

**May 2014**

# **Election Legislation 2014: Threats and Opportunities**

**by Erin Ferns Lee**

## **Introduction**

**With a federal election less than six months away, the nation is abuzz with the issue of voting rights and proposals to improve voters' experience at the polls. In 2014, Congress continued to consider restoring or repairing voter protections under the Voting Rights Act; a bipartisan Presidentially-commissioned report reinforced the need for beneficial voting policies; and our nation's leaders have finally called out partisans who push restrictive voter laws.**

There is indeed a growing bipartisan effort to make voting more accessible and better suited for 21st century American elections, but old habits die hard. Partisan lawmakers in some states are still passing laws to restrict voting, and a recent court ruling could affect future legislative efforts.

Given the new voting restrictions introduced in the states in 2014 and beyond, voting rights protections are most pressing. Today, the U.S. Congress is considering the Voting Rights Amendment Act to help restore some of the protections that the U.S. Supreme Court took away in 2013. State legislatures are also getting involved in the effort by introducing bills to urge Congress to update the Voting Rights Act. Others proposed to establish their own, state-oriented voting rights protection bills.

The Presidential Commission on Election Administration—assembled last year in response to voting problems in 2012—released its report on voting recommendations in January. The bipartisan commission's top recommendation for improving and modernizing voter registration mirrors a fast-growing trend in election reform: online voter registration. In 2014, at least three state legislatures have enacted online voter registration, and still others have made administrative changes to offer it. Bipartisan support for online voter registration has grown over the years and no doubt contributed to its growing popularity. Several other beneficial voter registration bills—including Same Day Registration—are also pending in the states.

Another issue that appears to be gaining attention, and perhaps some support from both sides of the political aisle, relates to restoring voting rights to people who are disenfranchised due to criminal pasts. Vocal supporters of the issue range from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to U.S. Senator Rand Paul, who have both spoken out against the nation's array of disenfranchisement laws. The Congress and at least 11 states have proposed laws to help address this issue.

The partisan effort to suppress the vote by enacting restrictive voting laws, however, continues. States like Wisconsin, Ohio, and Georgia pushed to cut early voting days, and many more have strict photo ID on the legislative agenda. A recent court ruling on a voter registration policy that has proven to block eligible citizens from registering to vote in Arizona and Kansas may also influence new election restrictions going forward.

Project Vote has monitored election legislation in the 46 state legislatures in session in 2014, as well as in the U.S. Congress. This memo reviews both the threats and opportunities represented by election bills that have been introduced in the state legislatures and Congress in 2014, based on our bill monitoring project, discussions with state-based advocates, recent media coverage, and the partisan makeup of the legislatures and state election directors.

## I. Bills to Restrict Access to Voter Registration

In most states, voting-age citizens cannot participate in democracy unless they actively register to vote and update their registration status whenever they move or change their name or party affiliation. There are several, often interrelated, ways that lawmakers are proposing to make it harder to get on the voter rolls in the first place: requiring citizenship documents, restricting voter registration drives, eliminating same-day registration, and limiting transparency of the voter registration process.

Kansas and Arizona's restrictive voter registration laws already appear to have had an influence on documentary **proof of citizenship** proposals in the states. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal voter registration form must be accepted under the National Voter Registration Act, but a recent ruling in *Kobach v. EAC* may open the floodgates to restrictive voter registration laws. In March, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that the EAC must accommodate the states' requirements to provide documentary proof of citizenship on the federal form, a move that Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach said "has paved the way for all states to enact proof-of-citizenship requirements."<sup>1</sup> The ruling reportedly may spur enforcement of the voter registration provision under Alabama's 2011 immigration law.<sup>2</sup> The ruling is currently stayed pending appeal.

The requirement to provide documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote was also proposed in at least one state this legislative session. Proof-of-citizenship laws don't just affect individual voters, they also have a negative impact on community-based **voter registration drives**. Such drives rely on in-person contact to help sign up voters at universities, churches, and shopping centers; these are places where people don't typically carry citizenship documents—to the extent applicants have such documents in the first place. Two states also proposed bills to regulate or hinder community-based voter registration drives.

In recent years, a voting policy proven to boost voter turnout has been threatened in the state legislatures. For example, Montana's 2013 legislation to let voters decide whether to keep the state's **same day registration** policy will be on the ballot in November (LR 126). The Nebraska legislature passed a bill to add restrictions to a policy that allows citizens to register to vote and cast a ballot at the same time as long as it's before the voter registration deadline. The bill was signed by Gov. Dave Heineman in mid-April.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires **public access to voter registration records** to ensure the accuracy of voter lists. Generally, all information on voter registration applications, except Social Security numbers, is a matter of public record according to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. The information helps applicants and organizations that operate voter registration drives to verify whether an applicant was actually registered. Florida, for example, hosts a state portal that relies on birth date to verify registration status. Florida Senate Bill 1356, however, would have removed birth date from public disclosure, despite lack of documented instances of identity theft from the voter rolls, the purported rationale for the legislation. The redaction of birth dates additionally slows down the voter verification process, costing organizations conducting drives and elections offices time and money to verify if the voter is indeed the correct person and not someone else with the same name. A similar bill was enacted in Utah.

*Table 1: Bills to Restrict Access to Voter Registration*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills Restricting Voter Registration Drives</b>	California	AB 1446	Pending	This bill would require an individual or organization to comply with all regulations established by the Secretary of State when distributing cards when conducting online voter registration drives.
	Vermont	SB 86	Pending	Among several other provisions, this omnibus bill requires any person or organization other than a voter registration agency that accepted completed voter registration forms on behalf of an applicant to submit those forms to the town clerk no later than seven days after the completion date.
<b>Bills to Require Proof of Citizenship to Register</b>	Utah	HB 244	Failed	This bill would require all voters and new voter registrants to present proof of citizenship to vote in state or local elections in 2019 or any subsequent election. The bill exempts people who register to vote with a federal form.
<b>Bills Restricting Same Day Registration</b>	Nebraska	LB 565	Enacted	This bill provides that a ballot cast by a person who registered to vote and voted at an elections office at the same time, before Election Day, will not be counted if the person's registration confirmation is returned as undeliverable within 10 days after the confirmation was mailed.
<b>Bills to Impede Transparency of Voter Registration Process</b>	Florida	HB 481/SB 1356	Failed	This bill adds a voter registration applicant or voter's date of birth to the exemptions from disclosure of information held by an agency under Florida's public records law.
	Utah	SB 36	Enacted	This bill creates restrictions for obtaining voter registration lists. Voter lists may not be obtained for commercial purposes or harassment and they must not be reproduced in any manner. A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the person wrongfully uses the list of registered voters. A county clerk may not disclose the list to anyone other than an authorized government official unless that person provides ID and signs a statement.

## 2. Bills to Purge the Voter Rolls

States must take measures to ensure the accuracy of voter rolls so that only eligible citizens can vote. But, if list maintenance procedures are not implemented carefully, in compliance with federal law, eligible voters may be kicked off the rolls. Lawmakers in 2014 are focused on purging voters who are perceived to be ineligible by proposing legislation to compare voter rolls with other states' rolls or with other state documents. In general, sharing data with states or other government agencies is permissible. It's what they do with the information that can often be a problem.

Voter list maintenance and the importance of the voter protections under the National Voter Registration Act are particularly timely issues in election administration. In April, a federal judge ruled that Florida's 2012 voter purge program was illegal because it was implemented within 90 days of an election, which the NVRA prohibits. "Eligible voters removed days or weeks before Election Day will likely not be able to correct the State's errors in time to vote," Circuit Court Judge Beverly B. Martin wrote in the majority opinion. "This is why the 90 Day Provision strikes a careful balance: It permits systematic removal programs at any time except for the 90 days before an election because that is when the risk of disenfranchising eligible voters is the greatest."

"Election integrity means making sure that legitimate voters aren't wrongfully removed from the rolls," said Michael Slater, executive director of Project Vote, after Martin's ruling. "This decision vindicates the important role the National Voter Registration Act provides in protecting eligible voters from these kinds of last-minute purges."<sup>3</sup>

**Interstate database matching** is an increasingly common method of list maintenance, but one that runs the risk of disenfranchising eligible citizens if not done properly and in compliance with the NVRA. Typically, neighboring states would compare voter rolls to see if a registered voter left one state for another and, therefore, would be ineligible to cast a ballot in the first state. Reliability of a match, however, varies with the number and quality of the data fields matched.

