

LEGISLATIVE THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES: FALL 2015

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Introduction

In the year before a major election—and two years past a monumental setback in federal voting rights law—some lawmakers have continued to introduce restrictive voting bills in 2015, while many more are looking for ways to improve voter access.

Excitingly, the fight for voting rights expanded well beyond the legislatures in 2015. As this year marked the 50th anniversary of important civil rights events and advancements like the passage of the Voting Rights Act, people rallied all over the country for legislative action, demanding that elected leaders protect voters in the 2016 elections and beyond.

Advocates gathered in places like Selma, Ala., where they commemorated Bloody Sunday. They gathered in Roanoke, Va., to urge House Judiciary Committee chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte to protect voters and restore the VRA. They rallied in Winston-Salem, N.C., to demand laws that strengthen our democracy, not weaken it. And, over the summer, the NAACP led America's Journey for Justice, a 1,000-mile march from Selma to Washington, D.C. to protect equally the rights of all Americans, including voting rights. (It's not surprising that the modern day demonstrations frequently took place in the South, where discrimination, voting violations, and voter access issues historically and continually challenge voters.)¹ All of these events point to the nation's desire to maintain our federal voting protections, and to ensure that states pass laws that foster participation from *all* citizens in our democracy, not just the chosen few.

Here is a rundown of election reform proposals in 2015 so far:

- Online voter registration gained the most ground with new laws passing in three states, plus administrative rules being adopted in two more states.
- Automatic voter registration passed in Oregon, inspiring a flurry of legislation in its wake. In October, California became the second state to adopt AVR.
- Voter ID is still the most popular and contentious voting policy to be introduced, with little subsequent action in the legislatures. Lawmakers in eight states, including North Carolina, have proposed laws to reverse or reduce the negative impact of existing voter ID laws.
- Voter purging is an area that has the potential to become problematic, de-

pending on its implementation. Eight states have proposed interstate data-matching bills in 2015.

- Anti-immigration rhetoric continues to inspire restrictive legislation in 10 states; all relate to proving citizenship before being added to the voter rolls.
- Early voting is practiced in most states and loved by voters, but new proposals still face hurdles in the legislatures. In 2015, six states proposed to pass early voting while three others proposed to cut it.
- Same day registration was proposed in a dozen states, while two states introduced repeals to existing laws.
- Preregistration of 16- and 17-year-olds was proposed in 14 states and passed in Utah.
- Voting rights restoration for ex-felons came up in a dozen states and passed in Maryland and Wyoming. Maryland Gov. Hogan, however, vetoed the legislation that would re-enfranchise released felons, stating that current law already “achieves the proper balance.”
- Advocates, citizens, and the President have all called on Congress to restore the VRA. The Voting Rights Advancement Act is pending in Congress, and states like California have proposed measures to take voting rights protections in their own hands.

Since 2007, Project Vote has provided the public with the tools to monitor the passage of voting rights laws in all 50 states and the U.S. Congress. As part of Project Vote’s Election Administration program, our Election Legislation project keeps close watch on the legislative threats and opportunities to voting rights in American elections in all 50 state legislatures in session in 2015, as well as the U.S. Congress.

This report reviews both the threats and opportunities represented by election bills that have been introduced in state legislatures and Congress in 2015, 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.

THREATS TO VOTING RIGHTS

Early Voting Restrictions

Although American voters in most states have the opportunity to vote early, and the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration recommended it in 2014, giving voters the chance to vote before Election Day is still a political game.

In 2015, four states considered bills to reduce or limit early voting days. In Georgia, state Republicans continue attempts to slash early voting days, this time from 21 days to 12. Advocates fought the proposed change, emphasizing that the state has issues with long lines as it is. The bills failed to pass.²

Table 1: Bills to Restrict Early Voting

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Arkansas	SB 349	Failed	This bill reduces the early voting period and removes Sunday voting. Currently, Arkansas provides early voting 15 days before an election, ending the Monday before Election Day. Under this bill, early voting would be implemented between Monday and Saturday before Election Day.
Georgia	HB 194	Failed	The bill was revised to change the advance voting period to start on the third Monday immediately prior to each election from the fourth Monday immediately prior to the election. The bill also revises specific hours on the Saturday and Sunday of the early voting period. An earlier version of the bill would have reduced the early voting period to 12 days, including specific hours on the Saturday and Sunday of the early voting period.
Maryland	HB 141	Failed	This bill removes the second Sunday prior to Election Day from the early voting period for the 2016 presidential primary election.
	HB 218	Failed	This bill would contract the early voting period in Maryland from eight days to four days. The bill would provide that early voting centers shall be open from the Thursday before a primary or general election through the Sunday before the election.
Texas	HB 3379	Failed	This bill would shorten the early voting period by one week.

Proof of Citizenship

The rise in fanatical, xenophobic commentary from political figures in 2015 coincides with the unfortunate and unsurprising fact that more states and the U.S. Congress are pushing unnecessary documentary proof-of-citizenship provisions for voter registration.

Ten states and Congress proposed bills that require applicants to furnish proof of citizenship documents—in addition to attesting to citizenship and facing stiff penalties for violations—before being added to the voter rolls.

Such policies are subject to great legal scrutiny. In June, the United States Supreme Court declined to review a lower court's ruling that Kansas and Arizona may not require residents to provide additional proof-of-citizenship documents when registering to vote in federal elections using the federal form. However, the case did not address state-produced registration forms, and as of this writing those who register through the state form must continue to submit proof of citizenship.³

Table 2: Proof of Citizenship Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 951, HR 2392	Pending	This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a state to require an applicant for voter registration in the state who uses the Federal mail voter registration application form developed by the Election Assistance Commission under such Act to provide documentary evidence of citizenship as a condition of the State's acceptance of the form.
Connecticut	SB 506	Failed	This bill would amend state law to require that licenses issued to applicants who cannot establish their legal presence in the United States begin with different numbers or letters to assist registrars of voters in fulfilling their duties and properly registering voters
Louisiana	HB 242	Enacted	This omnibus bill prohibits any voter registration agency from disclosing the information contained in the voter registration application of any person under the age of 18. The bill requires each parish that sends out jury duty questionnaires to notify the Dept. of State of returned jury duty questionnaires indicating the person is unable to service because they are not U.S. citizens. The bill also relates to absentee voting.
Maryland	HB 1076	Failed	This bill would require that individuals registering to vote provide proof of United States citizenship.
Massachusetts	HB 564	Pending	This bill would require an applicant for registration to prove, to the satisfaction of the clerk or registrar, that she is a citizen of the United States. Such proof may be made by producing a birth certificate or papers of naturalization for inspection.
Mississippi	SB 2615	Failed	This bill provides for the verification of a voter registration applicant's citizenship status through the Statewide Elections Management System or by inspection of at least one document, including a birth certificate, Social Security card, and military ID. The registrar would be required to verify that a voter applicant is eligible to vote according to rules promulgated by the Secretary of State. No one will be registered unless his or her eligibility is verified.

Threats to Voting Rights

Table 2: Proof of Citizenship Bills (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Nevada	AB 459	Failed	This bill was amended to provide that the secretary of state receive the information of registered voters who claim they are noncitizens when applying for driver's licenses or reporting to jury duty. The county clerk would give such voters notice before their registration is canceled. This bill provides that the Dept. of Motor Vehicles is not required to provide an application to register to vote to a person who applies for the issuance of a driver authorization card if the person is not a citizen of the United States. The bill provides that voter registration records are confidential.
North Dakota	HB 1389	Enacted	This bill provides for a legislative management study relating to verification of citizenship status for voting and for obtaining driver's licenses and nondriver photo identification cards.
Oregon	HB 3449	Failed	This bill would require a person registering to vote in the state for the first time to supply evidence of citizenship with the completed voter registration card or the voter registration portion of an application for issuance or renewal of a driver's license or state identification card. Voter registration cards have to state that evidence of citizenship is required for people registering to vote.
Texas	HB 2889	Failed	This bill would require the secretary of state to require voter registration applicants to prove their U.S. citizenship with documentary evidence.
	SB 897	Failed	This bill would require the secretary of state to require voter registration applicants to prove their U.S. citizenship with documentary evidence.
Virginia	HB 1574	Failed	As substituted, this bill would require that Virginia voter registration forms state that intentionally making a false statement concerning citizenship constitutes election fraud, and provides that intentionally making a false statement concerning citizenship on the form is a class 6 felony. The original version of this bill would have required U.S. citizenship to be required of applicants for voter registration.

Restrictions on Same Day Registration

States that allow citizens to register and vote on Election Day tend to have higher turnout rates. In many cases, turnout in these states is as much as 10 percentage points higher than the national average.

Despite growing interest in same day registration, and a track record of smooth administration of the practice for over 40 years, there's still a resistance to passing—and in some cases, keeping—SDR in many states.⁴

In 2015, two states proposed to repeal SDR policies and one, Minnesota, proposed to alter its existing law by limiting same day registrants to voting by provisional ballot. None of these bills passed.

Table 3: Bills Restricting Same Day Registration

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Connecticut	HB 5172	Failed	This bill would repeal Election Day registration and implement such registration on the Friday before Election Day.
Minnesota	HF 1981	Failed	This bill establishes early voting and alters the existing same day registration policy in Minnesota by only allowing people to vote by provisional ballot.
New Hampshire	HB 627	Failed	This bill would repeal New Hampshire's same day registration law and enacts provisions of the National Voter Registration Act.

Voter ID

Voter ID still dominates election and voting-related debates, be it between citizens on Twitter, advocates on the ground, or lawmakers on the house floor. It is well-known that in many (if not all) of the 20 states that considered voter ID bills in 2015, hundreds of thousands of registered voters would be negatively affected by the passage of a restrictive voter ID law. And in nearly every instance, supportive lawmakers claim that the goal of such legislation is the prevention of fraudulent votes, an occurrence that is negligible on both local and national levels. While the threat to pass such laws is always looming large, the pushback appears just as strong. Contentious voter ID laws in Texas and North Carolina faced legal challenges, and most calls for new or heightened photo ID requirements were defeated. Meanwhile, we have seen the introduction of new proposals to reduce or revoke voter ID laws on the state and federal levels. (See p. 25.)

A handful of states without strict ID requirements also considered voter ID bills, but none of these gained significant traction.

