

STUDENT BRIDGES AGENCY NEWSLETTER

Mentoring, Community Outreach, Retention, and Advocacy

What is Voter Suppression?

Barriers to equal participation in our democracy

Voter suppression refers to strategies used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting.

Who does it affect?

Voter suppression is constructed to target underrepresented populations. People of color, the LGBTQIA community, low-income individuals, and more are disproportionately affected by voter suppression. The voters also tend to be democratic.

Who does voter suppression benefit?

Those that benefit from voter suppression are candidates winning as a result of these measures and stakeholders relating to the candidate or ballot issue. Corporate donors also benefit from voter suppression laws.



Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Voting Covid-19 Safety Tips:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html>

MA resident can check the status of their mail-in ballot here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivote/ma/track/trackmyballot.aspx>





What Does Voter Suppression Look Like?

This is not an exhaustive list, there are other tactics used to suppress voting not discussed here.



Voter I.D. Laws

Many states offer “free” I.D.s, however, they come with hidden cost. To obtain the needed documents, an individual might have to pay an extra fee. Also, people may not have a form of transportation to an agency to get the I.D. or they don’t live near an agency.

Limiting Early Voting

Cutting or limiting early voting means those unable to vote on Election Day due to work, family obligations, or other personal reasons are unable to exercise their right to vote. Increasing voting on Election Day can also contribute to long lines.

Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering is when electoral districts are drawn in order to favor one party over another. Based on how the lines are drawn, Democrats often get more votes, but Republicans get more seats.

Other tactics include making it more difficult to register to vote and disenfranchising those convicted of a felony.

Recent events:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/22/us/politics/florida-voter-intimidation.html>

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-10-20/activists-brace-for-voter-intimidation-efforts-on-election-day>



More information:

<https://www.demandthevote.com/what-is-voter-suppression>