Interstate database matching was proposed in three states. Earlier this year, Virginia lawmakers tried to clarify the commonwealth's 2013 database matching law for the benefit of both the state and voters. House Bill 665/Senate Bill 191 would have prohibited cancellation of voter registration without corroborating evidence. The bill did not gain ground in 2014, but will be carried over to the 2015 legislative session.

Five other states proposed legislation to **purge voters** who are believed to be ineligible to vote due to death, change of residence, or inactivity. The NVRA provides that voters can only be removed based on change of residence if the voter confirms the change with the election official, or if the voter fails to respond to forwardable notice *and* does not vote in two consecutive federal elections.

*Table 2: Bills to Purge the Voter Rolls*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Enact Interstate Database Matching Programs</b>	Alabama	HB 59/SB 422	Failed	This bill would provide for the free dissemination of the computerized statewide voter registration list to the chief election official of other states, upon request.
	Illinois	HB 5783/SB 3567	Pending	This bill authorizes the secretary of state to share information or data with any other state in order to maintain a state-wide centralized registration system.
	New Hampshire	SB 272	Pending	This bill authorizes the secretary of state to provide notice of a voter registration to supervisors of the checklist in another state.
<b>Bills to Amend Purging Procedures for Dead or Inactive Voters</b>	Alabama	HB 358, SB 275	Failed	This bill would allow each county board of registrars to determine if a voter is deceased or no longer a resident. The voter would have 30 days to confirm the status change.
	California	AB 1170	Pending	This bill would require county elections officials to cancel the voter registrations of voters who fail to respond to an address verification mailing sent between the date of the mailing and the two federal elections after the date of the mailing. Address verification mailings are sent in response to change-of-address data received from the United States Postal Service or consumer credit reportage agency.
	Maryland	SB 15	Enacted	This bill requires the state administrator of elections to arrange to receive names and addresses of deceased voters from the Social Security Administration on a quarterly basis. Local boards of elections must remove voters who are listed as deceased upon verifying that they are actually deceased.
	New York	AB 2588, SB 1688	Pending	This bill requires the state board of elections to review the Social Security Administration Death Master File on an annual basis. Local boards of elections would immediately remove the names of all deceased voters from the voter roll. If a person claims that they were erroneously removed, that person may vote by "affidavit ballot."
	Oklahoma	HB 2593	Pending	This bill requires the Dept. of Health to provide the State Election Board with a certified list of deceased residents on a monthly basis. Election officials must use the list to verify and remove dead voters from the voter rolls.

### 3. Bills to Restrict Access to the Ballot

Restrictions on **early voting** and confusion about **voter ID** were issues that affected voters in the 2012 election. The bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration recommended increasing early voting opportunities to help improve voters' experience and reduce congestion on Election Day. Yet lawmakers in a few states were intently focused on *reducing* early voting hours. Strict photo voter ID, a long controversial election issue, also continues to be introduced in the states, and has been deemed the most "pressing" election issue in at least one state.<sup>4</sup>

Lawmakers in Georgia, Ohio, and Wisconsin introduced bills to restrict early voting. All bills advanced despite public backlash from voters and advocates who accused lawmakers of partisan politics.

Lawmakers in Georgia nearly passed a bill that would have allowed municipalities to limit early voting for city elections to just one week instead of three. However, the House failed to vote on Senate amendments, and the bill died at the close of the legislative session. Voting rights advocates and local election officials rallied against the bill because early voting is popular in the state. "Counties and cities didn't support the bill," said Kelli Persons of the League of Women Voters. "They need the availability of early voting to get all their people to the polls."<sup>5</sup>

Ohio successfully implemented an early voting rollback in February. Gov. John Kasich signed SB 238 to effectively end "Golden Week," during which people could register and vote at the same time, and Secretary of State John Husted issued a directive to eliminate early voting hours on Sundays and evenings.<sup>6</sup> Civil rights groups are currently challenging the new restrictions.<sup>7</sup>

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker used his partial veto power on an early voting bill that would have limited early voting hours to 45 hours per week, but kept the provision that prohibited weekend voting. Democrats and other officials criticized Walker and state Republicans for "fixing elections" instead of problems.<sup>8</sup>

Wisconsin Republicans were fixated not only on slashing early voting in 2014, but also on passing voter ID. The state already passed a voter ID law in 2011, but that law is currently blocked by the courts, as voting rights advocates challenge it as unconstitutional. In April, Gov. Scott Walker said he would call a special session exclusively to pass a voter ID bill; however, plans appear to be on hold since a federal judge ruled shortly thereafter that the state's voter ID law violated federal law and had a discriminatory impact.<sup>9</sup>

Missouri also has a long history with voter ID proposals. The state's original voter ID law was struck down as unconstitutional in 2006, and a 2011 bill to put a constitutional amendment before the voters was vetoed by the governor. Another proposed amendment to the state constitution was approved by the Missouri House in 2014, but was reportedly dropped by Republicans in exchange for the passage of their controversial early voting bill.<sup>10</sup>

This year, at least 11 states have introduced bills to pass strict voter ID laws or add further restrictions to existing voter ID requirements.

*Table 3: Bills to Restrict Access to the Ballot*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Omnibus Bill Restricting Access to the Ballot</b>	Colorado	SB 141	Failed	The bill suspends, until January 1, 2016, the provisions of House Bill 13-1303. Until that date, elections laws as previously existed are in full force and effect.
<b>Bills to Require Voter ID</b>	Colorado	HB 1128	Failed	The bill deletes the following from the list of documents used to define "identification" for purpose of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992": a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document.
	Iowa	SF 85	Pending	This bill requires absentee voter applicants to present proof of identification or else be offered the option to vote an provisional ballot.
	Illinois	HB 4353	Pending	This bill would require that a person seeking to vote on Election Day present a government-issued photo identification card to the election judge (currently required only when voting early).
	Illinois	HB 5524	Pending	This bill would require all voters to show government-issued photo ID to vote. The bill directs the secretary of state to issue Voter Identification Cards to registered voters who do not have a form of photo ID.
	Kentucky	SB 10	Failed	This bill appears to require ID to vote. It deletes the requirement that a person's identity may be confirmed by a personal acquaintance or other identifying documents. This bill allows voters who do not show required photo ID to vote by provisional ballot after completing an affidavit later showing proper ID to the county clerk or county board of elections. Certain voters are exempt.
	Maryland	HB 1094	Failed	This bill creates a voter ID requirement in Maryland.
	Missouri	HB 1073/SB 511	Failed	This bill would require all voters to show government-issued photo ID to vote. It would become effective upon voter approval of a constitutional amendment that authorizes the General Assembly to enact photo voter ID requirements.
	Missouri	HJR 47/SJR 31	Failed	This bill submits to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment to article VIII of the Constitution of Missouri to require photo ID to vote.
	Nebraska	LB 381	Failed	This bill requires voters to present government-issued photographic ID before voting, or else vote by provisional ballot. A new voter registrant who has not registered to vote in the state must submit a copy of government-issued photo ID to register to vote; such voters would not be required to show photo ID when voting early. Certain voters may receive ID at no cost.

Table 3: Bills to Restrict Access to the Ballot (continued)

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Require Voter ID</b>	Nebraska	LB 662	Failed	This bill requires voter registrants to show a government document that verifies the name and address on the application. Voters who have been flagged by election officials for changing residence, and who have failed to confirm that they have moved, must show government photo ID when voting at their original polling place.
	New York	AB 3788, AB 3789, SB 100	Pending	This bill requires a valid government issued photo identification card be presented when casting a ballot.
	Oklahoma	SB 1284	Pending	This bill provides that an expired driver license and expired passport cannot be used for identification purposes when voting.
	Washington	HB 1317	Failed	This omnibus bill makes several changes to voting procedures at polling places, including voter ID. This bill would establish a government-issued photo voter ID requirement to vote in person or by mail. Student ID and public assistance ID are accepted for voting purposes.
	Wisconsin	AB 493	Failed	This bill amends the state's unimplemented voter ID law. It allows for the use of veteran's ID for voting purposes. It exempts people who have a religious objection, or people who are indigent and unable to obtain proof of identification without payment of a fee. Such ballots would be treated as challenged ballots and the board of canvassers would have to determine their validity.
<b>Bills to Restrict Early Voting</b>	Georgia	HB 891	Failed	This bill would shorten the early voting in municipal elections. Instead of beginning on the fourth Monday before Election Day, municipal elections would begin on the second Saturday before Election Day.
	Ohio	SB 238	Enacted	This bill shortens the availability of early voting from the 35th day before the election to the first day after the close of voter registration, effectively ending "Golden Week," during which citizens could register to vote and cast an early ballot.
	Wisconsin	AB 54	Failed	This bill would eliminate the opportunity to vote after 5 p.m. or on weekends during the early voting period.
	Wisconsin	SB 324/Act 146	Enacted	This bill restricts early voting to weekdays during business hours. Weekend early voting is by appointment only, except on the weekend before Election Day.

