are awaiting a final tally upon the conclusion of their state's legislative session.
- Those most impacted by these mounting legislative obstacles are Americans who have historically been disenfranchised or blocked from casting a ballot.
  - Black and brown people, Native Americans, voters with disabilities, veterans and members of the military, non-native English speakers, rural voters and low-income Americans — communities who for generations have already borne the brunt of disenfranchisement now face new and overwhelmingly onerous restrictions.
- The proliferation of state legislation curtailing access to the polls, undermining the authority of election officials, and injecting partisanship into election administration make one thing clear: we need continued vigilance and activism in support of our democratic ideals at the state-level.
  - H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 would negate some of the impacts of anti-voter legislation enacted this year, such as restrictions on mail-in and early voting. However, many state laws passed this session would not be addressed by either federal bill.
- While much attention has rightly been paid to the legislative threats to voting working their way through state legislatures, it bears repeating that nearly half of states have enacted dozens of pro-voter bills — showing just how powerful voting rights advocates are.

### Key stats:

At the time of publication of the [report](#), of the over 2,200 elections-related bills introduced nationwide in 2021, 153 those bills are now law in a total of 38 states. Of those bills enacted 71 are pro-voter, 31 are anti-voter, 18 are neutral, and 35 are mixed or unclear. By our counts:

- 22 states have enacted legislation to expand and improve mail voting, while 11 states have enacted legislation restricting it;

- 13 states improved voter registration, while 3 states imposed new registration barriers
- 11 states have passed new laws shifting election authority with potentially chilling ramifications for non-partisan election administration in some of these places
- 10 states expanded in-person early voting and only 1 has restricted it;
- 10 states have created election-related crimes with potentially suppressive effects
- 9 states are giving election officials more time to process ballots with 0 states cutting back pre-processing time;
- 8 states made it more difficult to return ballots on behalf of voters, while 1 state made it easier;
- 6 states imposed new or tough voter ID laws, while only 1 state took action to make its voter ID law more equitable;
- 5 states passed ballot error notice and cure processes and 0 states have rolled theirs back;
- 4 states expanded voting eligibility or access for citizens with past felony convictions and 0 states have done the reverse, and
- 4 states passed new or improved electronic ballot tracking laws and 0 states have done the reverse.