

Background

Our democracy is under attack. The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. ("NCBW") is a non-partisan organization that advocates influencing policy that promotes leadership development and gender equity in health, education, and economic empowerment for Black women and girls. In advocating for policies that eliminate inequities, our voice is our vote. We advocate for policy changes through our elected officials.

State legislatures nationwide are pushing legislation that rolls back voting rights and places election administration in the hands of partisans. Redistricting is underway in several states, drawing congressional maps that will be in place for a decade. And campaign spending is increasingly dominated by contributions from the wealthiest Americans, marginalizing the concerns of everyday citizens. (Breaking Down the Freedom to Vote Act | Brennan Center for Justice)

As of January 25, 2023, state lawmakers in at least 32 states pre-filed or introduced 150 restrictive voting bills, an increase over the number introduced in 2021 and 2022. Legislation is categorized as <u>restrictive</u> if it contains one or more provisions that would make it harder for eligible Americans to register, stay on the voter rolls, or vote, as compared to existing state law. Restrictive legislation usually disproportionately impacts Black people and other people of color.

NCBW advocates for The Freedom to Vote Act.

NCBW advocates for the protection of voters from racial discrimination by restoring and updating the full protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the crowning achievements of the civil rights era.

NCBW advocates for setting national standards to protect the right to vote. That includes minimum standards for early and mail voting, modernizing voter registration, and restoration of the right to vote for formerly incarcerated people.

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