## 4. Bills to Expand Access to Voter Registration

Voter participation starts with voter registration, and, despite political pushback in the states, lawmakers (sometimes from both sides of the aisle) are proposing laws to improve the voter registration system. In 2014, 24 state legislatures and the U.S. Congress introduced a variety of bills to make voter registration more accessible to eligible citizens. The most commonly introduced bills would make voter registration available online or at the polls on Election Day. Increasingly, states are also proposing bills to streamline voter registration at government agencies, typically by submitting electronic voter registration forms when a person interacts with a government agency. A couple of more states considered laws that reflect our increasingly mobile society and help keep state voter registration records up-to-date.

**Online voter registration** is a fast-growing trend that is bolstered by recent studies to improve election administration. A recent Pew Charitable Trust analysis of election administration in all 50 states found that online voter registration is a way states can “make elections more cost effective and efficient.”<sup>11</sup> And since the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration Commission recommended online voter registration as a method of improving voters’ experience in January, 11 states introduced online voter registration bills, and several more included online voter registration in omnibus legislation. To date, online voter registration laws have passed in three states: Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Georgia’s Secretary of State successfully launched an online voter registration system this year, with thousands registering to vote thanks to the new application.<sup>12</sup> A related Georgia bill failed in the legislature. As of this writing, a total of 24 states have either passed or administratively established this increasingly popular reform. Florida’s online voter registration bill, SB 784, started the conversation in the state; bill sponsor Sen. Jeff Clemens, a Democrat, and Republican Senate Ethics and Elections Chairman Jack Latvala agreed that 2015 is a good time to “have some serious conversation, serious debate, and seriously look at this issue.”<sup>13</sup>

Hawaii may be the next state to enact **Same Day Registration (SDR)**, which was proposed in at least 13 states. Supporters of SDR bill HB 2590 stressed the importance of improving voter turnout in the state, which currently ranks at the bottom in the nation. The bill was adopted by the legislature just before the close of the session. “There are all kinds of reasons folks do not vote, but arbitrary, outdated registration deadlines should not be one of them,” said bill sponsor, Rep. Kaniela Ing. “Bold action is underway to educate citizens and increase civic engagement, but this solution promises the most instant impact.” The bill awaits Gov. Neil Abercrombie’s signature.

The Delaware House adopted an SDR bill, HB 105, in early April. Gov. Jack Markell reportedly supports the passage of Same Day Registration, stating that it “involves more people in the political process in a responsible way and we should take that opportunity.”<sup>14</sup> The Senate has yet to act on the bill.

**Electronic voter registration at government agencies** is another way to easily and efficiently register new voters and update voter rolls. Bills are pending in the U.S. Congress and New York State.

In addition to SDR and electronic voter registration addressing the needs of mobile voters, **permanent portable voter registration** allows registered voters who have changed residence within a state to update their registration records at their new polling place and vote a regular ballot. Georgia and Nebraska introduced permanent portable registration bills in the 2014 legislative session, but neither passed.

*Table 4: Bills to Expand Access to Voter Registration*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Omnibus Bills to Expand Access to Voter Registration</b>	Arizona	HB 2246	Failed	This bill creates an advisory commission to study ways to improve various election administration issues—including early voting, poll worker training, and online registration, among others—and suggest legislation to address those issues.
	Florida	SB 1600, SPB 7068	Failed	This omnibus bill would establish online registration. All first-time voters who register to vote online, except senior and military voters, would not be permitted to vote by mail. Absentee ballot requests by online registrants would be required to give a reason meeting the exception. The bill also limits the sites at which supervisors can accept or receive completed absentee ballots.
	Georgia	HR 1865	Failed	This bill would create the House Study Committee on Voter Registration and Voting to study the issues and needs relating to voting and recommend any action or legislation.
	Hawaii	SB 861	Failed	This bill establishes citizens' statutory right to vote. It requires high schools, colleges, and universities in the state to provide voter registration forms to their students. It allows people to request an absentee ballot online.
	Massachusetts	HB 4072	Enacted	This omnibus bill establishes online voter registration, early voting, and preregistration for 16- and 17-year-old citizens, among other provisions.
	New York	SB 5446	Pending	This bill relates to voting rights expansion, voter registration on Election Day, expansion of the use of and requirements for absentee voting, creation of a real-time state-wide voter registration database, etc.
	New York	SB 619	Pending	This bill enacts the "Voter Empowerment Act of New York" to streamline the process for registering to vote.
<b>Bills to Enact Online Registration</b>	Florida	HB 667	Failed	This bill would create an online voter registration system to allow Florida citizens to register to vote or update registration information through a state-operated website.
	Florida	SB 784	Failed	This bill requires the Department of State to develop an online voter registration system for applicants to submit both first-time voter registration applications and updates to existing voter registration records.
	Georgia	HB 942	Failed	This bill would provide for online voter registration; to provide for online updating of voter registration information

*Table 4: Bills to Expand Access to Voter Registration (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Enact Online Registration (continued)</b>	Iowa	HF 2243, SSB 3130	Failed	This bill permits online voter registration from the state commissioner of elections' web site.
	Idaho	HB 488	Failed	This bill requires the secretary of state to maintain an electronic system for voter registration online for any citizen who has a current, valid driver's license or Idaho identification card.
	Minnesota	HF 2096	Enacted	This bill establishes a policy to allow citizens to register to vote online. Registrations are accepted if received in person, by mail, or online on the 21st day preceding any election.
	Missouri	HB 1739	Failed	This bill authorizes an election authority to accept voter registration applications with electronic signatures under certain conditions
	Nebraska	LB 661	Enacted	This bill requires the secretary of state and the Department of Motor Vehicles to develop and implement a registration application process to allow citizens to register to vote or update voter registration records electronically through the secretary's Web site.
	New Jersey	A 571	Pending	This bill establishes an online voter registration system.
	New York	AB 149/SB 1991	Pending	This bill requires the board of elections to accept voter registrations electronically through its Website.
	Rhode Island	H 7601/S 2676	Failed	This bill requires the state board of elections to establish and maintain a system for online voter registration.
	Tennessee	SB 2227	Failed	This bill requires the state election commission to provide online voter registration through the secretary of state's web site.
<b>Bills to Enact Same Day Registration</b>	Alabama	SB 347	Failed	This bill would allow a person to register to vote on any day a board of registrars maintains office hours, including the day of any election.
	Alaska	HB 86	Failed	This bill permits a voter to register up to or on the day of an election.
	Arizona	HB 2065	Failed	This bill would allow qualified citizens to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. Such individuals would be allowed to vote by provisional ballot only.
	Arizona	SB 1423	Failed	This bill allows voters to register to vote up to and on Election Day. Any voter who registers during these times may vote only by provisional ballot. The bill exempts partisan primary elections from these rules.

*Table 4: Bills to Expand Access to Voter Registration (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Enact Same Day Registration (continued)</b>	Delaware	HB 105	Pending	This bill provides for Election Day registration with submission of valid government issued identification or other generally accepted proof of identification.
	Hawaii	HB 2590	Pending	This bill allows for "late registration." An eligible citizen may register to vote before Election Day at any absentee polling place, or on Election Day at the polling place for the county in which the citizen lives.
	Hawaii	HB 321	Pending	This bill provides a process for voter registration on Election Day at polling places.
	Illinois	HB 5377	Pending	This bill allows citizens to register to vote in their precincts on Election Day.
	Mississippi	SB 2010	Failed	This bill would permit eligible citizens to register to vote on Election Day.
	New Jersey	AB 1702	Pending	This bill establishes Same Day Registration. It requires people registering on Election Day to present a photo or non-photo ID.
	New Mexico	SB 72	Failed	This bill allows for Same Day Registration during the early voting period. The registrant may vote by provisional ballot if the early voting site does not have real-time access to the statewide electronic voter file.
	New York	AB 172, AB 2099/SB 609, SB 1549	Pending	This bill provides that qualified people who have never previously registered to vote may register on any day, including Election Day.
	Utah	HB 156	Failed	This bill amends provisions of the Election Code by establishing a pilot project to test the advisability of implementing election day voter registration in Utah.
	Washington	SB 5268	Failed	This bill allows voters to register to vote up to 5:00 p.m. on Election Day or submit online voter registration applications no later than eight days before Election Day.
<b>Bills to Enact Electronic Registration</b>	Florida	HB 179	Failed	This bill authorizes the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to automatically register to vote or update the voter registration record of eligible individuals. An applicant may revoke consent to automatically register to vote or update voter registration record.

