



2014 Voter Protection Program

Texas is a big, diverse state. But in 2012, 46% of eligible Texans did not vote — meaning that Texas' current government was selected by only some Texans, and is now working for only some Texans.

Texas Republicans want to keep it that way, by doing everything they can to make it harder to vote. They've passed laws that attempt to stomp out grassroots voter registration activities — one of the most effective ways to reach African American and Hispanic voters. Greg Abbott used his office to defend the unfair requirements that limit what forms of photo ID can be shown before voting — the same voter ID law that a D.C. federal court struck down as racially discriminatory in 2012. And Texas Republicans, with Greg Abbott at the top of their ticket, want to repeal the Voting Rights Act — a landmark law that protects every citizen's right to vote.

Texas Democrats want more Texans to participate, not fewer. We believe that our State government and elected officials should represent every Texan — and that every eligible voter should have a say in who makes our laws. That's why Wendy R. Davis for Governor, Battleground Texas and the Texas Democratic Party have joined forces to create the most expansive voter protection agenda that Texas has ever seen — because our voting system must be free, fair, and accessible. Together, we are facilitating voter registration, educating voters about the voter ID requirements and other election laws, promoting opportunities to vote early, and implementing a robust volunteer system to protect every valid vote cast.

FACILITATING VOTER REGISTRATION:

Our tireless volunteers are registering large numbers of eligible Texas voters this year. All staff and volunteers receive comprehensive training on the voter registration rules before they go out into the field, as well as ongoing guidance. Through constant communication with county officials, we ensure that our registration activities are in strict compliance with state law — while being incredibly effective.

EDUCATING VOTERS:

Through our coordinated political, communications, digital and field programs, we are working hard to educate voters about the rules they need to know in order to successfully cast a ballot — including voter ID requirements. With local leaders, we are identifying the most effective ways to reach voters who need help and assist them in obtaining acceptable ID.

PROMOTING EARLY VOTING:

For voters who are eligible to do so, we are encouraging them to cast their ballots early by mail — which they can do beginning in early September. In October, we will monitor the in-person early voting period at the Davis campaign headquarters in Fort Worth, run a state-wide election protection hotline, and will place well-trained volunteers at the polls.

PROTECTING THE VOTE ON ELECTION DAY:

On Election Day, we will have thousands of volunteers at polling places across the State. We will ensure that there is a Democratic election judge or alternate judge, working alongside their Republican counterpart, to ensure the fair conduct of the election in each precinct. We will also deploy poll watchers, as needed, to guard against possible voter suppression or intimidation. Outside the polls, our election monitors will answer voters' questions and identify problems such as long lines and voter harassment. We will run a total of eight command centers, located in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, McAllen and San Antonio — which, together, will serve all of the counties in Texas. Each will be led by election law experts and staffed with lawyers who will be able to address the vast majority of voting issues that arise — and will be ready to go to court if necessary.

Have questions? Want to volunteer?

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