For example, the issue is raised annually in Missouri, following a 2006 state supreme court ruling that struck down the previous ID law as unconstitutional. A new law would affect an estimated 220,000 voters, according to a 2014 analysis by Secretary of State Jason Kander.⁵ Were a voter ID bill to pass the Missouri legislature, actual implementation would have a long road: first it must be approved by voters as a state constitutional amendment, then the legislature would have to pass new implementing legislation. In 2015, many voter ID bills were introduced in the state, but none passed. A 2016 Republican candidate for Missouri's Secretary of State, however, intends to go directly to voters by circulating an initiative petition to amend the state constitution to allow for voter ID.⁶

In New Mexico, Secretary of State Dianna Duran's support for restrictive ID was a central theme in her re-election campaign. The state has moved a wide variety of voter ID bills.⁷ This includes an unusual bill relating to the use of biometrics in order to bypass disparities in who has ID, as well as the slightly less restrictive HB 61, which progressed in the legislature. Duran got her wish, apparently, when the House adopted HB 340, even though it had been tabled earlier in the session. The bill ultimately didn't make it past the Senate.⁸ Failure to pass state legislation hasn't stopped some New Mexican municipalities from adopting voter ID, however: a political group in Clovis, N.M. reportedly seeks to be the fourth city in the state to adopt a local voter ID law.⁹

In Nebraska, LB 111 and LB 121 were "bracketed," or put aside for the rest of the session, after advocates spoke out about the potential negative impact on 300,000 registered Nebraskans. Meanwhile, Ohio is again considering voter ID, even though the Secretary of State Husted said voter fraud is a rare occurrence and the law has the potential to negatively affect a reported 930,000 eligible Ohio residents.¹⁰

Among the 20 states to propose voter ID requirements, five already have ID laws: Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Texas, and Virginia. These states proposed further restrictions by requiring voter ID from absentee voters. Only Virginia's HB 1318 passed, but it was vetoed by Governor Terry McAuliffe, who announced he had "determined that this bill imposes barriers on eligible voters."¹¹

The issue of voter ID has come up in other areas of state and law and administration beyond the typical requirement of all voters to show current or valid photo ID to vote. In Iowa and Colorado, lawmakers targeted Same Day Registration for additional voter ID requirements, but these bills failed. In Alabama, lawmakers recently made it even more difficult for tens of thousands of citizens to obtain voter ID: budget cuts shuttered 31 motor vehicle offices around the state, the majority of them in counties that have the "highest share of non-white registered voters."¹²

Threats to Voting Rights

Table 4: Voter ID Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Alabama	HB 293	Failed	This bill would amend the absentee ballot and photo ID laws to require photo ID to be submitted with an absentee ballot application. The bill would provide that no ballot may be issued until the photo ID requirement is satisfied.
Arkansas	HJR 1007/ SJR 7	Failed	This bill would amend the state constitution to require photo ID to vote.
Colorado	HB 1169	Failed	This bill would require that individuals registering to vote prior to or on Election Day provide photo identification. This bill would designate valid forms of identification as: a drivers license, a department of revenue, identification card, a passport, a government employee identification card, a pilots license, a military identification card, a student identification card, or a veteran health identification card.
	SB 277	Failed	This bill requires photo ID of registered voters who have discrepancies in their voter record.
Illinois	HB 2756	Pending	This bill would require that every person wishing to vote in Illinois present to their election judge a government-issued photo identification card or a Voter Identification Card issued by the secretary of state. People who are indigent and unable to obtain a Voter Identification Card without a fee, and voters who have a religious objection to being photographed, may vote a provisional ballot. Those who fail to provide acceptable identification and who do not meet either exemption may vote by provisional ballot but shall be required to provide their county clerk or board of election commissioners with the required photo identification within 10 days following the election.
	HB 3591	Pending	This omnibus elections bill would in part create a pilot program that allows election authorities to obtain a voter's driver's license photo and signature from the Secretary of State for the purpose of verifying a voter's identity.
	HB 4100	Pending	This bill would require that election day voters present photo identification to their elections judge. Acceptable photo identification would be limited to an Illinois driver's license, an identification card issued by the Illinois secretary of state, or another government-issued photo identification card.
Indiana	SB 535	Failed	The bill would require an individual submitting an absentee ballot application to provide proof of identification to a notary public and submit a copy of the proof of identification with the absentee ballot application. Exempt individuals include absentee voters who would vote in person in the office of the circuit, an absent uniformed services voter, or an overseas voter.
Iowa	HF 293	Failed	This bill would establish a proof of identification requirement for all Iowa electors wishing to vote on election day or by absentee ballot.
	SF 183	Failed	This bill would require that Iowa electors show proof of identification and proof of residence in order to vote or register to vote.
	SF 387	Failed	This bill would require that a voter provide proof of identification to their precinct election official before they will be allowed to vote. Acceptable identification must include the voter's photo and be issued by the United States government, the State of Iowa, and Iowa University, or an Iowa municipality. This bill also would remove residential leases and property tax statements from the list of acceptable documents for providing proof of residency for Election Day Registration and in-person absentee registration.
Maine	LD 197	Failed	This bill would require all voters to show valid government-issued, photo ID to vote or else vote by provisional ballot. Student ID from a Maine college or university would be acceptable as voter ID. Before November 9, 2016, voters who do not have ID may be given a ballot if an election worker can personally attest to the identity of the voter after signing an affidavit. Voters who do not show ID on Election Day and who vote by provisional ballot must bring required ID to the election clerk no later than five business days after the election for the ballot to be counted.

Threats to Voting Rights

Table 4: Voter ID Bills (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Maryland	HB 1017	Failed	This bill would require Maryland voters to establish their identity and verify their address with an election judge prior to voting by presenting a current government-issued photo identification. If the voter is unable to provide identification or indicates a change of residence, they may vote by provisional ballot.
Massachusetts	HB 557	Pending	This bill would require voters to give full name, address, and one of several forms of photo identification before voting.
Michigan	HB 4724	Pending	This bill changes absentee voter rules, requiring photo ID from voters who wish to apply for an absent voter ballot in person.
Missouri	HB 30	Failed	This bill requires a person to submit a specified form of photo identification in order to vote in a public election with specified exemptions.
	HB 339	Failed	This bill would require voters to show current, government-issued photo ID when voting in person or else vote a provisional ballot.
	HB 66	Failed	This bill removes a current utility bill and bank statement as acceptable forms of identification to receive a ballot.
	HJR 1	Failed	This bill proposes a constitutional amendment establishing that voters may be required to provide a government-issued photo identification prior to voting.
	SB 169	Failed	This bill would establish a requirement that electors present a government-issued photo ID prior to voting. The state would be required to provide one approved form of photo identification to otherwise qualified voters at no cost. Voters lacking a photo identification would be permitted to vote upon signing an affidavit and presenting a secondary form of identification. This bill would also permit any voter to cast an absentee ballot in person at the office of the election authority, starting two weeks before an election without stating a reason for expecting to be prevented from going to the polls on election day.
	SB 170	Failed	This bill would establish a requirement that voters must present a government-issued photo ID. The state would be required to provide one approved form of photo identification to otherwise qualified voters at no cost. Voters whose identity cannot be established would be permitted to vote by provisional ballot, which would only be counted if the voter returns with proper identification. This bill would permit any voter to cast an absentee ballot in person at the election authority following the fourth Thursday prior to an election.
Nebraska	SJR 5	Failed	This Constitutional Amendment would submit identical photo-ID language as HJR 1, though in a different part of the state constitution.
	LB 111	Failed	This bill would require voters to show government-issued photo ID to vote in person. Voters who do not present required ID may vote by provisional ballot. This bill removes other forms of ID, such as utility bills and bank statements from being accepted as voter ID. The bill repeals Oklahoma voter ID law (32-318.01), which provides for the acceptance of non-photo ID to vote.
Nevada	LB 121	Failed	This bill would require voters to show government-issued photo ID to vote.; Voters who do not present photo ID must sign a statement to affirm their names and addresses. Additionally, they must either submit to being photographed in a manner prescribed by the county clerk or have their identity affirmed in writing by a poll worker.
	AB 253	Failed	As amended, this bill relates to photo voter ID, as maintained by elections officials.
	AB 266	Failed	This bill would require voters to show photographic, government-issued photo ID to vote.
	SB 169	Failed	This bill would require voters to show photographic, government-issued photo ID to vote.

Threats to Voting Rights

Table 4: Voter ID Bills (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
New Mexico	HB 340	Failed	This bill would require voters to show government-issued photo ID in order to vote. Tribal ID and student ID would be accepted.
	HB 61	Failed	This bill requires photo voter ID to vote. The bill permits the use of expired ID or ID that does not reflect a voter's current address.
	SM 11	Failed	This bill requests to the secretary of state to conduct a study examining the costs, feasibility, potential issues, and benefits of implementing a voter identification system based on biometric measures.
New York	AB 2616	Failed	This bill requires a valid government issued photo identification card be presented when casting a ballot.
Ohio	HB 189	Pending	This bill would make numerous amendments to Ohio election code, regarding acceptable ID to register, vote, request and execute absentee ballots, and cast a provisional ballot and have it counted.
Oregon	SB 178	Failed	This bill would end the practice of returning ballots by mail and would require voters to deposit their ballots in person and show government-issued photo identification on Election Day. If the voter does not show the required ID, the voter will be granted the right to vote with a provisional ballot.
Texas	HB 2098	Failed	The bill would require first-time applicants to vote early by mail to include a copy of an acceptable photo ID. The bill would also provide that voters aged 65 and older may use an expired driver's license or state identification as their photo ID.
	HB 303	Failed	This bill would add photographs to the state's voter registration certificates and would allow the certificates containing the voter's photograph to serve as photo ID acceptable for voting. The bill would require the secretary of state to establish methods to obtain a photograph of each registered voter for use on the voter's voter registration certificate.
Virginia	HB 1318	Vetoed	This bill would require that any voter submitting an application for an absentee ballot by mail or fax must submit with the voter's application a copy of one of the forms of photo identification acceptable under current law for voting in person. The bill provides an exception for military and overseas voters and voters with disabilities. Currently, only a voter who completes his application for an absentee ballot in person is required to show a form of identification.
West Virginia	HB 2365, HB 2602, HB 2798, SB 340	Failed	This bill would require voters to present identifying documents, issued either by the State of West Virginia or the United States Government that contain the name, address and a photograph of the person desiring to vote, which the poll clerk must inspect and confirm that the name on the document conforms to the name in the individual's voter registration record and that the image displayed is truly an image of the person presenting the document.

Voter Purges

Maintaining voter rolls so that they are current and accurate is an important part of election administration. More states have turned to each other to help maintain voter lists by comparing voter information in order to cancel registrations of voters who move between states. While they can be beneficial, voter registration “crosscheck” programs can also lead to problematic and wrongful voter purges, depending on the number and quality of matched data fields that state officials use as well as the process followed once those “matches” are identified.

In 2015, eight states proposed laws relating to state cross-check programs. Alabama adopted a bill to permit state agencies to share data with other states for the purpose of maintaining voter rolls.

In general, the more data that is matched between states before purging voters, the better. Further, the National Voter Registration Act provides safeguards to prevent the removal of voters on the grounds of a change-of-address only if the voter confirms in writing or fails to vote in two consecutive federal general elections.