*Table 4: Bills to Expand Access to Voter Registration (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Enact Electronic Registration (continued)</b>	Florida	SB 150	Failed	This bill would require the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to automatically register to vote or update voter registration records of eligible individuals. Applicants may decline voter registration options.
	Georgia	SB 315	Failed	This bill requires all state agencies to provide the secretary of state the name, age, address, citizenship data, and signature for each person who is eligible to vote. The secretary would register qualified people to vote and notify them of their registration status, with information on how to cancel such registration.
	Hawaii	HB 2001	Failed	This bill requires counties to automatically register as voters all qualified citizens at the time they are issued a civil identification card or driver's license.
	Hawaii	SB 2380	Failed	Beginning on January 1, 2016, this bill requires an individual to "opt-out" of registering to vote when applying for a driver's license and a civil identification card.
	New York	SB 1990	Pending	This bill requires the board of elections to transfer the voter registration of a voter to wherever they move in the state.
	Wisconsin	AB 869	Failed	This bill makes it the responsibility of the Government Accountability Board to use all feasible means to facilitate the registration of all eligible voters. The bill requires GAB to maintain the confidentiality of any information that GAB obtains under the agreement and allows a driver's license or identification card applicant to opt out of DOT's transfer of this information to GAB.
<b>Bills to Enact Permanent Portable Registration</b>	Georgia	HB 945	Failed	This bill allows a voter who has moved within the state, but has not updated his or her registration status to vote a regular ballot at the voter's new polling place.
	Nebraska	LB 746	Failed	This bill allows registered voters who have moved to another county and have not updated their voter registration record to vote a provisional ballot in their new precinct after providing proof of residence.

## 5. Bills to Reduce Long Lines on Election Day

Since the 2012 election, several studies have examined voters' experiences, wait times, and what works and what does not. Early voting is a leading election reform issue that is credited with helping alleviate long lines on Election Day, and is recommended by the PCEA.

Seven states introduced bills to **enact early voting**, with bills in two states gaining significant traction. The Missouri Legislature approved an early voting constitutional amendment (HJR 90) for inclusion on November's ballot, but the effort is already steeped in partisan politics. State Democrats say it could be confusing as there is another early voting proposal brought before the voters by citizen petition that would go further, allowing for early voting for six weeks, including weekends. The legislature's bill, which will be on the state ballot sometime this year, provides six days of early voting, does not include Sunday voting, and closes early voting the week before Election Day.<sup>15</sup>

Massachusetts enacted omnibus bill HB 4072 to provide an early voting period of 11 days. The bill also permits young citizens aged 16 and 17 to preregister to vote.

Four states introduced bills to **expand existing early voting**, including best practices like extended hours, weekend voting, and voter education.<sup>16</sup>

Federal bills were introduced specifically to establish polling place allocation standards to reduce **long lines on Election Day**.

*Table 5: Bills to Reduce Long Lines on Election Day*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Establish Early Voting</b>	Massachusetts	HB 4072	Enacted	This omnibus bill establishes online voter registration, early voting, and preregistration for 16- and 17-year-old citizens, among other provisions.
	Missouri	HJR 90	Adopted	This bill proposes a constitutional amendment specifying a six-day early voting period.
	Mississippi	HB 333, HB 1167	Failed	This bill establishes early voting for general elections.
	New Jersey	A 2230/S 536	Pending	This bill establishes in-person early voting for general elections. The early voting ballot would be the same ballot as NJ's current mail-in ballot.

*Table 5: Bills to Reduce Long Lines on Election Day (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Establish Early Voting (continued)</b>	New York	AB 689	Pending	This bill provides early voting in the state of New York. Early voting would begin 14 days before a general election and end seven days before Election Day.
	New York	AB 2672	Pending	This bill authorizes early voting at primary and general elections to be conducted at least seven days prior to the election upon application by the voter, and provides that permanent polling places shall be established by the county board of elections for early voting.
	New York	AB 3567/SB 424	Pending	This bill provides to any person early voting for a candidate for public office in a general election to take place no sooner than 20 days and no later than five days prior to Election Day.
	New York	AB 3644	Pending	This bill provides for early voting in primary and general elections during the two-week period prior to the election.
	New York	AB 4526	Pending	This bill provides for early voting at elections.
	New York	AB 5066	Pending	This bill provides for early voting at presidential elections.
	South Carolina	SB 4	Pending	This bill establishes early voting in South Carolina. The early voting period would begin 11 days before the election and would end three days before Election Day, excluding Sundays.
	Virginia	HB 75	Failed	This bill would allow any registered voter to vote absentee in person in any election in which the person is qualified to vote without providing a reason. Current law requires voters to provide a reason.
	Virginia	HB 692	Failed	This bill allows any registered voter to vote absentee in-person without providing an excuse.
	Virginia	HB 800	Failed	This bill allows qualified voters to vote absentee in-person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on Election Day.

*Table 5: Bills to Reduce Long Lines on Election Day (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Establish Early Voting (continued)</b>	Virginia	SB 3	Failed	This bill would allow any registered voter to vote absentee in-person without excuse. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.
	Arizona	HB 2064	Failed	This bill extends early voting hours.
<b>Bills to Expand Early Voting</b>	California	AB 2177	Pending	This bill would require election officials to allow voters to vote at an early voting location on at least one Saturday on or after the election official delivers ballots to absentee voters. Early voting under this bill is defined as casting a mail ballot in person.
	California	SB 637	Pending	This bill would require the secretary of state to provide guidance to local elections officials in promoting and expanding the practice of early voting. The bill would require elections to provide early voting on at least one Saturday on or after the date the official first delivers mail ballots for a statewide election.
	Louisiana	HB 203	Pending	This bill provides early voting on Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
	Utah	SB 135	Failed	This bill provides that a person who registers to vote 15 or more days before Election Day may participate in early voting. A person who registers to vote online seven or more days before Election Day may vote on Election Day.
<b>Bills to Establish Standards or Incentives to Reduce Long Lines</b>	United States	S 85	Pending	The "Louis L. Redding Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Voting Act of 2013" or the "FAST Voting Act of 2013" would provide incentives for states to invest in practices and technology that are designed to expedite voting at the polls and to simplify voter registration.
	United States	S 2017	Pending	The "Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of 2014" would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote.

## 6. Bills to Protect or Establish Voting Rights

In 2013, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling that effectively gutted Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, rendering preclearance of certain jurisdictions' voting changes under Section 5 meaningless. The Court's decision prompted a spate of proposals to restrict voting, including some of the same restrictions that had been blocked by preclearance just months before.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have worked toward **amending and updating the VRA** to address the Supreme Court's critique. At least four states have also introduced bills specifically to urge Congress to pass legislation that would update the Voting Rights Act. Colorado's HJR 1009 passed the legislature in May.

Lawmakers in a few states, including Illinois and Ohio, have also proposed the **establishment of new voting rights protections** within their respective states. Illinois proposed an amendment to the state constitution that would prevent people from being denied the right to vote "based on race, color, ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, sex, sexual orientation, or income." The measure will go to Illinois voters this fall.

"This will send a message loud and clear that it doesn't matter what your surname is, if you have earned the right to vote you will not be impeded," said Republican state Senator Matt Murphy.<sup>17</sup>

A group in Ohio is taking the voting rights theme directly to voters. Signatures are being gathered to put the "Ohio Voters Bill of Rights" on the November ballot to enshrine voting rights in the state constitution.<sup>18</sup> The amendment further includes provisions for facilitating voting, including online voter registration and restoring the states' early voting rules.<sup>19</sup>

*Table 6: Bills to Protect or Establish Voting Rights*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Amend the Voting Rights Act</b>	United States	HR 3899/S 1945	Pending	To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.
	Alaska	SJR 29	Failed	This bill urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to amend and update the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.
	Colorado	HJR 1009	Adopted	This bill urges and requests members of Congress to update the formula in Section 4 of the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965" to ensure Section 5 of the act can be restored.
	Florida	HM 477/SM 464	Failed	This bill urges Congress to revise the preclearance coverage formula set forth in Section 4 of Voting Rights Act of 1965.
	Florida	HM 1283	Failed	This bill urges Congress to propose to states an amendment to U.S. Constitution providing that it is a fundamental right of citizens of age to vote in all elections for public office held in the jurisdiction of residence.
	New Jersey	AR 39, AR 54/ SR 35	Pending	This bill urges the United States Supreme Court to uphold provisions of Section 5 of Voting Rights Act.
<b>Bills to Establish Voting Rights</b>	Florida	HB 1079/SB 1246	Failed	This bill would enact the Florida Voting Rights Act. Among other things, the bill would declare that the policy of the state is to protect electors against discrimination based on gender, race, age, income level, sexual orientation, language, religion, or disability, etc.
	Florida	SB 1132	Failed	The bill would establish an explicit, fundamental right to vote in state statute.
	Illinois	HJRCA 52	Adopted	This bill provides that no person would be denied the right to register to vote or to cast a ballot in an election based on race, color, ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, sex, sexual orientation, or income.

