

COMMUNITY-BASED GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING YOUR VOTE

June 13, 2014

Due to the recent United States Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, voting rights are at risk. In order to ensure equal access to the ballot, community groups are monitoring voting changes to stop potentially discriminatory voting procedures before they are implemented.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY DISCRIMINATORY VOTING CHANGES

Voter Registration

- ☑ Monitor changes of registration requirements and processing of voter registration applications
- ☑ Monitor barriers for third party voter registration
- ☑ Make sure voters whose registration is questioned are notified according to the law and have an opportunity to respond

Language Access

- ☑ Monitor any changes in availability of non-English voting materials
- ☑ Ensure non-English voting information is translated accurately
- ☑ Ensure limited-English proficient voters have bilingual ballots
- ☑ Ensure limited-English proficient voters have oral assistance

- ☑ Monitor any reductions in the number of bilingual poll workers

- ☑ Ensure voters can use assistants of their own choice and monitor changes in voting assistance rules

Improper Purges and Removal of Voters

- ☑ Monitor the details of the method and reasons for list maintenance and any removing of voters from the rolls
- ☑ Get copies of purge lists, notice letters, and data about race of removed voters

Provisional Ballots

- ☑ Ensure provisional ballots are not distributed for wrong reasons
- ☑ Ensure poll workers contact their election offices to verify eligibility if a voter is not found in the poll books

Poll Worker Training & Other Poll Worker Issues

- ☑ Monitor poll worker training manuals and classes
- ☑ Monitor changes in frequency of poll worker training
- ☑ Ensure poll workers are a diverse representation of the communities they serve

Deceptive Practices

- ☑ Monitor voter caging activities (caging is the process of challenging voter registration status by targeting a certain community). Sometimes this can be done by mass mailing and compiling lists of voters whose mail is returned
- ☑ Monitor false, confusing or misleading information
- ☑ Monitor intimidating billboards, flyers or other information that may discourage someone from registering to vote or voting

Polling Place Changes

- ☑ Monitor any reduction, consolidation, or relocation of voting locations, including early, absentee, and election-day voting locations, especially where the relocation of polling places results in a net loss of voting locations
- ☑ Monitor misallocation and under-allocation of polling places and polling place resources (machines, poll workers, signage, etc.)

Voting Districts

- ☑ Monitor changes in district lines that add at-large districts; or change from single-member districts to at-large or multi-member; or by expansion of districts to dilute the percent of voters of color
- ☑ Monitor changing boundaries in election districts where voters of color have experienced a population increase in recent years

STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR VOTE