Threats to Voting Rights

Table 5: Voter Purge Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Alabama	HB 254	Enacted	This bill would require state agencies to share data with the Secretary of State, who would be authorized to share voter lists and other data with other states for the purpose of maintaining voter rolls.
Maryland	HB 253	Failed	This bill would require that the state board participate in the Interstate Crosscheck Program for the purposes of removing ineligible individuals from the voter registration list and for referring suspected instances of multiple voting to the appropriate prosecuting authority.
New Hampshire	HB 620	Failed	This bill requires the secretary of state to enter into an agreement to share voter information and data through the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program.
New Jersey	A 3879	Pending	This bill establishes a program to share voter registration information with other states to remove duplicate voter registration records.
New Mexico	HB 62	Failed	This bill authorizes the secretary of state to verify voter registration for the purpose of voter registration list maintenance. It allows the secretary to share with other states vote information, including social security numbers, dates of birth, drivers license and ID numbers, and other information. The secretary may enter into a written agreement with an agency or political subdivision of another state or with a department of the federal government for the purpose of maintaining the statewide voter; registration list. The secretary would be required to develop and maintain a manual for county clerks that describes best practices in investigating and reconciling information.
Texas	SB 795	Failed	This bill requires the secretary of state to cooperate with other states and jurisdictions to develop systems to compare voters information.
Virginia	SB 1350	Vetoed	As substituted, this bill would allow voters to cancel their registrations by notifying the Department of Elections by electronic means as approved by the State Board of Elections. This bill would allow the State Board to use including commercially available sources of data for voter list maintenance. The bill also makes mandatory cancellation of voter registrations for whom a notice that the person has moved out of the Commonwealth has been submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the Driver License Compact in Virginia law.
Wisconsin	AB 189	Pending	This bill requires the chief election officer to enter into the Interstate Voter Registration Data Crosscheck Program, an agreement with a group of states to share data and information related to the registration and voting of voters in Wisconsin and the other participating states for the purpose of maintaining the statewide voter registration list.

Automatic Voter Registration

Automatic voter registration is the most buzz-worthy voting rights opportunity in 2015, with 19 states and U.S. Congress proposing new laws. In general, AVR policies allow state governments to automatically register citizens to vote using relevant eligibility information that is already maintained by government agencies. Advocates say AVR could streamline the voter registration process by reducing barriers to voting and allowing citizens to better participate in the democratic process.

Notably, Oregon passed an automatic voter registration law early in the year—the first of its kind—sparking proposals from over a dozen more states. California followed suit in October.

State-based automatic voter registration proposals must comply with or enhance, rather than overturn, voter registration services offered pursuant to the federal “Motor Voter Law,” or the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).¹³ In order to work most effectively, state-based automatic voter registration proposals should be integrated with the requirements to modernize voter registration processes under the Act.¹⁴

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 6: Automatic Voter Registration Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 2694	Pending	This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each state to ensure that each individual who provides identifying information to the state motor vehicle authority is automatically registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the state, unless the individual does not meet the eligibility requirements for registering to vote in such elections or declines to be registered to vote in such elections, and for other purposes.
Alabama	HB 529	Failed	This bill would require the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to provide the Alabama Secretary of State with electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence, and citizenship information of each person who has been issued a driver's license or a non-driver identification card. This bill would require the Alabama Secretary of State to register as an elector each non-registered person who is qualified to vote and to notify each person how to decline registration. This bill would require the Alabama Secretary of State to adopt rules to implement this act.
Arizona	HB 2434	Failed	This bill will establish automatic voter registration for every person who is applying for a driver license or renewal and is otherwise qualified to vote unless the applicant clearly expresses the decision not to register.
Arkansas	HB 1616	Failed	This bill directs the Office of Driver Services and State Revenue Offices to provide the Secretary of State with electronic records containing the information for each person who may qualify to be automatically registered to vote.
California	AB 1461	Enacted	This bill requires the Secretary of State and the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish the California New Motor Voter Program for the purpose of increasing opportunities for voter registration by any person who is qualified to be a voter.
Georgia	HB 665	Failed	This bill provides for the automatic registration of voters who obtain, renew, or change their name or address on a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Driver Services.
Hawaii	HB 401	Failed	This original version of this bill would have automatically registered to vote individuals deemed qualified upon applying for driver's license or civil identification. As amended, this bill provides that an ID card or driver's license will not be processed until the applicant clearly indicates on the application that the applicant declines to register to vote or completes the portion of the application related to voter registration.
	SB 150	Failed	This bill provides that a voter registration application would be part of an application associated with the issuance of a civil identification card or driver's license. The applications for civil ID or driver's license would not be processed until the applicant clearly indicates on the application that they are declining to register to vote or the portion of the application related voter registration is completed.
Illinois	SB 2134/HB 4208	Pending	This bill provides that each person applying at a driver services facility for a driver's license or permit, a corrected driver's license or permit, an Illinois identification card or a corrected Illinois identification card shall be notified that the person would be registered to vote, and if his or her address has changed, his or her voter registration record would also be updated.

Table 6: Automatic Voter Registration Bills (con't)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Louisiana	HB 651, SB 44	Failed	This bill provides for automatic voter registration through driver's license facilities.
Maryland	HB 1049	Failed	This bill would require that voter registration agencies of local departments of social services, the Office of Mobility Certification, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange implement a fully automated voter registration system on or before July 1, 2016 and would require periodic progress reports from these agencies.
Michigan	HB 4927	Pending	This bill directs the secretary of state to automatically register to vote qualified citizens who apply for a driver's license, state ID, or change-of-address on either form of identification in Michigan.
Minnesota	HF 1449, SF 1346	Failed	This bill provides for automatic voter registration of any individual who applies for or renews a Minnesota driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card. If an applicant affirmatively declines to be registered to vote, she will not be registered to vote.
New Jersey	S 2904	Pending	This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to automatically transmit applicant information to the Secretary of State for automatic voter registration purposes.
New York	AB 6610, SB 859	Failed	This bill would amend New York election law in relation to automatic voter registration.
Ohio	HB 179, HB 181	Pending	These bills relate to automatic voter registration.
Oregon	HB 2177/ Chapter 8 (2015 Laws)	Enacted	This bill directs the secretary of state to register each "nonregistered" person who is qualified to vote using information obtained from the Department of Transportation. The secretary must notify such registrants of how to decline registration.
Pennsylvania	HB 1306	Pending	This bill amends Pennsylvania voter registration law to provide for automatic voter registration of qualified electors and further providing for time and for approval of registration applications.
South Carolina	S 596	Failed	This bill would provide that every state identification card or driver's license application submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles shall also serve as an application for voter registration unless the applicant affirmatively declines to be registered.
Texas	HB 3267	Failed	This bill relates to automatic voter registration on issuance or change of a driver's license or identification card by the Department of Public Safety.
Vermont	S 458, H 347	Pending	This bill provides for automatic voter registration through motor vehicle driver's license applications.

Early Voting

The majority of states offer early voting and an increasing number voters utilize this practical and convenient way to vote. As such, early voting is often cited in conversations about expanding voting access. In 2015, the issue came up in six states. Lawmakers in Arizona and Texas also proposed to extend early voting hours. While no state has passed a new law to establish early voting or extensions to early voting days and three other states proposed cuts to early voting.

Table 7: Early Voting Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Arizona	SB 1358	Failed	This bill expands early voting hours to 7 pm every night, including the 2 weekends prior to election
Michigan	SB 60	Pending	This bill provide an early voting period in Michigan, beginning on the 13th day before Election Day and ending the day before the election.
Minnesota	HF 47	Failed	This bill would allow any eligible voter to vote early, starting 15 days before the election through 5 p.m. on the third day before the election.
Missouri	HB 345	Failed	This bill provides that any voter may vote by advance ballot at a central voting location. The advance voting period would begin the third Wednesday before Election Day and ending on the Wednesday before the election.
	HB 449	Failed	This bill creates a three week advance voting window before general and primary elections during which any registered voter may vote at the location of their local election authority or by mail.
Oklahoma	SB 86	Failed	This bill would extend Saturday hours for in-person, absentee voting and would open such voting sites on the Sunday before Election Day.
Pennsylvania	HB 291	Pending	This bill would provide for early voting to begin 15 days prior to the dates of elections and primaries and to end 14 days after starting date.
	HB 521	Pending	This bill provides for early voting eight days before Election Day. Early voting would be held each weekday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
South Carolina	H 3720	Failed	This bill would establish an early voting period for all elections. Early voting would be available to qualified voters, without excuse, at early voting centers in each county thirty days before Election Day. The early voting period would end three days before the election.
	S 148	Failed	This bill would require South Carolina counties to establish at least one and at most three early voting centers at which qualified electors may cast their ballots, without excuse, during an early voting period for all elections.
Texas	SB 467	Failed	This bill would require early voting to be held on each Saturday and Sunday during the early voting period.
Virginia	HB 75, HB 800, HB 1394, HB 1992, SB 3, SB 677, SB 954	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.

Felon Voting Right Restoration

Just as America's criminal justice system is being examined for its adverse impact on communities of color,¹⁵ America's patchwork of felony disenfranchisement laws are gaining national attention for their effect on the same communities. Bipartisan support for restoring voting rights to ex-felons has significantly grown, potentially affecting the millions who have been released from incarceration and who are trying to integrate back into society.

In 2015, U.S. Congress and a dozen state legislatures proposed a variety of bills relating to voting rights restoration upon release from incarceration, probation, or parole. In 2015, Wyoming and Maryland legislatures passed re-enfranchisement bills. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, however, vetoed HB 980, stating that "the current law achieves the proper balance between the repayment of obligations to society for a felony conviction and the restoration of the various restricted rights..."¹⁶ Hogan's critics said his veto "effectively disenfranchised 40,000 Marylanders who want to participate in their communities."¹⁷

Not all re-enfranchisement changes were proposed through the legislatures. Until this summer, Virginia required ex-felons to pay outstanding court costs before applying to restore voting rights. As part of his recent effort to make voting rights restoration easier, Governor Terry McAuliffe announced this administrative change, calling the original requirement a "poll tax." In 17 months, McAuliffe's reforms have restored voting rights to 8,250 people and 70 percent of them have registered to vote.¹⁸

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 8: Bills to Restore Voting Rights