## **7. Bills to Reverse Regressive Election Laws**

Lawmakers have proposed to repeal or reduce the impact of laws that require additional identifying documents to register to vote and cast a ballot. These bills, though regularly introduced since 2012, have not gained much popularity.

Proof-of-citizenship requirements at registration in Arizona and Kansas continue to cause controversy. Lawmakers proposed legislation to repeal existing laws that have proven to block eligible voters from the rolls. None of these bills gained traction.

Lawmakers in a few states with strict voter ID laws on the books considered bills to repeal or reduce the negative impact that these laws have on voters. These bills have not progressed.

*Table 7: Bills to Reverse Regressive Election Laws*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Repeal or Reduce the Impact of Strict Voter ID Laws</b>	Arizona	SB 1426	Failed	This bill abolishes proof-of-citizenship and voter ID requirements.
	Arizona	SB 1433	Failed	This bill allows voters to present a university, college, or community college student ID to satisfy the voter ID requirement.
	New Hampshire	SB 183	Pending	This bill allows voters to use unauthorized photo ID as long as it is determined to be legitimate by the supervisors of the checklist. If challenged, the voter must complete a challenged voter affidavit as if no ID was presented.
	Tennessee	SB 1082	Failed	This bill allows any photo identification issued by a public institution of higher learning to be used as evidence of identification for voting purposes.
	Virginia	HB 83	Failed	This bill would allow people to use revoked licenses for voting purposes.
	Virginia	HB 564	Failed	This bill provides that if a voter's name, as listed in the poll book, matches or is reasonably similar to the name listed on the form of identification presented and the name stated by the voter, the voter must be permitted to vote. The bill does not eliminate the other qualifications for being permitted to vote.
<b>Bills to Repeal or Reduce the Impact of Proof of Citizenship Laws</b>	Arizona	HB 2067	Failed	This bill provides that registrars may not require documentation as a condition to register to vote if it is not required by the National Voter Registration Act, and ensures citizens who submit legitimate federal forms will be registered to vote.
	Arizona	SB 1424, SB 1426	Failed	This bill would abolish Arizona's proof-of-citizenship requirement for persons registering to vote, and explicitly declare that no identification requirement more stringent than those contained in the National Voter Registration Act may be imposed on registrants.
	Kansas	HB 2428	Pending	This bill would expand the proof-of-citizenship requirement to register to vote, allowing people to affirm citizenship in lieu of providing documentary proof.

## 8. Bills to Engage Young Voters

Youth voter engagement in 2014 focuses on engaging young people before they reach voting age, particularly by allowing them to preregister to vote and serve as poll workers.

**Preregistration** policies allow citizens who are not quite of voting age to enroll for automatic voter registration upon reaching voting age. The policy appears to be an attractive option for increasing youth voter engagement to many lawmakers: nine states introduced bills to enact or enhance preregistration laws.

Louisiana's legislature adopted HB 501 to extend preregistration opportunities to 16-year-old citizens. It awaits the governor's signature. Massachusetts' omnibus bill, HB 4072, was enacted to allow 16- and 17-year-old citizens to preregister to vote.

**Poll worker programs** for high school students were considered in at least two states. Utah's bill to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to serve as poll workers (HB 282) was signed into law in March.

**Campus registration**—requiring public high schools or colleges to provide students with the opportunity to register to vote at school—was introduced in four states.

**Table 8: Bills to Engage Young Voters**

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Establish or Expand Preregistration</b>	Arizona	SB 1186	Failed	This bill would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote.
	California	SB 113	Pending	This bill would extend California's preregistration policy to citizens at least 16 years of age. Currently, 17-year-old citizens can pre-register to vote and would be automatically eligible to vote upon turning 18.
	Louisiana	HB 501	Pending	This bill allows citizens who are 16 and 17 years of age to preregister to vote. They may not cast ballots until they reach voting age. Driver's license applications made by 16-year-olds would also serve as a voter registration application, unless the applicant declines.
	Massachusetts	HB 4072	Enacted	This bill relates to early voting and voter registration. Qualified voters may apply for an early voting ballot and will be permitted to vote from the 11th business day before Election Day until the close of business on the business day before the election. This bill permits citizens who are 16 or 17 years of age to preregister to vote. This bill requires the secretary of state to create and maintain an online portal through which a person may verify voter registration status.
	Mississippi	SB 2648	Failed	This bill would provide for voter registration for citizens who are 16 and older.
	Nebraska	LB 127	Failed	This bill would permit citizens who are at least 16 years of age to preregister to vote. A preregistration applicant would receive a "confirmation of registration" when he or she turns 18 to verify the voter's qualifications and residence.
	New York	AB 2042	Pending	This bill allows citizens who are at least 16 years of age to pre-register to vote. The bill would require the local boards of education to adopt policies to promote student voter registration and preregistration.
	Virginia	HB 694	Carryover	This bill would allow citizens who are at least 16 years of age to preregister to vote. The bill specifies that this early registration does not permit such a person to vote in any election occurring prior to his 18th birthday, except for those situations currently set out.
	Washington	HB 1279	Failed	This bill establishes the Young Voter Registration Equality Act. The bill allows eligible citizens who are at least sixteen years of age to preregister to vote.

*Table 8: Bills to Engage Young Voters (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Expand Campus Registration</b>	California	SB 1105	Pending	This bill would require the standardized student financial aid application, if the application is submitted online, to permit the applicant to apply to register to vote online by submitting an affidavit of registration electronically on the secretary of state's website.
	Hawaii	HB 1797	Failed	This bill requires the Department of Education to provide seniors at each public high school with voter registration information prior to graduation. The bill requires the Department of Human Services to provide young adults in the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program with information on voter registration. The bill authorizes the Department of Education and Department of Human Services to assist with voter registration.
	Hawaii	HCR 43, SCR 41	Failed	This House Concurrent Resolution would request the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Human Services to assist with increasing voter registration among young citizens. Voter registration information would be provided for seniors at every public high school; young adults who are in foster care; and any young adult who requests such information.
	Hawaii	SB 2203	Failed	This bill requires the department of education to provide seniors at every public school with voter registration information prior to graduation.
	New York	AB 6852	Pending	This bill provides for high school students to receive applications to enroll and vote by mail in their schools and for the transmission of applications by the school.
	Oregon	SB 1581	Failed	This bill directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information.
<b>Bills to Implement Student Poll Worker Programs</b>	California	AB 1817	Pending	This bill would permit the governing board of a school district to authorize high school students who are at least 16 years of age to become deputy registrars of voters to help register students on his or her high school campus.
	Utah	HB 282	Enacted	This bill allows an individual who is 16 or 17 years of age to serve as a poll worker in an election, and prohibits a candidate's family member from serving as a poll worker.

