

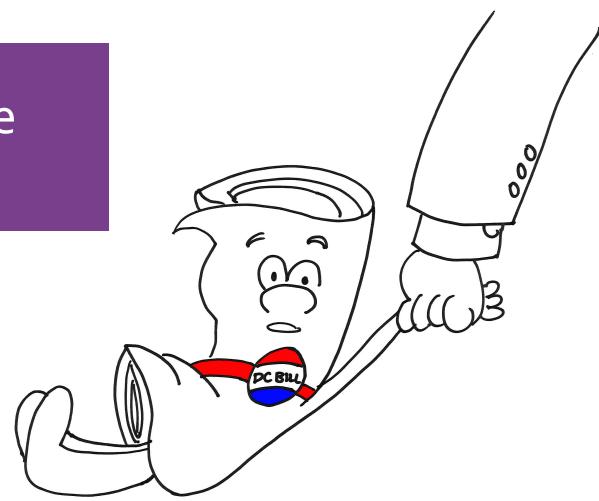


# Voter Suppression

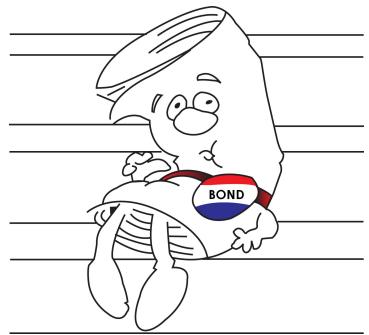
Diversity Minute  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

**Voter suppression** – any effort (legal or not) by way of laws, administrative rules, and/or tactics that prevents eligible voters from registering to vote or voting.

- **Voter ID laws** – “free” IDs have hidden costs, deterred almost 40% of voters in Wisconsin in the 2016 presidential election
- **Purging voter rolls** – programs like Crosscheck and “Use It or Lose It”
- **Limited early voting** – results in long lines and longer wait times at the polls
- **Felony disenfranchisement** – felons lose their right to vote in all but 3 states
- **Sabotaging election infrastructure** – removal of sorting machines and post office boxes, cutting funding to USPS
- **Gerrymandering** – denies legitimate representation in the government
- **Underfund election day resources** – results in longer lines and longer wait times at the polls
- **Voter intimidation** – parties deploy “poll patrols” with the intent of challenging some voters’ right to vote
- **Lack of PPE during COVID-19** – undermines safety and excludes high risk individuals from in-person voting



# Who is affected by voter suppression? – *All of us, our democracy depends on the vote being accessible for all.*



## Disproportionate effects among minorities

People of color      Women      Elderly  
LGBTQ      Low-income and unhoused  
People with disabilities      College students

### According to the ACLU:

- Seventy percent of Georgia voters purged in 2018 were Black.
- Across the country, one in 13 Black Americans cannot vote due to disenfranchisement laws.
- One-third of voters who have a disability report difficulty voting.
- Only 40 percent of polling places fully accommodate people with disabilities.
- Across the country, counties with larger minority populations have fewer polling sites and poll workers per voter.
- Six in ten college students come from out of state in New Hampshire, the state trying to block residents with out of state drivers' licenses.

