

# Respect Our Vote!

**Conservative legislators across the U.S. are changing voting laws to make it harder for many people to vote.** Here in North Carolina, these bills are being pushed by legislators elected in 2010 with millions of dollars from right-wing donors who also fund private groups to fight against civil rights, public schools and fair taxes!

These NC bills can be considered throughout the two-year session of the legislature, so we must remain vigilant.

*Here's an update on some of the anti-voter legislation that has been introduced in Raleigh this year:*

**Mandatory photo ID for voters (HB-351):** This bill would require voters to show a government-issued photo ID when they vote. It will create a new barrier to voting for 450,000 NC citizens, mostly seniors, low-income voters, women, youth and African Americans. **STATUS:** HB-351 was passed by the General Assembly and vetoed by Gov. Perdue. The legislature then failed to override the Governor's veto; however, the measure could be reconsidered any time in 2011-2012.

**End Early Voting on Sunday (S-47):** This was proposed even though 37,000 citizens used it in 2008. This is a direct attack on African-American churches and "Souls to the Polls." **STATUS:** The provision to end Sunday voting was removed from S-47.

**Reduce the days / hours for Early Voting (HB-658, SB-47):** This was proposed even though 60% of all NC voters used Early

Voting in 2008. The bill would cut a week off the Early Voting period and also limit the hours that EV sites could be open. **STATUS:** HB-658 narrowly passed the NC House by 60-58 and is now in the Senate. SB-47 has not passed in either chamber in its current form.

**Redistricting:** Republicans led the redistricting process in NC and used it to help their party, not voters. The result – strangely shaped districts, minorities packed together, precincts split up, and more. **STATUS:** The legislature has approved new maps for Congressional, State House, and State Senate districts. The US District Court and Dept. of Justice review these plans for their compliance with the Voting Rights Act. The plans will also likely be challenged in state and federal court.

**Better ballot access (H-32):** This bill would reduce the number of signatures needed to get a new political party's candidates or an independent candidate on the ballot. **STATUS:** Passed the NC House, now in the Senate Rules Committee.

**Stop voters from registering during Early Voting by eliminating Same-Day Registration (S-47):** This hard-won reform was used by 250,000 NC voters in 2008, especially by African-American and young voters. **STATUS:** SB-47 has not passed with this provision.

**Stop pre-registration for teenagers (S-47):** This was proposed even though 37,500 future voters used the program in 2010 to signal their desire to be active citizens. **STATUS:** This part was removed from S-47.

**End public financing for Council of State races and**

**make judicial elections partisan (HB-452):** "Voter-Owned" public financing gives voters more diversity in their choices and gives candidates a way to run without taking big donations from special interests. This bill keeps public financing for state judges but kills it for Council of State candidates. **STATUS:** HB-452 passed the House and is now in the Senate.

## Take Action!

Contact your legislators in Raleigh at 919-733-4111 and call the Gov. Perdue at 800-662-7952. Tell them:

**"Oppose any bills that make voting harder, and defend the Public Campaign Fund."**

For more action steps, call Democracy North Carolina at 919-286-6000 or visit [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org).

