



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY

In light of what we saw happen in the last two elections, what can each of us do to reclaim our democracy as we move towards the 2020 election?

Below, we listed tactics from our film, *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook*, used to suppress voters – along with micro and macro steps you, as an American citizen, can take to fight back against voter suppression.

1 PROJECT RED MAP: In 2010, Project Red Map was an effort by the Republican State Leadership Committee to take over key state legislatures.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: The most effective counter to efforts like Red Map is for voters not to take their local & state elections for granted. The smaller the election, the more important your vote. So... Participate, Register. Vote. To register go to: www.turbovote.org

2 GERRYMANDERING: After the 2010 mid-terms, many Republican state legislatures used their newly gained power to redistrict their states to secure majorities going forward, a tactic called gerrymandering.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: In the 2018 mid-terms, a number of state-wide, citizen-lead, anti-gerrymandering ballot initiatives passed – proving that everyday voters have the power to make our representative government more democratic.

3 VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS: In the last ten years, a number of mostly Republican legislatures (many the result of Project Red Map) passed a slew of new laws making it harder to vote or register to vote – including restrictive voter ID laws mandating IDs that some people don't have.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: There are things that citizens can do to fight restrictive voter laws, including volunteering for or donating to groups that work to protect voting rights (such as: [ACLU.org](http://aclu.org), [Demos.org](http://demos.org), naacpldf.org and campaignlegal.org), and pushing for ballot initiatives that increase access to the vote, such as Amendment 4 in Florida which gave the franchise back to felons.

4 GUTTING THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT: In 2013, the US Supreme Court ruled that the provision of the Voting Rights Act requiring certain states to seek government approval for changes to voting procedures was unconstitutional, and effectively removed that requirement from the law.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: On the federal level, write and urge your U.S. Representative or Senators to amend the 1965 Voting Rights Act to put the pre-clearance clause back into effect. In fact, there is legislation to do this, but it has never received a vote on the floor. To find your political representatives go to: www.commoncause.org

5 **VOTER FRAUD – LEVERAGE THE BIG LIE:** The myth of voter fraud took off after 2008 and is used as a false flag for passing new voter restriction (aka – voter integrity) laws. Yet, there is no credible evidence of widespread voter fraud being a serious problem for our democracy.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: As someone who cares about democracy, wherever and whenever you can, put this lie on the run by marshalling the real facts. The facts are these: in-person voter fraud, the type of fraud that voter ID laws purport to prevent, is as rare as being struck by lightning.

6 **VOTER ROLL PURGES:** Voter roll purges are a tried, true and sadly, effective technique to rid voting rolls of so-called nuisance voters (aka – voters who don't vote the way certain politicians want them to vote). Purges are designed to remove citizens from the voter rolls who have not voted recently. But purges also disenfranchise actual voters in the process.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: Find out from your local Board of Elections what methods they use to clean up their voter rolls – and if you find those methods wanting, speak with your representatives on the Board of Elections, or contact your state's Secretary of State. To find your secretary of state go to: www.nass.org

7 **VOTER INTIMIDATION:** Like voter purges, voter intimidation is a long standing and brutally effective technique. From the horrifying past of the Jim Crow South, all the way to the tactics of today including billboards warning that improper voting can land you in jail or tweets from the President telling law enforcement to watch the polls "closely" – it's no wonder some citizens assume they are better off not voting.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: Be vigilant, if you see something (like voter intimidation), say something! On election day or during early voting periods, call, the Election Protection Hotline, **866-Our-Vote**, to get help from a team of lawyers committed to voting rights and helping citizens vote. www.866ourvote.org

8 **CHANGE THE COURTS:** One of the most effective and sweeping legacies of the Trump presidency is a wave of Republican-nominated federal judges confirmed since 2017. In the past, federal courts were a bulwark against oppressive voting laws but the evolving makeup of the judiciary could change all that.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO: As a citizen, you can and should do your homework on the men and women nominated for federal and state judgeships. Pushback from citizens has proven successful in stopping some of the more unqualified federal judge nominees from being confirmed – staying aware of court nominations remains critical.

To paraphrase Pogo, "we have met the government and the government is us."

As Americans, as citizens, we need to do our democratic duty: register, vote, stay current on the issues of the day, speak out, participate...care.

After all, nothing less than the future of our democracy is at stake.

For more information on what you can do — go to: www.riggedthefilm.com