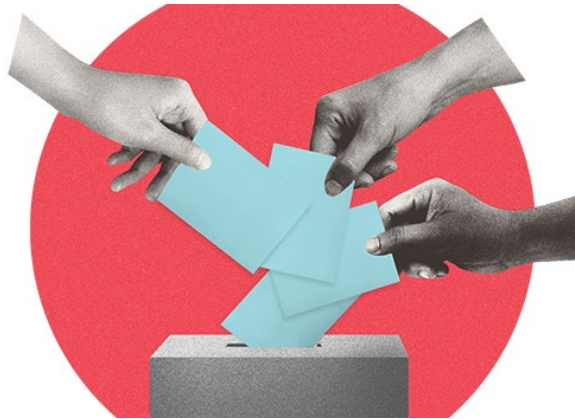




Insight Panel Exclusive: Your Voting Rights Questions Answered

In last month's Insight Panel survey, we invited you to pose questions to our [voting rights legal team](#). Sophia Lin Lakin, the ACLU Voting Rights Project's Interim Co-Director, and her staff responded to your top questions below, focusing in particular on our priorities between now and the November midterms.



The ACLU is holding the line against threats to the right to vote, while creating new paths forward, with litigators, advocates, communications specialists, organizers, and volunteers on the ground in every state.

We are gearing up for a massive 2022 midterms voting push. For example, we will educate and energize our millions of supporters and activists to stand up for civil rights and liberties—including abortion access, marriage equality, criminal justice, and the right to contraception—by voting, including for down ticket races (such as Secretary of States, District Attorneys, and sheriffs) and ballot measures, and encouraging their networks to vote as well.

How can the ACLU help make voting easy and accessible?

All civil liberties depend on voter access and participation. We are challenging a variety of voter suppression measures, while mitigating the impact of any legislation that passes. For example, in [Georgia](#), [Montana](#), and [Texas](#), we are [challenging](#) voter suppression laws that place burdensome, unjustified, and unnecessary restrictions on

voters, particularly voters of color, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and other historically disenfranchised communities.

How is the ACLU working to strengthen voting rights protections?

With the traction of the “big lie” and attempts to undermine our electoral system coming from elected officials meant to protect it, we must shore up any weaknesses in our electoral processes, while also showing that elections are free, fair, and transparent. This will include prioritizing [down-ticket races](#) that have up-ticket consequences, looking to state supreme courts, and engaging directly with candidates. We will engage in races in key states where we can help voters assess which candidates are likely to protect and expand voting rights and protect democracy.

What about on Election Day?

We’re also working to protect voters on Election Day. For example, the ACLU helps staff the nationwide election protection hotline and we and our affiliates mobilize staff and volunteers to monitor the polls on election day nationwide. During the next election cycle, the ACLU and affiliates will expand efforts to support voters on the ground by maintaining a presence and intervening at understaffed and overwhelmed voting sites. This can include legal intervention to extend voting hours at locations with long lines, encouraging those voters to stay in line, providing material support like food and water, and proactively recruiting poll workers in advance of election day.



What strategies will be implemented to help young and minority voters overcome obstacles to early voting and/or resist intimidation at the polls?

Beyond our myriad defensive work on voting, we are undertaking affirmative efforts to expand voting access through direct democracy and federal legislation. Ballot measures, for example, serve the triple purpose of achieving key reforms and educating and motivating voters—they are powerful tools for advancing a civil liberties and civil rights agenda. They also give people who care about them a reason to vote—and when these measures are passed, we achieve significant reform. For example, our 2018 campaign to “Promote the Vote” gave people in Michigan the opportunity to decide on and secure the right to same-day registration, provided all voters access to absentee ballots for any reason, and gained more voting modernizations that

overwhelmingly benefitted young people and people of color and added at least 400,000 to the voting rolls.

We and our affiliates are also actively engaged in redistricting efforts in over 25 states to challenge racially discriminatory maps in places like Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi—with early wins in South Carolina and in our partisan gerrymandering challenges in Ohio. Our largest efforts are focused throughout the South, where states and local jurisdictions have adopted maps that diminish the voting power of people of color.

How is the ACLU working to protect poll workers?

Election officials are core to maintaining our democracy—yet, they are experiencing violent threats from election deniers. We are recruiting and training poll workers and working alongside election officials to provide resources to combat misinformation and increase voter turnout.

How can people in states with free and fair elections make an impact elsewhere?

We launched an interactive [midterm landing page](#) in August, which includes a call to action asking people to pledge to vote their values and commit to talking to their friends and family. We will use a series of blogs, videos, social and digital content, and graphics in the months leading up to the elections to ensure our supporters are equipped to get out the vote within their cross-State networks and communities. This content will include detailed information on ballot measures, key electoral races, legal cases, and how to get involved in those. In October, we will release an additional interactive tool to help people have conversations in the weeks leading up to the midterms. Beyond our network of supporters, we will also invest in nationwide digital and radio ads, messaging research, and other voter education tools in priority states and races.

Thank you for standing with the ACLU. Your support helps make all this work possible!



Sophia Lin Lakin

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