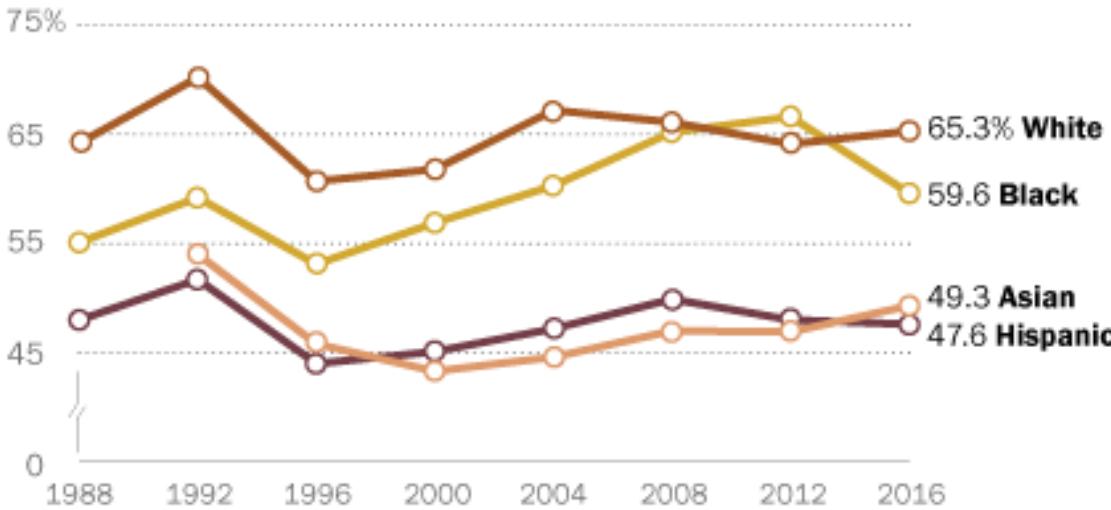
"Block the Vote: Voter Suppression in 2020" [aclu.org](http://aclu.org)

"Voter Suppression Is Warping Democracy" [theatlantic.com](http://theatlantic.com)

"Voting in America: A Look at the 2016 Election" [census.gov](http://census.gov)

## Black voter turnout rate declined sharply in 2016, dropping below that of whites

*% of eligible voters who say they voted*



Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Data for non-Hispanic Asians were not available in 1988.

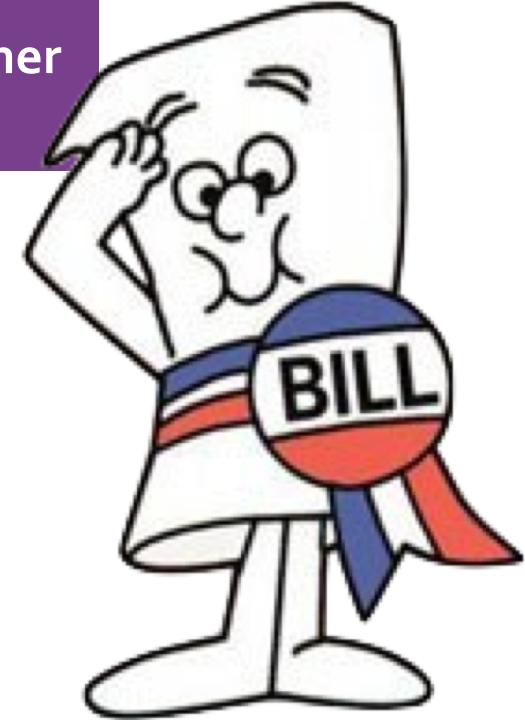
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the Current Population Survey, November Supplements for 1988-2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# What can we do about voter suppression? – Channel our inner RBG and stand up for our civil rights!

## For this election...

- Make a plan to vote safely...and VOTE!
- Know your rights before you get to the polls
- Volunteer at a polling site or to count ballots
- Offer childcare for friends, neighbors and relatives (if they are in your bubble)
- Collect ballots from friends, neighbors and relatives and deliver to a secure ballot drop box or polling place
- Remind people to sign their ballot envelope!



## For future elections...

- Vote for candidates that fight for voting rights
- Pressure elected officials to make Election Day a national holiday and expand early voting opportunities
- Tell your senators to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act (currently stalled in the Senate)
  - ACLU: [action.aclu.org](http://action.aclu.org)
  - Resistbot: [text COMMANDS to 504-09 to get started](http://text COMMANDS to 504-09 to get started)

"Voting Is Not Enough" [bestoftheleft.com](http://bestoftheleft.com)

"Voter Suppression: A Breakdown" [@theslacktivists](http://theslacktivists)

"Improving Voter Turnout" [ncsl.org](http://ncsl.org)

