

Resolution on Voter Suppression in America

Whereas voting is an essential citizenship right;

Whereas past attempts to restrict voting have included poll taxes and literacy tests;

Whereas the 2008 national elections were the most racially diverse in American history, helping to close the longstanding gap between whites and voters of color;

Whereas voter ID laws, restrictions on voter registration, purging of voter rolls, and cuts to early voting are the latest tactics for suppression of voting by historically disenfranchised groups, including people of color, the elderly, students, and people with disabilities;

Whereas up to 11% of Americans lack government-issued IDs, and up to 7% lack official documents proving their citizenship;

Whereas proponents of voter suppression laws have failed to show that voter fraud is a problem anywhere in the country, and that voter fraud is exceedingly rare; and

Whereas voter suppression laws have been passed by 15 states, and are pending in 5 more states (and passed but revoked in Maine); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. opposes voter ID laws, restrictions on voter registration, cuts to early voting, and any other laws resulting in the restriction of lawful access to voting; and
2. encourages libraries, librarians, and library support staff to provide information to citizens to mitigate these restrictions should they remain in effect on Election Day.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council

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