## 9. Bills to Restore Voting Rights to Former Felons

A wide range of rules across the nation determines whether a person may vote in their state after a criminal conviction. Today, voting rights for the millions of people living with a criminal record is part of a national discussion, especially since Attorney General Eric Holder has chimed in. “It is time to fundamentally reconsider laws that permanently disenfranchise people who are no longer under federal or state supervision,” Holder said.<sup>20</sup>

In April, Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) introduced the Democracy Restoration Act to restore voting rights in federal elections to people who have been released from prison and are living in our communities, creating a minimum federal standard for voting rights restoration.<sup>21</sup>

In the states, lawmakers introduced bills to facilitate the voting rights of people convicted of felonies (and occasionally lesser crimes), particularly those who have already served their sentences. These bills ranged from restoring voting rights upon release, to assisting with voter registration, to providing notification of voting rights restoration. The latter is a surprisingly significant issue as prisoners who are released from incarceration and unaware of their state’s rules may unwittingly, illegally register to vote. Such occurrences are often conflated with voter fraud allegations.<sup>22</sup>

For example, Kelli Jo Griffin, a former felon in Iowa, was acquitted in March for voting in a municipal election last fall while on probation.<sup>23</sup> She said she believed she could vote and was unaware that the restoration rules had changed since her release. The Associated Press reported Ms. Griffin’s “case highlights Iowa’s unusually harsh and confusing policies on voting rights for former offenders, which have changed three times over the last decade.”<sup>24</sup>

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in February called on Iowa, Kentucky, Wyoming, and several other states to repeal stringent disenfranchisement laws that prohibit offenders from voting after their release from prison, calling the policies “unjust” and “counterproductive.” In 2014, a Kentucky bill to restore voting rights of former felons unexpectedly gained significant traction in both houses of the state legislature, as well as support from U.S. Sen. Rand Paul.<sup>25</sup> Although Republican lawmakers amended the bill (HB 70) to include a five-year waiting period, they still could not reach a “compromise” to pass the bill.<sup>26</sup> Wyoming lawmakers recently announced plans to study the Wyoming Parole Board’s role in restoring voting rights. Republican Rep. Dan Zwonitzer—whose voting rights restoration bill in 2013 passed the House and failed by one vote in the Senate—said he hopes the “result of the interim study will be a bill that automatically restores voting rights to felons.”<sup>27</sup>

Although several voting rights restoration bills failed in Virginia in 2014, Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced in April that he would restore voting rights of people who served time for drug offenses, and reduce the waiting period to restore voting rights for people who served time for violent offenses. Virginia is home of one of the strictest voting laws in the nation, barring each felony offender from voting unless his or her rights are restored by the governor. McAuliffe took executive action to make this restoration more available, which is subject to change by future governors.<sup>28</sup>

*Table 9: Bills to Restore Voting Rights to Former Felons*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Restore Voting Rights for People Convicted of Felonies</b>	United States	HR 4459/S 2235	Pending	The Democracy Restoration Act would restore voting rights in federal elections to people who have been released from incarceration.
	Florida	HJR 1339/SJR 1612	Failed	The bill would amend the Florida constitution to restore eligibility to vote and to run for office to people convicted of most felonies upon completion of sentence.
	Georgia	SR 59	Failed	This resolution would urge the State of Board of Pardons and Paroles to issue a Certificate of Restoration of Voting Rights upon the completion of a criminal sentence.
	Iowa	SF 2203	Failed	This bill requires that citizenship rights related to voting and qualification for public office must be restored for any individual who has been discharged from criminal sentence, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, or supervised release.
	Kentucky	HB 70	Failed	This bill amends the state constitution to allow people convicted of a felony the right to vote five years after completion of sentence, including probation or parole. The initiative will go to the voters for ratification or rejection.
	Louisiana	HB 283	Pending	This bill allows a person who is on probation or parole to register and to vote.
	Louisiana	HB 970	Pending	This bill relates to voting by people who are incarcerated.
	Minnesota	HF 2875	Pending	This bill clarifies that a citizen retains their civil right to vote except while incarcerated.
	Minnesota	SF 107/HF 2984	Pending	This bill allows for the restoration of civil rights of a person convicted of a felony as soon as he or she is released from incarceration. If a person is convicted of a felony but is not incarcerated for the felony conviction, the individual's rights are not removed.
	Virginia	HB 7, HB 556	Failed	This bill would establish automatic restoration of rights for persons with prior felony convictions, other than violent felonies, certain drug felonies, and certain election fraud convictions.
	Virginia	HJ 21, HJ 25, HJ 48, HJ 70, HJ 78, HJ 97, HJ 107	Failed	These bills authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for people convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences, including any period or condition of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

*Table 9: Bills to Restore Voting Rights to Former Felons (continued)*

Type	Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
<b>Bills to Restore Voting Rights for People Convicted of Felonies (continued)</b>	Wisconsin	AB 886	Failed	This bill would establish that a person loses his or her right to vote, based on a disqualifying offense, only while he or she is incarcerated for that offense.
	Wyoming	HB 126	Failed	This bill would provide for the restoration of voting rights for people convicted of felonies.
<b>Bills to Assist with Voter Registration for People Convicted of Felonies</b>	United States	HR 3688	Pending	The "Ex-Offender Voter Registration Act of 2013" would amend title 18, United States Code, to direct the Bureau of Prisons to provide voter registration cards to federal prisoners upon their release from prison.
	New Jersey	A 426	Pending	This bill requires chief parole officers and the State Parole Board to provide voter registration forms, declination forms, registration assistance, and acceptance of completed registration forms to parolees who appear at their offices.
	New Jersey	A 2982	Pending	This bill allows citizens on parole and probation to vote, and provides voter registration assistance to people on probation or parole.
	New York	AB 2301	Pending	This bill directs the Department of Corrections to provide voter registration applications to citizens upon discharge from a correctional facility.
	New York	SB 2633	Pending	This bill facilitates absentee voting in local correctional facilities and designates the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and the Division of Parole as assisting agencies for voter registration purposes.
<b>Bills to Provide Notice of Voting Rights to People Convicted of Felonies</b>	Louisiana	HB 737	Pending	This bill requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Dept. of State to coordinate in identifying voting eligible citizens who had completed an order of imprisonment. Such citizens would be sent a notice of the requirements and procedures for reinstating voter registration.
	New Jersey	S 1428	Pending	This bill requires each correctional facility to provide each inmate with a voter information packet upon the inmate's release. The bill also requires each correctional facility employee and inmate sign a copy of the form.
	New York	SB 5526	Pending	This bill would require that voting rights information be provided to people convicted of felonies at the time of sentencing and discharge. The Division of Parole must provide the State Board of Elections with a list of voting-eligible felons who had recently been released.

## Conclusion

“The stark and simple truth is this: the right to vote is threatened today, in a way that it has not been since the Voting Rights Act became law nearly five decades ago,” said President Obama at the annual convention of the National Action Network conference in April. “We’re not going to let voter suppression go unchallenged,” he said.

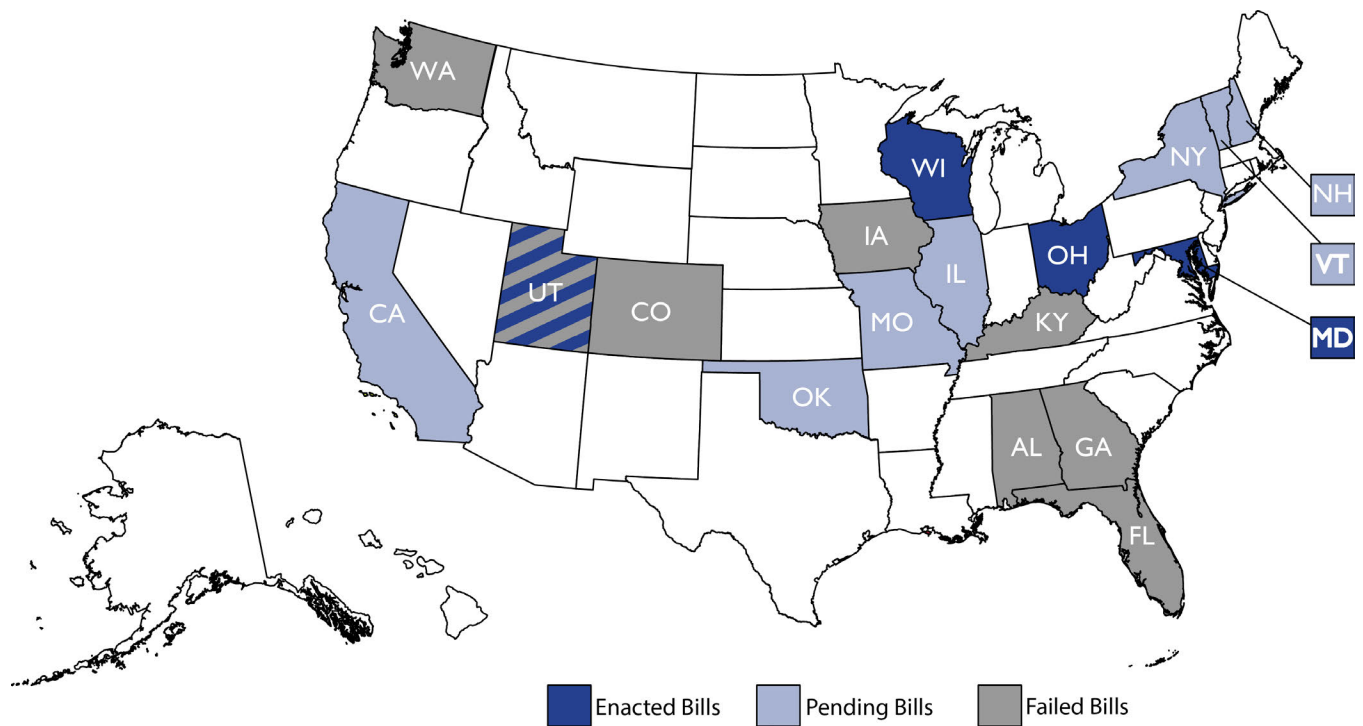
The President’s condemnation of anti-voting measures like voter ID and early voting rollbacks as partisan politics is part of a conversation that has been underway since 2008, when the American electorate experienced a growth spurt with new, historically underrepresented voters.