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 1556	Pending	The Civil Rights Voting Restoration Act of 2015 would secure the Federal voting rights of non-violent persons when released from incarceration.
	S 772/HR 1459	Pending	This bill would set a federal standard for ex-offenders to exercise the right to vote in federal elections.
	HR 871	Pending	This bill would direct the Bureau of Prisons to provide certain voting information to Federal prisoners upon their release from prison.
	S 457	Pending	This bill would secure the Federal voting rights of non-violent persons when released from incarceration.
Florida	SJR 208	Failed	This bill would automatically restore the voting rights of people convicted of felonies upon completion of sentence, unless the person was convicted of a felony involving a sexual offense or a felony involving a homicide.
Kentucky	SB 17	Failed	This bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky that conviction of a felony shall only deprive an individual of their right to vote if that category of felony has been so designated by the General Assembly. If approved by the legislature, the amendment would be submitted to Kentucky voters.
	SB 26	Failed	This bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky that would restore voting rights to individuals convicted of a felony offense following expiration of prohibition, final discharge from parole, or maximum expiration of sentence unless that individual was convicted of a felony offense of treason, intentional murder, rape, sodomy, sexual abuse of a child, bribery in an election, or another crime specified by the General Assembly.
Maryland	HB 980	Vetoed	This bill provides that individuals discharged from incarceration are qualified to register to vote even if serving a term of parole or probation.
Minnesota	HF 119	Failed	This bill would provide that every individual serving a felony sentence or serving a period of probation receives an annual written notice of civil rights status, including the right to vote. The bill would also require an in-person notice of civil rights status be provided to individuals who have been released from a correctional facility or are serving a period of probation.
	HF 342, SF 530	Failed	This bill would restore the right to vote to any individual who has completed their term of incarceration, if any, for a felony offense.
	SF 355	Failed	This bill would restore the right to vote to any individual who has completed the term of incarceration, if any, for a felony offense. This bill would also require the secretary of state to develop a publication concerning the voting rights of people who have been charged with a crime and would require correctional facilities to provide a notice of restoration of the right to vote and a voter registration application to people released from incarceration.
Nevada	SB 97	Failed	This bill provides that people convicted of felonies from other states would have their voting rights restored according to Nevada law. The bill prohibits the clerk from requiring a voter registrant to show documentation indicating that the applicant's right to vote has been restored.
New York	AB 6320	Failed	This bill provides for the re-enfranchisement of voters with felony convictions by repealing certain provisions in the election law.
	SB 2023	Failed	This bill relates to voting and registration for voting by convicted felons. The bill provides that convicted felons may vote if pardoned; such person's maximum sentence of imprisonment has expired; or such person is serving a term of parole, presumptive release, conditional release or post-release supervision.

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 8: Bills to Restore Voting Rights (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
South Dakota	SB 112	Failed	This bill would allow a citizen to re-register to vote upon release from imprisonment.
Tennessee	HB 852	Failed	This bill removes requirement that a person must pay outstanding child support obligations that accumulated during any period of incarceration to have right of suffrage restored.
Texas	HB 1204	Failed	This bill would require the department of corrections to provide notice of voter eligibility to people convicted of felonies upon release from the custody of the department. The bill requires the department to provide the person an official state voter registration form with the notice.
	HB 433	Failed	This bill provides that individuals with felony convictions who are otherwise qualified can register to vote if they have completed any term of incarceration or community supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court, or have served at least 10 consecutive years of parole or mandatory supervision, or if they have been pardoned or otherwise had their rights restored.
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.
	HJ 107, HJ 491	Failed	The bill would amend the Virginia Constitution to provide that no person convicted of a felony shall be qualified to vote unless the person has completed service of his sentence and any modification of sentence, including probation, parole, or suspension of sentence, and full payment of any restitution, fines, costs, and fees assessed as a result of the felony conviction. The proposed amendment deletes the present constitutional language that requires restoration of civil rights by the Governor or other appropriate authority.
	HJ 21, HJ 70, SJ 238	Failed	This bill authorizes 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.
	HJ 25, HJ 48, HJ 78/HJ 97	Failed	This bill provides for the automatic restoration of voting rights to people convicted of nonviolent felonies (excluding felony drug and election fraud crimes) upon completion of sentence, including any term of probation or parole, and payment in full of any restitution, fines, costs, and fees assessed against the person as a result of the felony conviction, or by other appropriate authority.
	HJ 522, HJ 604, HJ 616, HJ 621, HJ 627, HJ 628	Failed	The bill amends the Virginia Constitution to allow the General Assembly to provide by general law for the restoration of civil rights to persons who have been convicted of nonviolent felonies and who have completed service of their sentence, subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law.
Wyoming	HB 15/ H.E.A. No. 0106	Enacted	This bill provides for the restoration of voting rights of a person convicted of a nonviolent felony who has completed all of his or her sentence, including probation and parole, and has been issue a certificate from the Department of Corrections, indicating restoration of voting rights.

Omnibus Legislation

In 2015, omnibus bills were generally chock-full of voting policies that would have a positive impact on voters.

Eleven state legislatures and U.S. Congress proposed a broad range of omnibus bills, many of them relating to voter registration advances, like online registration and same day registration. Most include early voting policies. By late summer, only one state, Minnesota, adopted an omnibus election bill, and this bill only passed after it was amended to remove its original provisions of early voting, preregistration, and automatic voter registration.

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 9: Omnibus Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 12	Pending	This bill provides for online and same-day voter registration, early voting, improved pollworker training, increased access for people with disabilities, prohibitions on deceptive practices and voter caging, and uniform rules for re-enfranchisement of prisoners, among others.
	HRES 363	Pending	This bill expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress has the power to prohibit voter suppression activities; require every states to maintain online voter registration systems and to automatically register eligible voters whose information is contained in the state's motor vehicles database; and make Election Day a legal public holiday.
Alaska	HB 95/ SB 93	Failed	This bill would allow citizens to register and vote a questioned ballot on the day of an election. The bill also provides for early, in-person voting.
Minnesota	HF 1981	Failed	This bill establishes early voting changes same day registration in Minnesota. Early voting would be held between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on each weekday; from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on at least one weekday; and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the two Saturdays before the election. Voter applicants would be allowed to register and vote a regular ballot during the early voting period. On Election Day, a person who is not registered to vote or who needs to update an existing registration due to change-of-address would be allowed register to vote and to vote by provisional ballot. The bill eliminates "vouching" for a voter applicant's residence and identity.
	SF 455/ Chapter No. 70	Enacted	As amended, this omnibus bill makes various administrative changes relating to elections emergency planning, school board election vacancies, and other issues. The previous version of this bill would have established early voting, preregistration, and automatic voter registration.
Mississippi	SB 2601	Failed	This bill would establish early voting and online voter registration in Mississippi.
Nevada	SB 203	Failed	This bill was amended to provide that electronic forms for voter registration, absentee ballot requests, and military overseas ballot requests would be available through the website of the secretary of state. The bill also permits citizens who are 17-years-old to register to vote.
New Jersey	A 4574, A 4613/S 50	Pending	This bill establishes "The Democracy Act" to establish early voting, online voter registration, and allow for the pre-registration of 17-year-olds. It was amended on June 22 to remove a same day registration provision.
New York	SB 1770	Failed	This omnibus elections bill would permit individuals to register and vote on Election Day, provided that they provide appropriate proof of qualifications. The bill would also mandate that any qualified individual waiting in line at the time scheduled for polls closing will be permitted to vote. The bill would also permit any qualified elector to choose to vote by absentee ballot and choose to receive their absentee ballot at a location other than their permanent address. Finally, the bill provides for the creation of a computerized statewide voter registration list consistent with HAVA.
	SB 2538	Failed	This omnibus election bill would provide for the option of automatic voter registration for qualified individuals who complete an application for a driver's license or unemployment insurance; registers for classes at a university; completes a prison sentence of parole; or becomes a member of the military. Furthermore, the bill would permit qualified individuals appearing on Election Day whose name cannot be found on the statewide voter registration list but have interacted with one of the previously listed source agencies to vote by affidavit ballot. The bill would also establish a digital registration information system to allow individuals to verify their voter registration status.
Oregon	HB 2059	Failed	This bill relates to voter registration information; preregistration; and other provisions.
Rhode Island	S 821	Failed	This omnibus bill would provide online voter registration; allow the secretary of state to enter agreements with other states to compare voter registration data; and provide in-person early voting during business hours and on the weekend before Election Day.
Texas	SB 990	Failed	This omnibus bill relates to same day registration, no-excuse absentee voting, voter registration drives, and voter purging.

Online Voter Registration

More than half of America's 50 states have adopted online voter registration by law or administrative changes, and a number of them passed or were implemented this year alone. As more people get online and the issue gains bipartisan support, the once-trendy voting reform appears to be on track to become a new voting norm of the early 21st century.

In 2015, three states passed new laws to facilitate voter registration online, while a rulemaking commission in Iowa adopted the rules necessary to develop an OVR system. Nebraska officials implemented OVR on National Voter Registration Day in September. Hawaii and Massachusetts—where online registration laws passed in 2012 and 2014, respectively—officially launched online voter registration systems this year, as did Pennsylvania, where legislation was not required.

Table 10: Online Voter Registration Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	S 1088, S 1950	Pending	This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes.
Florida	HB 227	Failed	This bill would allow applicants to submit online voter registration applications through a secure internet site established by the state division of elections.
	HB 315	Failed	The bill would require state supervisors of elections to make an online form available on their official websites for the purpose of voters;submitting a chance of residence for voter registration.
	SB 228/ Chapter No. 2015-36	Enacted	This bill would allow applicants with a driver's license or state ID to submit online voter registration applications through a secure internet site established by the state division of elections beginning in October 2017.
Iowa	HF 28	Failed	This bill would permit online voter registration through the state commissioner of elections' internet site and would take effect on January 1, 2016.
	HF 49	Failed	This bill would permit online voter registration through the state commissioner of elections' internet site and would take effect on January 1, 2016.
	SF 331	Failed	This bill would establish electronic voter registration, electronic updating of voter registration information, and electronic correction of voter registration information through the state commissioner of elections' internet site. This bill would allow eligible voters to apply to register to vote or update their voter registration information through an online service provided on the secretary of state's internet site. The bill allows for the use of electronic signatures via the Dept. of Transportation or a digitally typed signature for applicants who do not have a current driver's license or state ID.
	SSB 1152	Failed	This bill would allow eligible voters to apply to register;to vote or update their voter registration information through an online service provided on the secretary of state's internet site. The bill allows for the use of electronic signatures via the Dept. of Transportation or a digitally typed signature for applicants who do not have a current driver's;license or state ID.