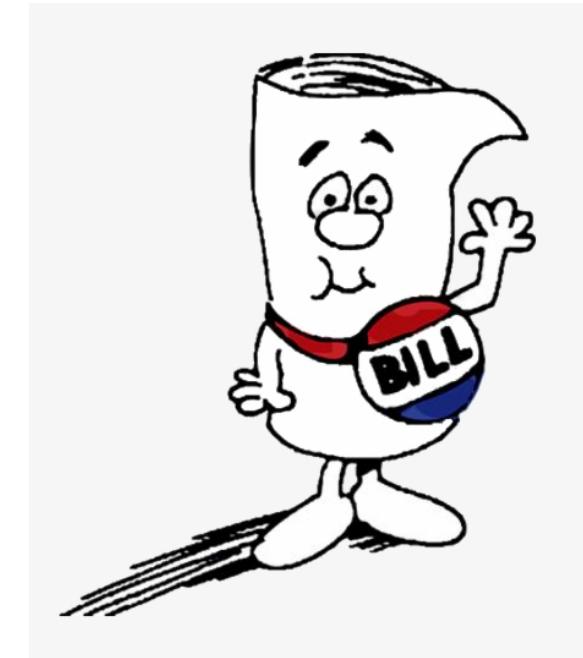
# Make Your Plan



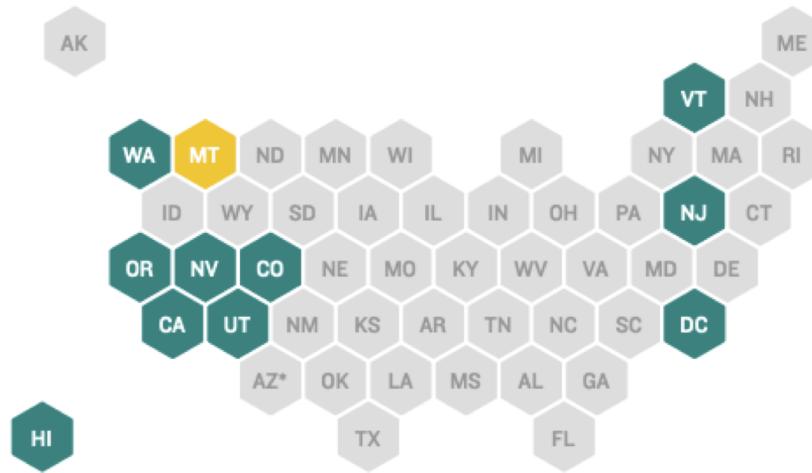
Ballots mailed to all registered voters by October 5<sup>th</sup>!  
In-person voting starting by October 5<sup>th</sup>

- Check if you are registered to vote: [text CHECK to 504-09 \(Resistbot\)](#)
- Check your voter status and address on file: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)
- Request an absentee ballot: [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail](http://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail)
  - Fill out application with current address
  - Return by mail to county elections office
- Return ballot by November 3<sup>rd</sup>: [vote.ca.gov](http://vote.ca.gov)
  - By mail, no stamp required (postmarked)
  - In person at a voting location, deposited by 8pm
  - In person at a secure ballot drop box, deposited by 8pm
- Track your ballot: [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov)

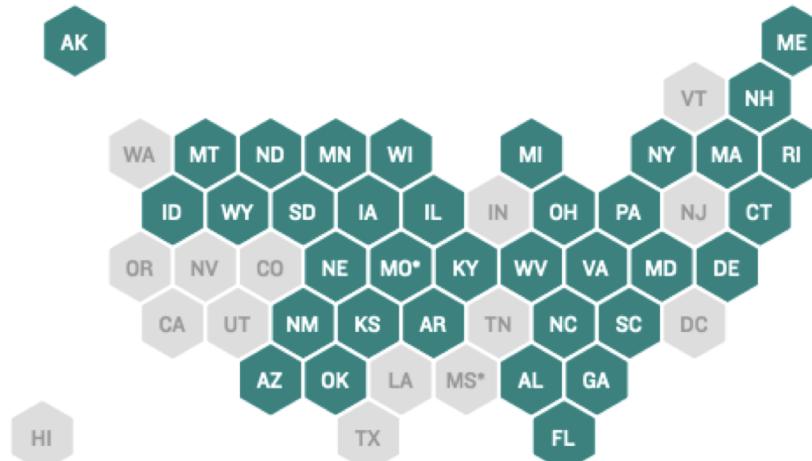
[Vote.ca.gov](http://Vote.ca.gov)



