

REBS Action Items: 10/10/25

Issue #1: Protect Free Speech in CT

There is a movement that has spread across our country called the Visibility Brigade. REBS and Bethel Blues joined it earlier this year; we are one of over 250 groups in nearly all 50 states. These groups respectfully and peacefully stand on bridge overpasses with signs to connect with and activate voters - to let them know that resistance is possible. These groups are practicing their first amendment rights.

CT has several visibility brigades across the state and again, there are well over 250 across the country in both blue and red states. Of these 250 groups, **only 3** have been harassed and shut down by state police.

And of those three, **two** are right here in CT. One is in New Haven and the other is us – the REBS Visibility Brigade who was protesting over the Merritt Parkway in Fairfield. Additionally, the leader of the New Haven group was roused out of bed at 6:00 a.m., arrested, handcuffed and taken to jail.

The members of the CT group were ticketed by the state police and told they would be arrested if we returned to the bridge. We pleaded “not guilty” to the charge and just recently, the prosecutor dismissed our cases. Very good news.

In addition, the CT ACLU filed an injunction against the state police a month ago. The state asked for an extension and a 2-week one has been granted. Our Attorney General, William Tong, is defending the State Police. While he has been a strong defender of CT residents in this Trump era, we feel he is on the wrong side of this issue. We suspect the judge will agree but cannot be sure. As a result, we are asking that you call or email his office and let him know that the State Police should respect the rights of CT residents to peacefully protest on our state overpasses.

***** You can send him an email or give him a call:
Attorney.General@ct.gov or call 860-808-5318

Points to make:

- Free speech is under attack by the State Police
- Citizens standing up to Trump are being targeted
- Tong needs to stand up for the Constitution
- Peaceful bridge protests do not pose any threat and instead educate the public
- If Tong doesn't stand up for citizens you will remember that when he is next up for election or re-election

Also, here is a sample script for an email. Feel free to use it as a guide.

Dear Attorney General Tong,

I am a longstanding resident of CT and, gratefully, have never had the need to contact you or one of your predecessors. But that has changed.

It has been brought to my attention that the Visibility Brigade movement in our state is under attack by the State Police. There are over 250 groups in nearly all 50 states (blue and red) across this country, and have been for many months. These groups hold signs on bridge overpasses to connect with and activate voters - to let them know that resistance is possible. These groups are practicing their first amendment rights.

*Of these 250+ groups, **only three** have been shut down by state police – and **two of them are here in CT**. Here. In. CT!*

Free speech is under attack by the CT State Police. It is not right. I ask, if not you, then who will stand up for the Constitution? Peaceful bridge protests do not pose any threat; they are groups of concerned citizens (mostly senior citizens) fighting for our democracy. All of us need your support and commitment to allowing these groups to exercise their right to free speech.

Many of these people standing on these bridges, including me, voted for you. If you will not stand up for the citizens of CT, it is a sad day indeed. You do so much good for our state; please don't let this overshadow it.

[Name]

Issue #2: Voter Suppression

We defeated the [SAVE Act](#) earlier this year, but of course, efforts to suppress the vote continue. The current iteration? A proposed new regulation to be issued (ironically) by the Election Assistance Commission.

Below is a **VERY easy** and **VERY important** action you can take to protect our right to vote. The bottom line is that Republicans want to make people show certain identification, that many people do not have or cannot easily get, to prove their citizenship when registering to vote. This will make it especially harder for women, young, and low income people to register to vote.

We have until October 20th to comment on the proposed bill. Alarming, most of the comments posted in the last several days are overwhelmingly FOR the proposed regulation. We have to put forth and *sustain* a similar effort AGAINST it.

Please take action, **TODAY**, and share this information with others so that we can stop this effort to suppress the vote in 2026 and beyond.

Here is how:

- [Go to the U.S. government agency website where you can comment on the petition for this regulation](#) and click “comment”.
- Share why you oppose this proof of citizenship requirement.
 - The show-your-papers requirement was a bad idea when Congress tried to do it with the SAVE Act.
 - Half of all Americans don’t have a passport.
 - If this change to voter registration is implemented, it will become more difficult for eligible American citizens to vote.
 - Voting is a right, not a privilege.
 - College students typically do not have access to a birth certificate.
 - Married women who have changed their name will not have the required ID
 - Every citizen should be able to participate in our elections easily, without the federal government throwing up artificial barriers that prevent us from exercising our rights.
- Choose whether to share your name and information or submit your comment anonymously.