As the need for voting rights protections is more dire now than ever, perhaps the modest-but-growing bipartisan support for improving voting access will translate to free and fair elections for all voters, not just a select few.

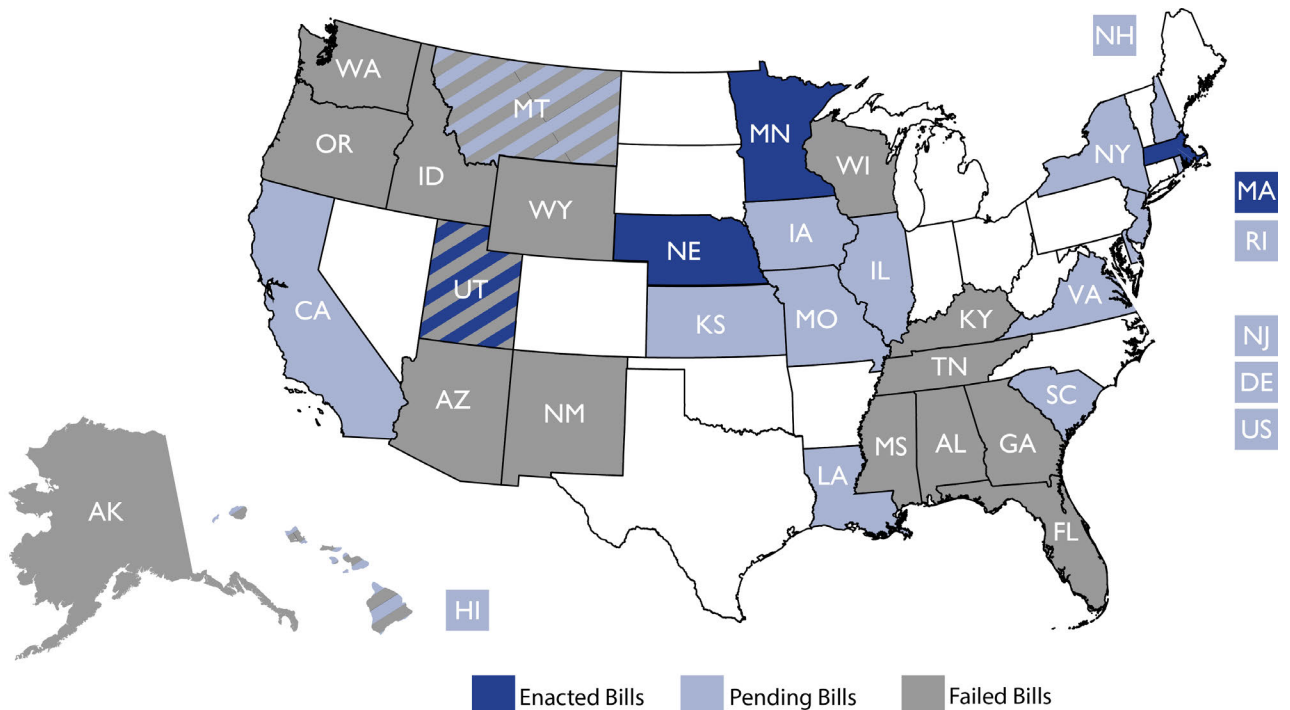
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# Appendix I: Maps of Election Legislation by State, 2014

## Restrictive Election Legislation, 2014



## Beneficial Election Legislation, 2014



*Table 10: Restrictive Election Legislation by State, 2014*

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
<b>Alabama</b>	HB 59/SB 422	Interstate Database Matching	Failed	6
	HB 358, SB 275	Voter Purging	Failed	6
<b>California</b>	AB 1446	Restricting Voter Registration Drives	Pending	4
	AB 1170	Voter Purging	Pending	6
<b>Colorado</b>	SB 141	Omnibus	Failed	8
	HB 1128	Voter ID	Failed	8
<b>Florida</b>	HB 481/SB 1356	Impeding Transparency of Voter Registration	Failed	4
<b>Georgia</b>	HB 891	Restricting Early Voting	Pending	9
<b>Illinois</b>	HB 5783/SB 3567	Interstate Database Matching	Pending	6
	HB 4353	Voter ID	Pending	8
	HB 5524	Voter ID	Pending	8
<b>Iowa</b>	SF 85	Voter ID	Failed	8
<b>Kentucky</b>	SB 10	Voter ID	Failed	8
<b>Maryland</b>	SB 15	Voter Purging	Enacted	6
	HB 1094	Voter ID	Failed	8
<b>Missouri</b>	HJR 47/SJR 31	Voter ID	Failed	8
	HB 1073/SB 511	Voter ID	Failed	8
<b>Nebraska</b>	LB 565	Restricting Same Day Registration	Enacted	4
	LB 381	Voter ID	Failed	8
	LB 662	Voter ID	Failed	9
<b>New Hampshire</b>	SB 272	Interstate Database Matching	Pending	6
<b>New York</b>	AB 2588, SB 1688	Voter Purging	Pending	6
	AB 3788, AB 3789, SB 100	Voter ID	Pending	9
<b>Oklahoma</b>	HB 2593	Voter Purging	Pending	6
	SB 1284	Voter ID	Pending	9
<b>Ohio</b>	SB 238	Restricting Early Voting	Enacted	9
<b>Utah</b>	HB 244	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
	SB 36	Impeding Transparency of Voter Registration	Enacted	4
<b>Vermont</b>	SB 86	Restricting Voter Registration Drives	Pending	4
<b>Washington</b>	HB 1317	Voter ID	Failed	9
<b>Wisconsin</b>	AB 493	Voter ID	Failed	9
	AB 54	Restricting Early Voting	Failed	9
	SB 324/Act 146	Restricting Early Voting	Enacted	9

*Table 11: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2014*

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
<b>Alabama</b>	SB 347	Same Day Registration	Failed	12
<b>Alaska</b>	SJR 29	Voting Rights Act Amendment	Pending	19
	HB 86	Same Day Registration	Failed	12
<b>Arizona</b>	HB 2065	Same Day Registration	Failed	12
	HB 2246	Omnibus	Failed	11
	SB 1423	Same Day Registration	Failed	12
	HB 2064	Expand Early Voting	Failed	17
	SB 1426	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Voter ID	Failed	21
	SB 1433	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Voter ID	Failed	21
	HB 2067	Establish Voting Rights	Failed	21
	SB 1424, SB 1426	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Proof of Citizenship Laws	Failed	21
	SB 1186	Preregistration	Failed	23
	SB 113	Preregistration	Pending	23
<b>California</b>	AB 2177	Expand Early Voting	Pending	17
	SB 1061	Electronic Voter Registration	Pending	13
	SB 637	Expand Early Voting	Pending	17
	SB 1105	Campus Registration	Pending	24
	AB 1817	Poll Worker Programs	Pending	24
<b>Colorado</b>	HJR 1009	Voting Rights Act Amendment	Adopted	19
<b>Delaware</b>	HB 105	Same Day Registration	Pending	13
<b>Florida</b>	SB 1600, SPB 7068	Omnibus	Failed	11
	HB 1079/SB 1246	Establish Voting Rights	Failed	19
	SB 150	Electronic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	HB 667	Online Voter Registration	Failed	11
	SB 784	Online Voter Registration	Failed	11
	SB 1132	Establish Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HM 477/SM 464	Voting Rights Act Amendment	Failed	19
	HM 1283	Voting Rights Act Amendment	Failed	19
	HB 179	Electronic Voter Registration	Failed	13
	HJR 1339/SJR 1612	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26

