

# VOTING RIGHTS TARGET STATES

## Voter Suppression on a State Level

Voting is fundamental to our democracy. Close to a century after women won the right to vote and 50 years after the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed race-based voter suppression, voting rights remain a grave feminist issue. New voter suppression tactics disproportionately affect women, especially women of color, low-income women, and immigrant women.

Discriminatory policies like ID laws or proof-of-citizenship requirements, partisan and racial gerrymandering, and reducing early-voting hours make it harder--or even impossible-- to vote. Voting policies are enacted and enforced primarily at the state level. Below we break down how discriminatory voting tactics impact voters in Voting Rights Target States:

Want to take action to stop voter suppression? Check out the National Action Campaign Resource "Why Midterms Matter" [here](#).

## Breaking Down the Target States

	STATUS	TAKE AWAYS & ACTION
<b>Florida</b>	More than 1.5 million Floridians are unable to vote due to felon disenfranchisement laws. The Voting Rights Restoration Act (VRRRA) is a proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution that will restore the voting rights of former felons who have committed nonviolent crimes.	The VRRRA is on the November 2018 Ballot in Florida! Check out West Pinellas NOW's work on this issue <a href="#">here</a> and sign up for the ballot initiative <a href="#">here</a> !
<b>North Carolina</b>	On July 25, 2013, the North Carolina legislature passed a law that "limits the kind of identification that voters can use at the polls to a North Carolina driver's license, a state-issued ID card, a military ID, or a U.S. passport." SL 2013-381	In July 2016, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit struck down the state's photo ID law, they found that the North Carolina state legislature passed the law with racially discriminatory intent. In May 2017, the SCOTUS declined to hear the state's appeal, letting the Fourth Circuit's decision stand.

## Texas

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld SB 5, the Texas law that requires voters to present government-issued photo IDs. Additionally, multiple court rulings have shown that Texas has intentionally gerrymandered state House districts to undercut the voting power of African American and Latino voters.

In September 2017, a 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court ruling found that Texas did not have to redraw its congressional maps in time for the 2018 elections. Thus, the GOP secured their majority in Texas and ensured that the Latino vote will have little impact on Texas' overall political representation.

## Alabama

Voters can only vote in person on Election Day: **there are no early voting options**. It is also challenging to receive an absentee ballot--voters need to provide a substantial reason to be approved. Additionally, Alabama has strict voter-ID laws and require documentary proof of citizenship in the national voter registration form.

Currently, Alabama is making it much harder to obtain the government-issued ID required to vote by closing 31 DMV locations in the state, many in majority-black counties.

## Virginia

Virginia has strict voter ID laws and voters have to provide specific reasoning to apply for early and absentee voting. Additionally, Virginia is ranked as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

In the 2017 Virginia Elections, voters voted overwhelmingly for Democratic candidates. Though there is not a clear Democratic majority in the House of Delegates--the newly elected governor Ralph Northam will have veto power of the redistricting maps in 2020.

## Wisconsin

In 2011, Republican legislators in Wisconsin redrew the State Assembly districts utilizing a model to evaluate voter partisanship-- scaling the likelihood of a Republican winning. The new redistricting map was approved in August 2011 and had a drastic impact on the 2012 election results. Republicans gained 60% of the seats while only receiving 49% of the statewide vote.

In June 2017, the SCOTUS agreed to hear the case *Gill v Whitford*, making it the first partisan gerrymandering case heard by the SCOTUS in U.S. history. The decision for the case is expected by June 2018.