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 10: Online Voter Registration Bills (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Kentucky	HB 214	Failed	This bill directs the State Board of Elections to establish an online voter registration system. The State Board of Elections would forward the applications to each voter's county clerk, who must process the application with the same regard as applications by mail. Each county clerk has to maintain statistical records on electronic voter registration applications as requested but the SBOE.
	HB 334	Failed	This bill would require the State Board of Elections to establish an electronic voter registration system.
Maine	LD 770	Failed	This bill requires the Secretary of State to implement a system that permits a person to register to vote online by February 1, 2016.
Michigan	HB 4288	Pending	This bill provides for online voter registration through the website of the secretary of state.
Missouri	HB 336	Failed	This bill authorizes local election authorities to develop, maintain, and approve systems that transmit voter registration applications with electronic signatures.
Montana	HB 48	Failed	This bill would require that the secretary of state establish an online voter registration system accessible to individuals with a drivers license or state identification card.
New Jersey	S 2328	Pending	This bill requires the Secretary of State to create an online voter registration system. Registrants that cannot provide identification information, such as a driver's license number or Social Security number, must be allowed to complete the form electronically, print it out, and deliver it by mail or in person.
New Mexico	SB 643	Enacted	This bill enacts online voter registration, among other things.
New York	AB 4381	Failed	This bill requires the state board of elections to maintain on its official website electronic voter registration forms.
	AB 5564	Failed	This bill provides that the board of elections shall accept voter registrations electronically through its website.
	AB 5590	Failed	This bill provides that qualified persons who have never previously registered to vote may register on any day, including a day of election, that the board of elections is open for business. The bill requires establishment of a procedure to enable such registrants to cast their votes at the appropriate polling places.
Ohio	SB 63/HB 41	Pending	This bill requires the secretary of state to establish an online registration system for new registrants and for updates. Updates require signature from the electronic records of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, like new registrations.
Oklahoma	SB 313/HB 1846	Failed	This bill allows a person to register to vote online if they have a current and valid Oklahoma driver's license or state ID.
Pennsylvania	HB 692	Pending	This bill provides for electronic voter registration, using an electronic copy of the voter applicant's signature from the Department of Transportation.
Tennessee	HB 831	Failed	This bill requires state election commission to provide online voter registration through the secretary of state's web site.

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 10: Online Voter Registration Bills (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Texas	HB 312	Failed	This bill would require the secretary of state to implement a program to allow a person who has a valid driver's license or personal identification card issued in the state to complete a voter registration application over the internet from the official website of the state, and the websites of the secretary of state, Department of Public Safety, and counties participating in the program.
	HB 444	Failed	This bill would require the secretary of state to implement a program to allow a person to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the official website of the state.
	HB 446	Failed	This bill would allow county voter registrars to adopt procedures to allow a person to complete a voter registration application over the Internet.
	HB 76	Failed	This bill would require the secretary of state to implement a program to allow a person to complete a voter registration application over the internet from the official website of the state. Applicants who have unexpired drivers' licenses or state ID cards must consent to the use of their digital signature from the Department of Public Safety. Applicants without such identification would be required to print, sign, and mail the applications created using the system, and would be informed of how to obtain such identification.
	HB 953	Failed	This bill requires the secretary of state to implement a program to allow citizens who have an unexpired driver's license or state-issued personal ID card to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the state's official website.
	SB 385	Failed	The bill would require the secretary of state to implement a program to allow a person who has a valid drivers' license or personal identification card issued in the state to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the official website of this state and the websites of the secretary of state, the Department of Public Safety, and counties participating in the program.

Reversing Regressive Laws

Since the Voting Rights Act was weakened in 2013, lawmakers have responded to laws that block the vote with proposals to reduce their impact or outright repeal the offending laws. Most bills introduced by eight state legislatures and U.S. Congress relate to broadening restrictive voter ID laws, which have come under fire for their discriminatory impact.

Most notably, lawmakers in North Carolina and Texas introduced a range of bills that attempt to reverse the negative impact of voter suppression laws in those states. Both states currently face legal challenges for restrictive voting laws that were passed or implemented directly after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

In Texas, a federal appeals court recently ruled the state's 2011 voter ID law has a "discriminatory" impact, though the law remains in place until a lower court considers how to fix it.¹⁹ In 2015, Texas lawmakers proposed a wide range of "fixes" to the strict voter ID law, most of them bills to expand the list of acceptable voter ID. None of these bills advanced in the legislature.

In North Carolina, lawmakers passed a bill in June to soften the voter ID portion of its controversial 2013 law that rolled back several affirmative voting policies and added restrictive voter ID. The new law, H 836/Ch. SL 2015-103, allows certain people to vote by affidavit if they have a "reasonable impediment" to obtaining ID. Despite the changes made under H 836, the voter ID law still may face challenges in court.²⁰

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 11: Bills to Reverse Regressive Laws

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 3277	Pending	This bill would prohibit election officials from requiring individuals to provide photo identification as a condition of obtaining or casting a ballot in an election for Federal office or registering to vote in elections for Federal office.
	HR 3364	Pending	This bill would require election officials to accept a signed, sworn written statement from a voter as meeting identification requirements in any state that mandates photo identification in order to cast a ballot in Federal elections.
Arizona	SB 1347	Failed	This bill would repeal Arizona's proof of citizenship requirement for registering to vote and Arizona's proof of identification requirement for voting.
Kansas	HB 2144	Failed	This bill provides that people who change their names or addresses do not have to submit proof of citizenship to update their voter registration. Instead, they must sign an affidavit.
	HB 2145	Failed	This bill, the Help Kansas Vote Act, would allow voter applicants to sign an affidavit swearing under oath that they are eligible to vote under penalty of perjury in lieu of showing documentary proof of ID.
	SB 177	Failed	This bill was amended to provide that a voter registration application cannot be rejected for lack of evidence of citizenship until the division of vehicles has an operational system to verify citizenship of an applicant for the renewal of a driver's license. If a county election official or the secretary of state receive affirmative evidence that an applicant is not a citizen, the county election officer must deny such application.
North Carolina	H 240	Pending	This bill would allow voters to use student ID from North Carolina community colleges, private colleges, or universities as voter ID.
	H 755	Pending	This bill would restore programs for high school voter preregistration and encourage civic education.
	H 836/Ch. SL 2015-103	Enacted	This bill authorizes certain voters to complete an affidavit instead of showing photo ID to vote. The bill also requires election officials to notify such voters of the option to complete a written request for an absentee ballot at one-stop voting sites.
	S 103	Pending	This bill would give voters the option to complete a request for an absentee ballot at a one-stop voting location when the voter shows up to vote without the required photo ID.
Oklahoma	HB 1511	Failed	This bill would permit the use of student ID from an Oklahoma public or private system of higher education as voter ID.
South Carolina	H 3167/H 3016	Failed	This bill would add a South Carolina concealed weapons permit to the list of acceptable forms of identification required of a person when he presents himself to vote.
Tennessee	SB 1126/HB 926	Failed	This bill permits the use of a photo identification card issued by this state, the United States, or an accredited postsecondary institution of education in this state for purposes of verifying the identity of an eligible voter.
Texas	HB 1117	Failed	This bill would allow the types of photo IDs specified as acceptable for voting to be used regardless of their expiration date.
	HB 2856	Failed	This bill would add student IDs to the acceptable types of photo ID for voting.

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 11: Bills to Reverse Regressive Laws (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Texas (con't)	HB 295	Failed	This bill would add to the acceptable photo identification required for voting a student ID card issued by a public or private institution of higher education that contains the person's photo.
	HB 3059	Failed	This bill would remove the requirement that photo identification be presented to vote, and would add other forms of acceptable voter identification, including a voter registration certificate, official government mail, utility bill, and other non-photo IDs.
	HB 447	Failed	This bill would add a student ID card that contains the persons' photo issued by an institution of higher education to the list of photo IDs acceptable for voting in person.
	HB 534	Failed	This bill would add to the list of acceptable photo ID for voting an ID card issued by an agency or institution of the federal government or of Texas that contains the person's photo.
	HB 535	Failed	This bill would add to the list of photo ID acceptable for voting a valid ID card that contains the person's photo issued by a tribal organization.
	HB 536	Failed	This bill would allow voters age 65 or older to use an otherwise acceptable photo ID to vote regardless of whether it is expired.
	SB 170, SB 230	Failed	This bill would add to the list of photo identification acceptable for voting a student identification card issued by a public or private high school or institution of higher education that contains the person's photograph.
	SB 407	Failed	This bill would allow voters to provide, in lieu of photo ID to vote, two forms of specified non-photo ID, or an affidavit along with the voter's voter registration certificate.
Virginia	HB 1375	Failed	This bill provides that an expiration date on any of the forms of photo ID acceptable for voting may not be considered when determining the validity of the form of ID offered by the voter.
	HB 1653	Enacted	This bill would allow for the use of valid student photo IDs that are issued by any private school located in the Commonwealth as voter ID.
	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.
	HB 1538/ Chapter 134	Enacted	The bill requires that, for the purpose of the ID presented by the voter, the voter's name as found on the pollbook matches or is substantially similar to the name listed on the form of identification presented and the name stated by the voter.
	SB 922	Failed	This bill would add to the list of accepted forms of ID for voting a valid ID card containing a voter's photo and issued by any private entity that is licensed or certified, in whole or in part, by the State Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Same Day Registration

A dozen states have proposed same day registration, a policy that is known for increasing voter turnout since it was first implemented in the 1970s. Most bills propose to make SDR available on Election Day, but some proposals would make it available during the early voting periods.

Utah passed a bill to expand its same day Registration pilot project to include voter registration and voting during the early voting period. The same day registration experiment will run through the 2016 election and will end the following January.

Table 12: Same Day Registration Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 3276, S 1139	Pending	This bill would require states to provide same day registration in federal elections.
Alabama	SB 59	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.
Arkansas	HB 1682	Failed	This bill would amend the state constitution to allow a voter to register to vote on the day of an election or during early voting.
Georgia	HB 355	Failed	This bill allows a person to register and vote during the period of advance voting.
Massachusetts	HB 540, HB 553, HB 569, HB 595	Pending	These bill would establish same day registration
Nebraska	LB 491	Failed	This bill would establish a same day voter registration pilot program with voluntary county participation.
	LB 514	Failed	This bill would permit certain individuals including members of the armed forces returning from active duty and elderly persons to register to vote and to request an early voting ballot simultaneously.
New Mexico	HB 405	Failed	This bill would allow a person to register to vote and cast a ballot at early voting sites. The eligible applicants would be given a provisional ballot if they are not registered to vote; are not registered to vote in the correct percent; or registered to vote at an early voting site that does not have real-time access to the state voter rolls.
New York	SB 2416, SB 2483	Failed	This bill provides that qualified people who have never previously registered to vote may register on any day, including a day of election, that the board of elections is open for business. The bill requires establishment of a procedure to enable such registrants to cast their votes at the appropriate polling places.

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 12: Same Day Registration Bills (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
Pennsylvania	HB 292	Pending	This bill would allow citizens to register and vote on Election Day by completing a registration application and providing proof of identification and residence. Acceptable forms of ID include a valid driver's license; government ID; U.S. passport; or U.S. Armed Forces ID. The new applicant would be given a provisional ballot, which would not be counted until the Dept. of State has approved the voter registration application (within 10 days of the election).
	SB 91	Pending	This bill provides for same day registration.
Texas	HB 111	Failed	This bill would allow voters who are not registered to register to vote and cast a provisional ballot during early voting.
	HB 448	Failed	This bill would allow voters who are not registered to register to vote and vote in their precinct of residence.
	SB 405	Failed	This bill would allow otherwise eligible-but-unregistered citizens to register and vote a provisional ballot during early voting in statewide or federal elections. Proof of residence would be required.
	SB 84	Failed	This bill would allow eligible citizens to register and vote at a polling place during early voting or on Election Day.
Utah	HB 219	Enacted	This bill would expand Utah's Election Day Voter Registration Pilot Project to permit individuals to register to vote and to cast a ballot in project jurisdictions on the days when early voting is being held
Vermont	H 347, S 29	Pending	This bill allows an eligible citizen to register and vote by provisional ballot on Election Day after completing a sworn statement and presenting a form of ID, including photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, or other government document that shows name and address.
Washington	HB 1144	Failed	This bill provides that a person may register to vote and cast a ballot in person on Election Day. A person may also register to vote online up to eight days before Election Day.