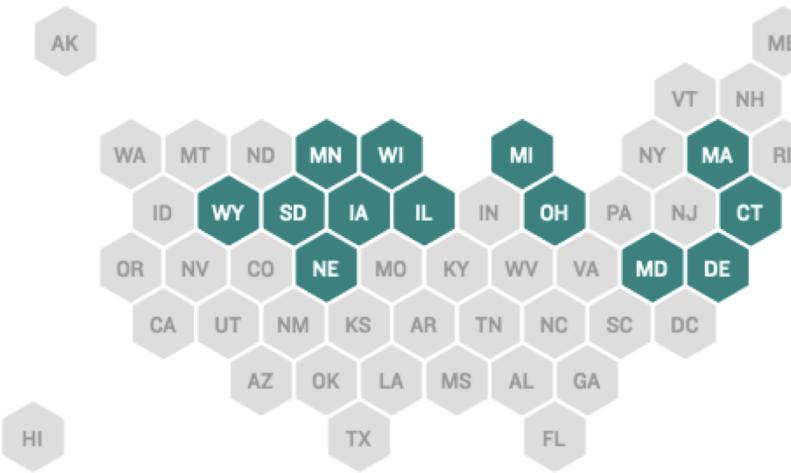
- Mail-in ballots automatically sent to all voters (or individual counties can opt in)



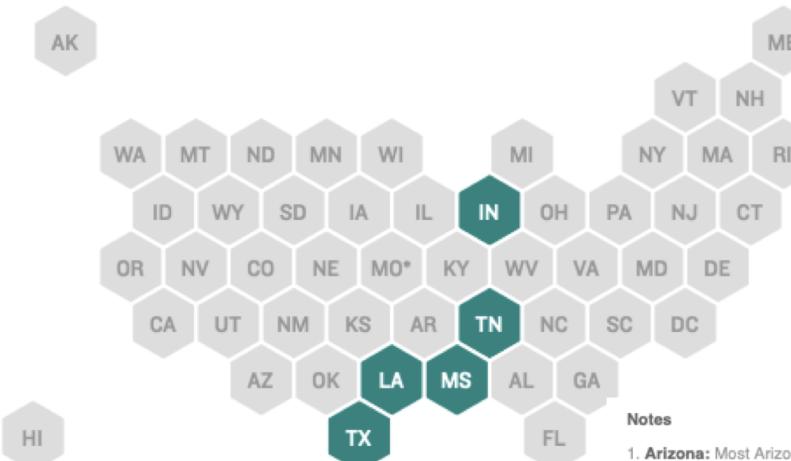
All voters can ● **request a mail-in ballot** (no excuse is required, or COVID-19 fears count as an excuse)



- Mail-in ballot applications automatically sent to all voters



Voters ● **need an excuse** beyond COVID-19 to request a mail-in ballot

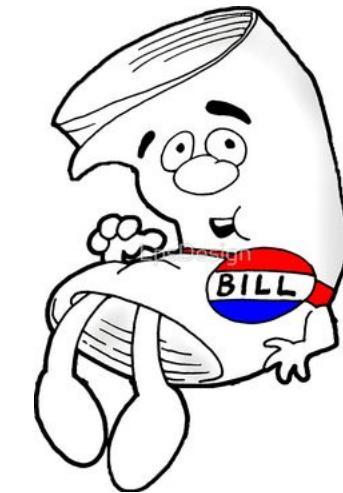


**Notes**

1. **Arizona:** Most Arizonans already vote by mail, as voters there can sign up for its [Permanent Early Voting List](#).
2. **Mississippi:** Voters who have an underlying health condition that puts them at higher risk of COVID-19, are in quarantine for COVID-19, or are caring for a dependent in quarantine may request an absentee ballot.
3. **Missouri:** Missouri [has different rules](#) for mail-in voting and absentee voting. Voters need an excuse to vote absentee.

## Map: Mail-In Voting Rules By State

NPR.org (accessed Sept 22<sup>th</sup>, 2020)



Source: Brookings Institution, Ballotpedia, National Conference of State Legislatures, state websites. Last updated on Sept. 17.

Credit: Alyson Hurt and Benjamin Swasey/NPR