

The Delray Democrat

Voting and the DCDB¹

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Our voting rights are being threatened by the predominantly white Republicans enacting state laws intended to curtail the rights of voters such as those in Georgia who turned out to elect Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock in the recent Senate election.

Legislators in “red” states have been busy trying to limit early voting by reducing the number of days and shortening hours to make it difficult to vote without standing in long lines. The Vote-by-Mail option has seen restrictions placed on obtaining and returning VbM ballots. In Florida, as in other states, the new laws were passed in response to “the Big Lie” that due to election fraud Trump had actually won the 2020 election, which has repeatedly been proven to be false. Trump and Republicans continue to spread this nonsense, but now they are detrimentally impacting the rights of voters and most specifically minority voters.

Republicans disingenuously contend that these changes were made to protect against the threat of voter fraud, but it’s clear that their goal is voter suppression. They are not afraid of fraudulent votes being cast; they are afraid of the sheer volume of Democrats who used VbM and early voting to defeat Trump and many other Republicans. We can only hope these laws negatively impact Republican voters, too. And it says a lot that the Supervisors of Election in all 67 Florida counties unanimously agree that the changes signed into law by DeSantis last week are unnecessary.

Multiple lawsuits have already been filed that challenge the constitutionality of this newly enacted law. Additionally, if the “For the People Act” currently pending in Congress is signed into law, it will override Republican attempts at voter suppression. That said, we cannot count on these lawsuits or hope for federal intervention. We must educate voters about these new restrictions and provide guidance on how best to neutralize them.

What can you do to help thwart the intent of these restrictive Republican laws?

- **Volunteer to make telephone calls or write post cards.**
- **Volunteer to help canvass** Now that many of us are vaccinated for Covid, taking proper precautions you can educate people on the importance of and how to effectively cast their votes and help to sign up people to vote by mail.
- **Become a Democratic precinct leader.** There are many areas in need of precinct leaders.
- **Attend our sign waves and other events.** Getting out the word helps to get out the vote.
- **Join the Democratic Club of Delray Beach.** Your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as *The Delray Democrat*, our meetings, other working supplies and signage for our sign waving events.
- Visit our website at www.demclubofdelray.org for links to all issues of *The Delray Democrat*, our Facebook page and videos of our prior meetings.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, May 2021, p. 6.

The bottom line is – **WE VOTE, WE WIN!**