Voting Rights Protections

Members of Congress have proposed amendments to update the Voting Rights Act in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which weakened protections against voter discrimination. And at least one state, California, has proposed its own voting rights amendments to create state procedures for preclearance. The California bill that would have provided new preclearance requirements passed the legislature, but was vetoed by Gov. Brown in October. California has also proposed a bill to urge the President and U.S. Congress to "continue to secure citizens' right to vote and remedy any racial discrimination in voting."

On June 25, the second anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision, hundreds of advocates and citizens rallied in Roanoke, Virginia to call for the restoration of anti-discrimination, voting rights protections. Advocates called on Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Bob Goodlatte, to hold a hearing for voting rights legislation, particularly The Voting Rights Advancement Act, which was introduced by Senator Leahy and Representative Lewis, among others, the day before the event.²¹

Table 13: Voting Rights Protection Bills

Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 2867, S 1659	Pending	The Voting Rights Advancement Act would 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.
California	AB 1301	Vetoed	This bill would establish a state preclearance system. Under this system, if a political subdivision enacts or seeks to administer a voting-related law, regulation, or policy, as specified, that is different from that in force or effect on the date this act is enacted, the governing body of the political subdivision would be required to submit the law, regulation, or policy to the Secretary of State for approval.
	AJR 13/ Res. Chapter 193	Enacted	This measure recognizes August 6, 2015 as the 50th anniversary of the signing of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. This measure also urges Congress and the President of the United States to continue to secure citizens' right to vote and remedy any racial discrimination in voting.

Youth Voting

Preregistration, the opportunity to register to vote in advance of one's 18th birthday in order to be automatically enrolled upon reaching voting age, continues to be the most frequently introduced measure that is targeted at improving voter access for young people. In 2015, 14 states and U.S. Congress proposed preregistration laws.

The Utah legislature unanimously passed the Voter Preregistration Amendments bill. Bill sponsor Rep. Jon Cox asserts that the new law could encourage turnout, knowing that youth voter participation is lower than average, "but those who do participate do so throughout their lifetime."²²

In celebration of National Voter Registration Month, Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA), Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN), and Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) introduced the Pre-Registration of Voters Everywhere (PROVE) Act in U.S. Congress. The federal bill would allow young citizens who are at least 16 years old to pre-register to vote in an effort to engage younger generations with the democratic process early in life.²³

Opportunities in Voting Rights

Table 14: Youth Voting Bills

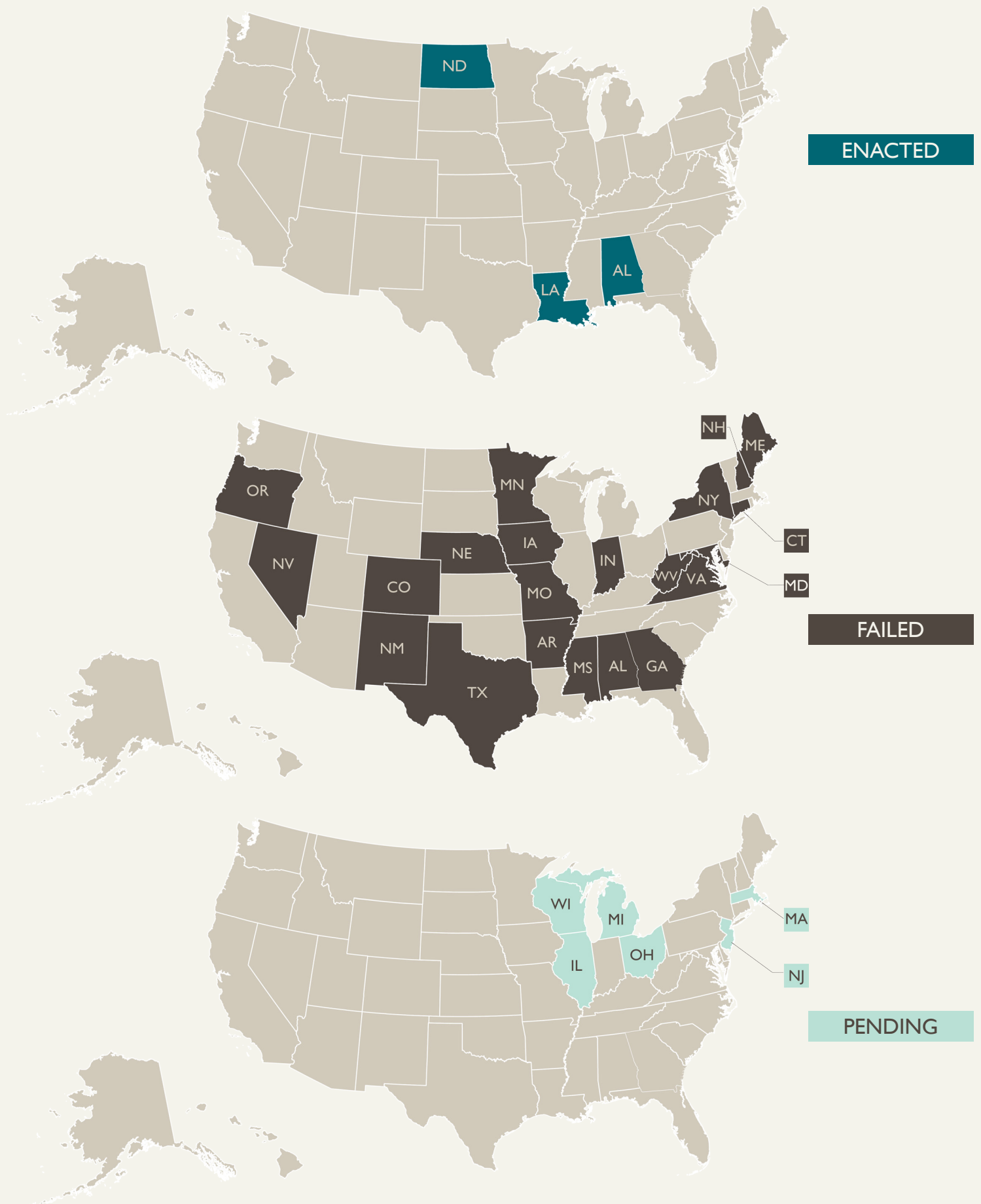
Legislature	Bill	Status	Summary
United States	HR 3522	Pending	This bill would require states to allow preregistration for eligible 16- and 17-year-olds in federal elections. It would also encourage civic participation programs aimed at youth engagement by providing state grants.
Illinois	HB 3368	Pending	This bill would permit individuals aged 16 and 17 to preregister to vote. The bill would also permit pre-registered 17-year-olds to serve as deputy registrars.
Indiana	HB 1173	Failed	The bill provides that a person who is at least 16 years of age, but not more than 18 years of age, may register to vote, but may not vote until the person will be at least 18 years of age at the next general, municipal, or special election. The bill also requires the bureau of motor vehicles to notify an individual who submits a change of address for a driver's license or identification card that the change of address serves as notice of a change of address for voter registration purposes.
Michigan	SB 58, HB 4799	Pending	This bill would allow a citizen to preregister to vote at a secretary of state office if the person is at least 16 years of age, but younger than 17 1/2 year old and has been issued either a graduated licensing status to operate a motor vehicle or an official state personal ID card.
Minnesota	HF 391	Failed	This bill would permit individuals at least 16 years of age to register to vote while maintaining the age requirement for voting.
	SF 206	Failed	This bill would permit individuals who are at least 16 years of age to register to vote.
Mississippi	SB 2627	Failed	This bill allows citizens who are at least 16 years of age to preregister to vote. The secretary of state is authorized to promulgate the rules necessary to implement preregistration, including an application form and a method for ensuring preregistered voters are automatically enrolled to vote upon reaching 18 years of age.
Nebraska	LB 308	Failed	This bill would require that by January 1, 2016, the secretary of state must implement a process of preregistration for citizens who are at least 16 years of age.
New Jersey	S 832	Pending	This bill clarifies that 17-year-olds may register to vote if they will be 18 by Election Day. This bill also clarifies that each 17-year-old registrant shall be designated in the Statewide voter registration system as temporarily ineligible to vote until the registrant's 18th birthday.
New York	AB 2529	Failed	This bill relates to voter preregistration and education on voter preregistration.
	AB 6818, AB 7919, SB 857, SB 1569	Failed	This bill relates to voter preregistration and education on voter preregistration.
Oregon	HB 2604	Failed	This bill allows person who is at least 16 years of age to register to vote.
Texas	HB 783	Failed	This bill would allow a person who will be 18 years of age or older on the date of the next general election for state and county officers to register as a voter for the purposes of voting in the primary election if the person is otherwise qualified.
Utah	HB 340	Enacted	This bill allows an individual who is 16 or 17 years of age to preregister to vote.
Virginia	HB 694, HB 2000	Failed	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 eighteenth birthday, except for those situations currently set out.
Washington	HB 1294	Failed	This bill allows a person who is 16 or 17 years old to preregister to vote at the Department of Licensing. The bill allows a person who is 17 years old to preregister to vote at all other locations and through electronic means.
	SB 5140	Failed	This bill establishes the Young Voter Registration Equality Act. Allows eligible youth at least sixteen years old to preregister to vote.
Wisconsin	SB 220	Pending	This bill allows a person age 16 or 17 to preregister to vote.

