

LWVOR Voter
January, 2019

HR 1 - For the People Act

One of the most exciting, and timely, proposed legislation to come out of the members of the 116th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives is HR 1 (fittingly the first act introduced) - **For the People Act**.

Today, our democracy is out of balance. As a response to the impact our broken democracy has had on civil rights, and many other issues facing the country, the Declaration for American Democracy coalition was formed.

This collection of more than 120 organizations, including the League of Women Voters, has come together to press for systemic political reforms to return power in our government to the people.

We understand the importance of seizing the historic opportunity we face to repair our political system by moving immediately on a single package of comprehensive democracy reforms.

Throughout our nearly 100-year history, the League of Women Voters has worked to “level the playing field” of our election system by registering new citizens to vote, fighting unfair district maps in court, and advocating in Congress for fair election processes.

Specifically, the LWV is advocating for the prioritization of the following essential elements of the bill:

Break down barriers that prevent Americans from registering to vote. The Act requires states to allow same-day registration, establishes an opt-out system of automatic registration, and includes the establishment of an online voter registration system for all eligible voters.

Restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and strengthen our elections by cutting back the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their rights at the ballot box. Since the Supreme Court’s Shelby County decision rolled back key provisions of the Voting Rights Act, voters have faced a variety of obstacles from reduced polling places to long lines, to strict voter identification requirements, to the unlawful removal of registered voters from the rolls. In the 2018 midterm elections we saw voter suppression in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas, as well as other states across the country.

Establish independent, citizen-led redistricting commissions at the state level to draw congressional districts that allow voters to pick their politicians not the other way around.

Empower small donors by creating a public financing system to match small contributions to presidential candidates. It will also close disclosure loopholes that allow outside groups to flood elections with millions of dollars of secret money.

The many elements of this legislation align with the League's long-held positions and advocacy to ensure that our elections are free, fair, and accessible to all eligible Americans. We call on all legislators, regardless of party, to support any such legislation that is indisputably by and for the people.

From LWVUS excerpts