

The Delray Democrat

Eliminate the Filibuster for Legislation Affecting Constitutional Rights¹

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Republicans don't like it when every citizen has an opportunity to vote. It's called "democracy" but spells "defeat" for Republicans.

That's why, after Joe Biden's landslide victory and the narrow wins by Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in Georgia, Republican-controlled states immediately set to work enacting highly restrictive voting laws.

This exacerbated the already tenuous protection for voting rights following the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* that gutted the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by holding its "preclearance" provisions to be unconstitutional. No longer would states with discriminatory practices be required to submit any proposed changes in their laws to the Department of Justice

In response to the explosion of discriminatory laws, the House passed the **Freedom to Vote Act** and the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**, both now pending in the Senate and arguably the most important legislation introduced by the Biden administration. The **Freedom to Vote Act** would

establish national standards, require every state to have automatic voter registration, make Election Day a holiday, restore federal voting rights to formerly incarcerated Americans, and address "dark money" in the electoral process by modernizing and expanding federal campaign finance reforms.

The **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** would restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act, ensuring that any changes to local or state elections are federally reviewed so that everyone's equal right to vote is protected. As reported in the charts below, both enjoy strong public support, but both have been filibustered repeatedly by Republicans and have no chance of chance of passing the 117th Congress.

Senators Manchin and Sinema refuse to eliminate the filibuster because they fear what will happen if Republicans regain the Senate in the midterms. Of course, unless we pass one of these Acts we're less likely to hold the Senate. The solution is clear, however, we eliminate the filibuster for legislation affecting people's constitutional rights.

Freedom to Vote Act			
	Support	Unsure	Oppose
Overall	61	13	26
Democrats	83	7	7
Independents	53	30	17
Republicans	39	11	50

Source: [Navigator](#).

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act			
	Support	Unsure	Oppose
Overall	69	14	17
Democrats	88	8	4
Independents	60	27	13
Republicans	50	16	34

Source: [Navigator](#).

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), December 2021, page 4.