Get Ready to Vote
Protect Your Rights!
States are making it harder for citizens to be heard at the ballot box. These new laws are especially targeting people of color, as well as elderly and younger voters. But we won’t be stopped. What makes this country so great is that all Americans can build the government we want by voting. This voter preparedness timeline will help you to protect your rights.

AUGUST
- Obtain a certified copy of your birth certificate for those living in PA, KS, TN, GA & IN. (*TX, SC & MS, Photo ID law pending)
- Confirm your address; make any updates as required by contacting local elections office.
- Get state-issued photo ID, for those living in PA, KS, TN, GA & IN. (*TX, SC & MS, Photo ID law pending).
- REGISTER TO VOTE!

SEPTEMBER
- Make sure you made it on to the voter rolls by contacting local elections office.
- Request absentee ballot, if needed & appropriate.

OCTOBER
- Review the sample ballot.
- Vote early, if your state permits pre-Election Day voting.

NOVEMBER
- Two days before the election, be sure you have your required ID.
- Find your polling place. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

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FIVE MYTHS ABOUT VOTER FRAUD

1. We need state voter ID laws to prevent fraud.
Cases of voter fraud are rare. In fact, a 2005 statewide study in Ohio found only four instances of ineligible persons voting or attempting to vote in 2002 and 2004, out of 9 million votes.

2. You need a photo ID to buy Sudafed or to fly on an airplane. What’s wrong with requiring one for voting?
You don’t need a current state issued photo ID to purchase Sudafed or fly on a plane. In both cases you can use multiple forms of ID. The new state laws pushed by conservative forces are extremely restrictive, requiring only non-expired state-issued photo IDs with a current address to exercise what is a guaranteed right of all citizens.

3. Requiring ID at the polls affects all voters equally.
Studies show that 11 percent of eligible voters, or about 21 million people, don’t have updated, state-issued photo IDs: 25 percent of African Americans, 15 percent of those earning less than $35,000, 18 percent of citizens age 65 or older and 20 percent of voters age 18 to 29. The voter suppression laws, largely championed by conservatives, disproportionately impact African Americans, Hispanics, seniors and young voters, who turned out in record numbers in 2008.

4. There’s no way to fight photo ID restrictions.
The Voting Rights Act prohibits any state from implementing a discriminatory voting practice if preliminary data indicate that the photo ID law is racially discriminatory, the Department of Justice can stop it. Governors and legislatures have rejected voter suppression laws in several states because communities have raised their voices.

5. Perpetrators of voting fraud don’t face serious legal consequences.
Both federal and state laws include stiff fines and imprisonment for voter fraud. Under federal law, perpetrators face up to five years in prison and a fine of $10,000 for each act of fraud.