# Appendix III: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2014

*Table 11: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2014 (continued)*

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
<b>Georgia</b>	HR 1865	Omnibus	Failed	11
	SB 315	Electronic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	HB 945	Permanent Portable Voter Registration	Failed	14
	HB 942	Online Voter Registration	Failed	11
	SR 59	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26
<b>Hawaii</b>	SB 861	Omnibus	Failed	11
	HB 321	Same Day Registration	Failed	13
	HB 2001	Electronic Voter Registration	Pending	14
	HB 2590	Same Day Registration	Failed	13
	SB 2380	Electronic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	HB 1797	Campus Registration	Failed	24
	HCR 43, SCR 41	Campus Registration	Failed	24
	SB 2203	Campus Registration	Failed	24
<b>Idaho</b>	HB 488	Online Voter Registration	Failed	12
<b>Illinois</b>	HB 5377	Same Day Registration	Pending	13
	HJRCA 52	Establish Voting Rights	Pending	19
<b>Iowa</b>	HF 2243, SSB 3130	Online Voter Registration	Adopted	12
	SF 2203	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26
<b>Kansas</b>	HB 2428	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Proof of Citizenship Laws	Failed	21
<b>Kentucky</b>	HB 70	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26
<b>Louisiana</b>	HB 283	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26
	HB 203	Expand Early Voting	Pending	17
	HB 501	Preregistration	Pending	23
	HB 970	Restoration of Voting Rights	Pending	26
	HB 737	Notice of Voting Rights	Pending	27
<b>Massachusetts</b>	HB 4072	Omnibus	Enacted	11, 15, 23
<b>Minnesota</b>	SF 107/HF 2984	Restoration of Voting Rights	Pending	26
	HF 2096	Online Voter Registration	Pending	12
	HF 2875	Restoration of Voting Rights	Adopted	26
<b>Mississippi</b>	SB 2010	Same Day Registration	Failed	13
	SB 2648	Preregistration	Failed	23
	HB 333/HB 1167	Establish Early Voting	Failed	15

*Table 11: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2014 (continued)*

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
<b>Missouri</b>	HB 1739	Online Voter Registration	Pending	12
	HJR 90	Establish Early Voting	Pending	15
<b>Nebraska</b>	LB 661	Online Voter Registration	Enacted	12
	LB 746	Permanent Portable Voter Registration	Failed	14
	LB 127	Preregistration	Failed	23
<b>New Hampshire</b>	SB 183	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Voter ID Laws	Pending	21
<b>New Jersey</b>	AB 1702	Same Day Registration	Pending	13
	S 1428	Notice of Voting Rights	Pending	27
	A 571	Online Voter Registration	Pending	12
	AB 2230/SB 536	Establish Early Voting	Pending	15
	AR 39, AR 54/SR 35	Voting Rights Act Amendment	Pending	19
	A 426	Voter Registration for Former Felons	Pending	27
	A 2982	Voter Registration for Former Felons	Pending	27
<b>New Mexico</b>	SB 72	Same Day Registration	Failed	13
<b>New York</b>	SB 5446	Omnibus	Pending	11
	SB 619	Omnibus	Pending	11
	AB 149/SB 1991	Online Voter Registration	Pending	12
	SB 1990	Electronic Voter Registration	Pending	14
	AB 4526	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
	AB 5066	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
	SB 2633	Voter Registration for Former Felons	Pending	27
	AB 172, AB 2099/SB 609, SB 1549	Same Day Registration	Pending	13
	AB 689	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
	AB 2672	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
	AB 3567/SB 424	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
	AB 3644	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
	AB 2042	Preregistration	Pending	23
	AB 6852	Campus Registration	Pending	24
	AB 2301	Voter Registration for Former Felons	Pending	27
	SB 5526	Notice of Voting Rights	Pending	27

*Table 11: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2014 (continued)*

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
<b>Oregon</b>	SB 1581	Campus Registration	Failed	24
<b>Rhode Island</b>	H 7601/S 2676	Online Voter Registration	Failed	12
<b>South Carolina</b>	SB 4	Establish Early Voting	Pending	16
<b>Tennessee</b>	SB 2227	Online Voter Registration	Failed	12
	SB 1082	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Voter ID Laws	Failed	21
<b>Utah</b>	HB 156	Same Day Registration	Enacted	13
	SB 135	Expand Early Voting	Enacted	17
	HB 282	Poll Worker Programs	Enacted	24
<b>Virginia</b>	HB 75	Establish Early Voting	Failed	16
	HB 800	Establish Early Voting	Failed	16
	HB 83	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Voter ID Laws	Failed	21
	HB 7, HB 556	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26
	HB 692	Establish Early Voting	Failed	16
	SB 3	Establish Early Voting	Failed	17
	HB 564	Repealing or Reducing Impact of Voter ID Laws	Failed	21
	HB 694	Preregistration	Carried Over	23
	HJ 21, HJ 25, HJ 48, HJ 70, HJ 78, HJ 97, HJ 107	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	26
<b>Washington</b>	HB 1279	Preregistration	Failed	23
	SB 5268	Same Day Registration	Failed	13
<b>Wisconsin</b>	AB 869	Electronic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	AB 886	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	27
<b>Wyoming</b>	HB 126	Restoration of Voting Rights	Failed	27
<b>United States</b>	HR 3899/S 1945	Voting Rights Act Amendment	Pending	19
	HR 4459/S 2235	Restoration of Voting Rights	Pending	26
	HR 3688	Voter Registration for Former Felons	Pending	27
	S 85	Establish Standards or Incentives to Reduce Long Lines	Pending	17
	S 2017	Establish Standards or Incentives to Reduce Long Lines	Pending	17



## Republican Secretaries of State and Election Chiefs

**Alabama:** Jim Bennett  
**Alaska:** Mead Treadwell, Lt. Governor  
**Arizona:** Ken Bennett  
**Arkansas:** Mark Martin  
**Colorado:** Scott Gessler  
**Florida:** Ken Detzner  
**Georgia:** Brian Kemp  
**Idaho:** Ben Ysursa  
**Indiana:** Connie Lawson  
**Iowa:** Matt Schultz  
**Kansas:** Kris Kobach  
**Louisiana:** Tom Schedler  
**Michigan:** Ruth Johnson  
**Mississippi:** Delbert Hosemann  
**Nebraska:** John Gale  
**New Jersey:** Kim Guadagno  
**New Mexico:** Dianna Duran  
**North Dakota:** Alvin “Al” Jaeger  
**Ohio:** Jon Husted  
**Pennsylvania:** Carol Aichele  
**South Carolina:** Mark Hammond  
**South Dakota:** Jason Gant  
**Tennessee:** Tre Hargett  
**Texas:** Nandita Berry  
**Utah:** Greg Bell, Lt. Governor  
**Virginia:** Janet Vestal Kelly  
**Washington:** Kim Wyman  
**Wyoming:** Max Maxfield

## Democratic Secretaries of State and Election Chiefs

**California:** Debra Bowen  
**Connecticut:** Denise Merrill  
**Kentucky:** Alison Lundergan Grimes  
**Maine:** Matthew Dunlap  
**Massachusetts:** William Galvin  
**Minnesota:** Mark Ritchie  
**Missouri:** Jason Kander  
**Montana:** Linda McCulloch  
**Nevada:** Ross Miller  
**New Hampshire:** William Gardner  
**Oregon:** Kate Brown  
**Rhode Island:** A. Ralph Mollis  
**Vermont:** James Condos  
**West Virginia:** Natalie Tennant  
**Wisconsin:** Douglas La Follette

## Miscellaneous

**Delaware:** Elaine Manlove, Commissioner of Elections, Department of Elections  
**Hawaii:** Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer, Office of Elections  
**Illinois:** Jesse R. Smart, Chairman, State Board of Elections  
**Maryland:** Bobbie Mack, Chairman, State Board of Elections  
**New York:** Todd Valentine and Robert Brehm, Co-Directors, State Board of Elections  
**North Carolina:** Kim Westbrook Strach, Executive Director, State Board of Elections  
**Oklahoma:** Paul Ziriaux, Secretary of the State Election Board



850 15th Street NW  
Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.projectvote.org](http://www.projectvote.org)

## About Project Vote

Project Vote is a national nonpartisan, non-profit organization that promotes voting in historically underrepresented communities. Project Vote takes a leadership role in nationwide voting rights and election administration issues, working through research, litigation, and advocacy to ensure that our constituencies can register, vote, and cast ballots that count.

## About the Author

Erin Ferns Lee is Project Vote's Communications Manager. She leads Project Vote's Election Legislation project, a bill-tracking service that covers a range of voting rights issues on federal and state levels. Ms. Lee manages Project Vote's online communications, including serving as lead writer on the Voting Matters Blog. She is a graduate of San Diego State University's School of Journalism and Media Studies.

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