Conclusion

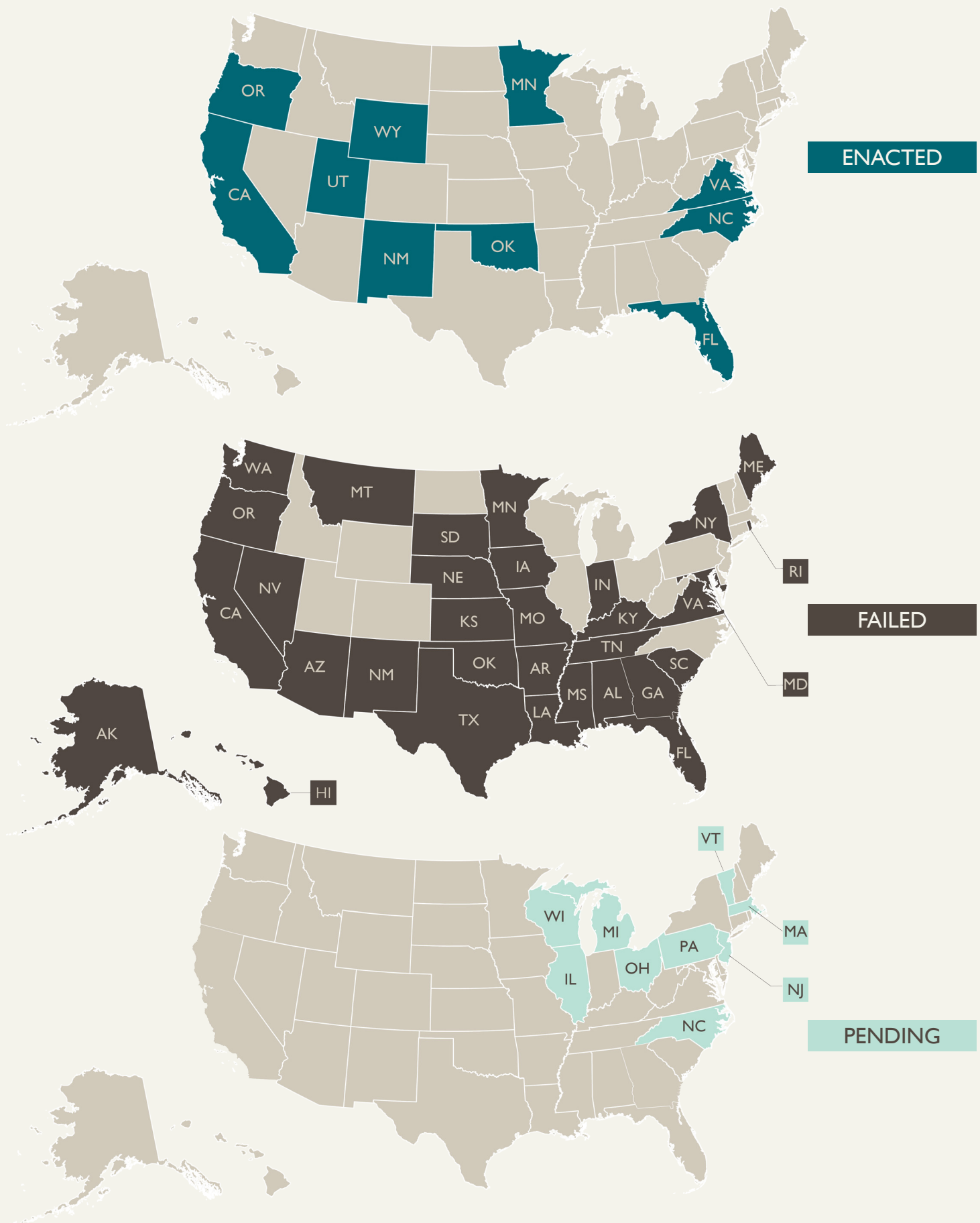
This year is historic, marking not only the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, but also a time when citizens are growing weary of the patchwork of restrictive voting laws that govern our democracy, and fed up with Congress' inaction on restoring voting rights protections. As exhibited in cities across the country, citizens want free and fair access to the ballot, and they want our democracy to align with the values and technical advancements of the 21st century.

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APPENDIX I: Map of Restrictive Election Legislation, 2015



APPENDIX II: Map of Beneficial Election Legislation, 2015



APPENDIX III: Restrictive Election Legislation by State,

Table 14: Restrictive Election Legislation by State, 2015

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
United States	HR 951, HR 2392	Proof of Citizenship	Pending	4
Alabama	HB 254	Voter Purging	Enacted	12
	HB 293	Voter ID	Failed	8
Arkansas	HJR 1007/SJR 7	Voter ID	Failed	8
	SB 349	Early Voting Restrictions	Failed	3
Colorado	HB 1140	Voter ID	Failed	8
	SB 277	Voter ID	Failed	8
Connecticut	HB 5172	Restrictions on Same Day Registration	Failed	6
	SB 506	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
Georgia	HB 194	Early Voting Restrictions	Failed	3
Illinois	HB 2756	Voter ID	Pending	8
	HB 3591	Voter ID	Pending	8
	HB 4100	Voter ID	Pending	8
Indiana	SB 535	Voter ID	Failed	8
Iowa	HF 293	Voter ID	Failed	8
	SF 183	Voter ID	Failed	8
	SF 387	Voter ID	Failed	8
Louisiana	HB 242	Proof of Citizenship	Enacted	4
Maine	LD 197	Voter ID	Failed	8
Maryland	HB 1017	Voter ID	Failed	9
	HB 1076	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
	HB 141	Early Voting Restrictions	Failed	3
	HB 218	Early Voting Restrictions	Failed	3
	HB 253	Voter Purging	Failed	12
Massachusetts	HB 557	Voter ID	Pending	9
	HB 564	Proof of Citizenship	Pending	4
Michigan	HB 4724	Voter ID	Pending	9
Minnesota	HF 1981	Restrictions on Same Day Registration	Failed	6
Mississippi	SB 2615	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
Missouri	HB 30	Voter ID	Failed	9
	HB 339	Voter ID	Failed	9

Table 14: Restrictive Election Legislation by State, 2015 (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
Missouri (con't)	HB 66	Voter ID	Failed	9
	HJR 1	Voter ID	Failed	9
	SB 169	Voter ID	Failed	9
	SB 170	Voter ID	Failed	9
	SJR 5	Voter ID	Failed	9
Nebraska	LB 111	Voter ID	Failed	9
	LB 121	Voter ID	Failed	9
Nevada	AB 253	Voter ID	Failed	9
	AB 266	Voter ID	Failed	9
	AB 459	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
	SB 169	Voter ID	Failed	9
New Hampshire	HB 620	Voter Purging	Failed	12
	HB 627	Restrictions on Same Day Registration	Failed	6
New Jersey	A 3879	Voter Purging	Pending	12
New Mexico	HB 340	Voter ID	Failed	10
	HB 61	Voter ID	Failed	10
	HB 62	Voter Purging	Failed	12
	SM 11	Voter ID	Failed	10
New York	AB 2616	Voter ID	Failed	10
North Dakota	HB 1389	Proof of Citizenship	Enacted	4
Ohio	HB 189	Voter ID	Pending	10
Oregon	HB 3449	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
	SB 178	Voter ID	Failed	10
Texas	HB 2098	Voter ID	Failed	10
	HB 2889	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
	HB 303	Voter ID	Failed	10
	HB 3379	Early Voting Restrictions	Failed	3
	SB 795	Voter Purging	Failed	12
	SB 897	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
Virginia	HB 1318	Voter ID	Vetoed	10
	HB 1574	Proof of Citizenship	Failed	4
	SB 1350	Voter Purging	Vetoed	12
West Virginia	HB 2365, HB 2602, HB 2798, SB 340	Voter ID	Failed	10
Wisconsin	AB 189	Voter Purging	Pending	12

Table 15: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
United States	HR 2694	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	14
	HR 1556	Felon Voting Rights	Pending	18
	HR 871	Felon Voting Rights	Pending	18
	S 457	Felon Voting Rights	Pending	18
	S 772/HR 1459	Felon Voting Rights	Pending	18
	HR 12	Omnibus	Pending	21
	HRES 363	Omnibus	Pending	21
	S 1088, S 1950	Online Registration	Pending	22
	HR 3277	Reversing Regressive Laws	Pending	26
	HR 3364	Reversing Regressive Laws	Pending	26
	HR 3276, S 1139	Same Day Registration	Pending	28
	HR 2867, S 1659	Voting Rights Protection	Pending	30
	HR 3522	Youth Voting	Pending	32
Alabama	HB 529	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	SB 59	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
Alaska	HB 95/SB 93	Omnibus	Failed	21
Arizona	HB 2434	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	SB 1358	Early Voting	Failed	16
	SB 1347	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
Arkansas	HB 1616	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	HB 1682	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
California	AB 1461	Automatic Voter Registration	Enacted	14
	AB 1301	Voting Rights Protection	Vetoed	30
	AJR 13/Res. Chapter 193	Voting Rights Protection	Enacted	30
Florida	SJR 208	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	HB 227	Online Registration	Failed	22
	HB 315	Online Registration	Failed	22
	SB 228/Chapter No. 2015-36	Online Registration	Enacted	22
Georgia	HB 665	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	HB 355	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
Hawaii	HB 401	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	14
	SB 150	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	14

APPENDIX IV: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015

Table 15: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015 (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
Illinois	SB 2134/HB 4208	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	14
	HB 3368	Youth VOting	Pending	
Indiana	HB 1173	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Iowa	HF 28	Online Registration	Failed	22
	HF 49	Online Registration	Failed	22
	SF 331	Online Registration	Failed	22
	SSB 1152	Online Registration	Failed	22
Kansas	HB 2144	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
	HB 2145	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
	SB 177	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
Kentucky	SB 17	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	SB 26	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	HB 214	Online Registration	Failed	23
	HB 334	Online Registration	Failed	23
Louisiana	HB 651, SB 44	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	15
Maine	LD 770	Online Registration	Failed	23
Maryland	HB 1049	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	15
	HB 980	Felon Voting Rights	Vetoed	18
Massachusetts	HB 540, HB 553, HB 569, HB 595	Same Day Registration	Pending	28
Michigan	HB 4927	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	15
	SB 60	Early Voting	Pending	16
	HB 4288	Online Registration	Pending	23
	SB 58, HB 4799	Youth Voting	Pending	32
Minnesota	HF 1449, SF 1346	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	15
	HF 47	Early Voting	Failed	16
	HF 119	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	HF 342, SF 530	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	SF 355	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	HF 1981	Omnibus	Failed	21
	SF 455/Chapter No. 70	Omnibus	Enacted	21
	HF 391	Youth Voting	Failed	32
	SF 206	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Mississippi	SB 2601	Omnibus	Failed	21
	SB 2627	Youth Voting	Failed	32

Table 15: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015 (continued)

Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
Missouri	HB 345	Early Voting	Failed	16
	HB 449	Early Voting	Failed	16
	HB 336	Online Registration	Failed	23
Montana	HB 48	Online Registration	Failed	23
Nebraska	LB 491	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
	LB 514	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
	LB 308	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Nevada	SB 97	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	SB 203	Omnibus	Failed	21
New Jersey	S 2904	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	15
	A 4574, A 4613/S 50	Omnibus	Pending	21
	S 2328	Online Registration	Pending	23
	S 832	Youth Voting	Pending	32
New Mexico	SB 643	Online Registration	Enacted	23
	HB 405	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
New York	AB 6610, SB 859	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	15
	AB 6320	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	SB 2023	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	18
	SB 1770	Omnibus	Failed	21
	SB 2538	Omnibus	Failed	21
	AB 4381	Online Registration	Failed	23
	AB 5564	Online Registration	Failed	23
	AB 5590	Online Registration	Failed	23
	SB 2416, SB 2483	Same Day Registration	Failed	28
	AB 2529	Youth Voting	Failed	32
	AB 6818, AB 7919, SB 857, SB 1569	Youth Voting	Failed	32
North Carolina	H 240	Reversing Regressive Laws	Pending	26
	H 755	Reversing Regressive Laws	Pending	26
	H 836/Ch. SL 2015-103	Reversing Regressive Laws	Enacted	26
	S 103	Reversing Regressive Laws	Pending	26
Ohio	HB 179, HB 181	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	15
	SB 63/HB 41	Online Registration	Pending	23
Oklahoma	SB 86	Early Voting	Failed	16

