




"DEMOCRACY IS NOT A STATE.

IT IS AN ACT...



Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama join Rep. John Lewis, former President George W. Bush, and former First Lady Laura Bush during a walk across Edmund Pettus Bridge to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" march from Selma to Montgomery, in Selma, Alabama, Saturday, March 7, 2015. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

...EACH GENERATION MUST DO ITS PART."

—Rep. John Lewis

In Rep. John Lewis' 2020 essay *Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation*, the late Georgia congressman channeled the legacy of his mentor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said, "Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. **The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society.** You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it."

As Dr. King said in 1963, "**This is the time for vigorous and positive action.**" In 2021, join our movement for "Democracy in Action" by:

- › demanding our leaders **extend and expand** pro-voter policies from 2020;
- › advocating for **fair voting maps** in an independent and transparent redistricting process;
- › **listening to communities of color**, which disproportionately face racial bias and limits to voting access, and **building connection to what's on the ballot** in this year's local elections.

Learn more ways to be a part of "Democracy in Action" at demnc.co/democracymotion.

JOIN THE DEMOCRACY IN ACTION MOVEMENT



Of MLK, Rep. John Lewis said, "He taught me to be hopeful, to be optimistic, to never get lost in despair, to never become bitter, and to never hate."

In 2020, it was vital to sustain grassroots pressure for good local voting options, support litigation to block racist voter ID law and expand absentee voting, and reach voters of all ages where they were: sheltering at home and physical distancing. As this pandemic rages on in 2021, it'll be just as important to keep protecting voters as we focus on driving advocacy into the legislature, extending and codifying good election policies, and pushing for good redistricting processes.

So, what should we do to make democracy into an act?

1

YOUR VOTE MATTERS EVEN MORE IN 2021

Care about racial injustice and police conduct? Affordable housing? Taxes, transportation, public safety, and the cost of utilities? Your mayor and city council have a big influence over policies that affect your life. Most cities have elections this year, and a few hundred votes may determine who wins or loses. Many school boards are also holding elections, determining who cares for our kids amid COVID.

All elections matter, but typically only a small number of people vote in an off year election. That means you and your allies can have an even bigger impact when educating and mobilizing local voters in 2021. Learn more about this election year at ncvoter.org.

2

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO VOTE

Following North Carolina's massive voter roll removals in 2019, registration issues were a common reason for rejected ballots cast on Election Day in 2020.

But access to North Carolina's online voter registration portal throughout 2021 means more people can register to vote online or update their voter registration before arriving on Election Day, without needing to have a printer, stamps, or access to advocacy groups to send in a paper form while staying safe. Learn how to look up your registration status and register online at demnc.co/register.

3

PUMPING OUR VOICES INTO THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

Our fight for fair maps, defending fair courts, and expanding fair votes continues in 2021. That means we need to get creative to pressure our legislators to do the right thing amid the pandemic. Our Democracy in Action platform includes defending (and in some cases expanding) voter access from 2020, fighting for an independent and transparent independent redistricting process, and providing unprecedented coverage of pro-democracy work happening in Raleigh and beyond.

Learn more about our Democracy in Action movement at demnc.co/democracyaction.

DEMOCRACY NC

Democracy NC is not affiliated with any party or candidate.