APPENDIX IV: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015

Table 15: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015 (continued)

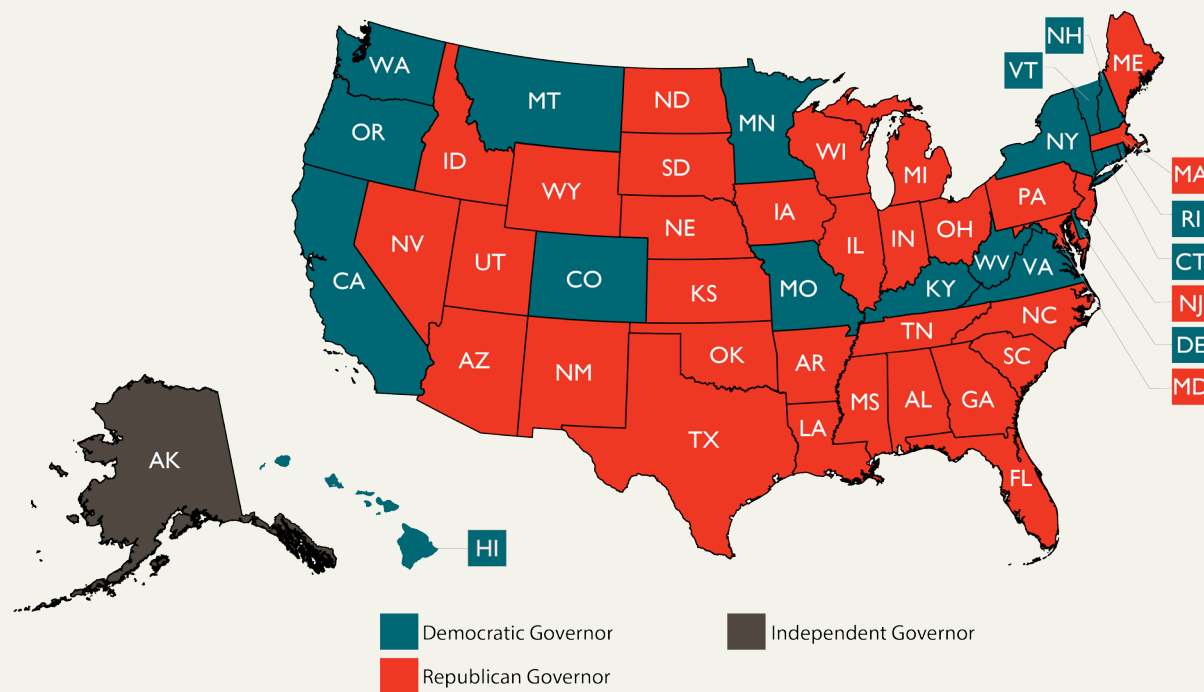
Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
Oklahoma (con't)	SB 313	Online Registration	Enacted	23
	HB 1511	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
Oregon	HB 2177/Chapter 8 (2015 Laws)	Automatic Voter Registration	Enacted	15
	HB 2059	Omnibus	Failed	21
	HB 2604	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Pennsylvania	HB 1306	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	15
	HB 291	Early Voting	Pending	16
	HB 521	Early Voting	Pending	16
	HB 692	Online Registration	Pending	23
	HB 292	Same Day Registration	Pending	29
	SB 91	Same Day Registration	Pending	29
Rhode Island	S 821	Omnibus	Failed	21
South Carolina	S 596	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	15
	H 3720	Early Voting	Failed	16
	S 148	Early Voting	Failed	16
	H 3167/H 3016	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
South Dakota	SB 112	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
Tennessee	HB 852	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HB 831	Online Registration	Failed	23
	SB 1126/HB 926	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
Texas	HB 3267	Automatic Voter Registration	Failed	15
	SB 467	Early Voting	Failed	16
	HB 1204	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HB 433	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	SB 990	Omnibus	Failed	21
	HB 312	Online Registration	Failed	24
	HB 444	Online Registration	Failed	24
	HB 446	Online Registration	Failed	24
	HB 76	Online Registration	Failed	24
	HB 953	Online Registration	Failed	24
	SB 385	Online Registration	Failed	24
	HB 1117	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26
	HB 2856	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	26

Table 15: Beneficial Election Legislation by State, 2015 (continued)

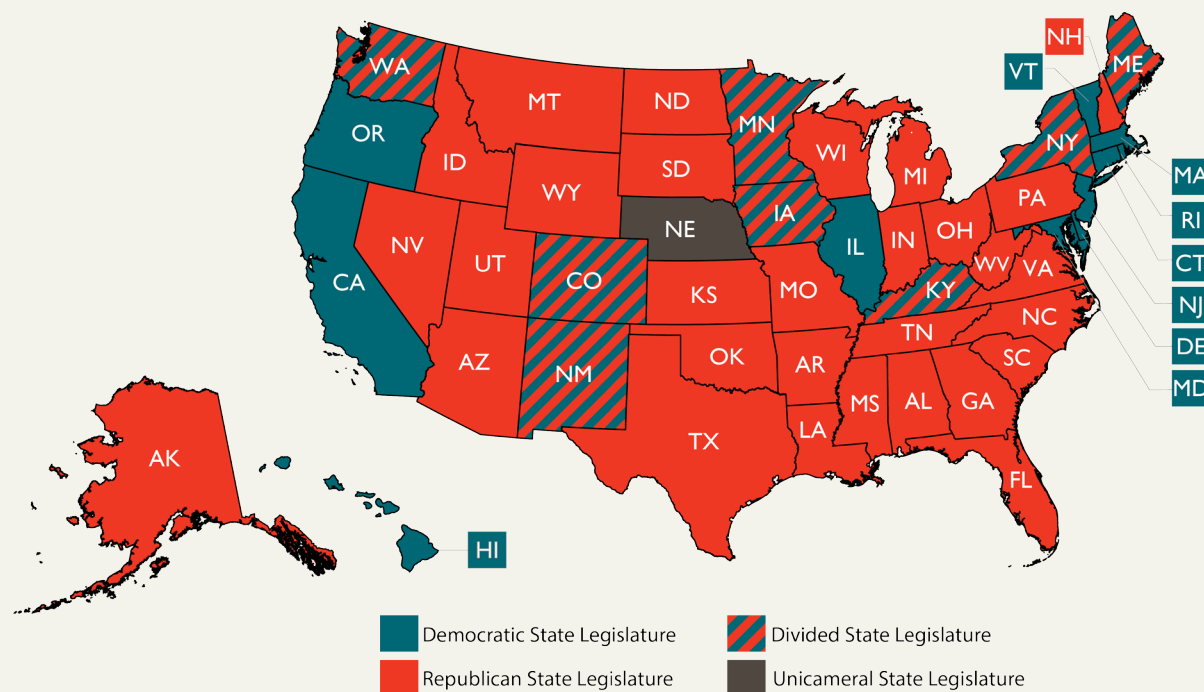
Legislature	Bill	Subject	Status	See Page...
Texas (con't)	HB 295	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 3059	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 447	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 534	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 535	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 536	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	SB 170, SB 230	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	SB 407	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 111	Same Day Registration	Failed	29
	HB 448	Same Day Registration	Failed	29
	SB 405	Same Day Registration	Failed	29
	SB 84	Same Day Registration	Failed	29
	HB 783	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Utah	HB 219	Same Day Registration	Enacted	29
	HB 340	Youth Voting	Enacted	32
Vermont	H 347, S 458,	Automatic Voter Registration	Pending	15
	H 458, S 29	Same Day Registration	Pending	29
Virginia	HB 75, HB 800, HB 1394, HB 1992, SB 3, SB 677, SB 954	Early Voting	Failed	16
	HB 7, HB 556	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HJ 107, HJ 491	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HJ 21, HJ 70, SJ 238	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HJ 25, HJ 48, HJ 78/HJ 97	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HJ 522, HJ 604, HJ 616, HJ 621, HJ 627, HJ 628	Felon Voting Rights	Failed	19
	HB 1375	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 1653	Reversing Regressive Laws	Enacted	27
	HB 564	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	SB 922	Reversing Regressive Laws	Failed	27
	HB 1538/Chapter 134	Reversing Regressive Laws	Enacted	27
	HB 694, HB 2000	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Washington	HB 1144	Same Day Registration	Failed	29
	HB 1294	Youth Voting	Failed	32
	SB 5140	Youth Voting	Failed	32
Wisconsin	SB 220	Youth Voting	Pending	32
Wyoming	HB 15/ H.E.A. No. 0106	Felon Voting Rights	Enacted	19

APPENDIX V: Partisan Control of States, 2015

Partisan Control of Governor's Offices, 2015



Partisan Control of State Legislatures, 2015



Republican Secretaries of State and Election Chiefs

Alabama: John Merrill

Arizona: Michele Reagan

Arkansas: Mark Martin

Colorado: Wayne W. Williams

Florida: Ken Detzner

Georgia: Brian Kemp

Idaho: Lawrence Denney

Indiana: Connie Lawson

Iowa: Paul Pate

Kansas: Kris Kobach

Louisiana: Tom Schedler

Michigan: Ruth Johnson

Mississippi: Delbert Hosemann

Nebraska: John A. Gale

Nevada: Barbara Cegavske

New Jersey: Kim Guadagno

New Mexico: Dianna Duran

North Dakota: Alvin "Al" Jaeger

Ohio: Jon Husted

South Carolina: Mark Hammond

South Dakota: Shantel Krebs

Tennessee: Tre Hargett

Texas: Carlos Cascos

Utah: Spencer J. Cox (Lt. Governor)

Washington: Kim Wyman

Wyoming: Ed Murray

Democratic Secretaries of State and Election Chiefs

Alaska: Byron Mallot (Lt. Governor)

California: Alex Padilla

Connecticut: Denise Merrill

Kentucky: Alison Lundergan Grimes

Maine: Matthew Dunlap

Massachusetts: William F. Galvin

Minnesota: Steve Simon

Missouri: Jason Kander

Montana: Linda McCulloch

New Hampshire: William Gardner

Oregon: Jeanne Atkins

Pennsylvania: Pedro Cortés

Rhode Island: Nellie Gorbea

Vermont: Jim Condos

Virginia: Levar Stoney

West Virginia: Natalie Tennant

Wisconsin: Douglas La Follette

Nonpartisan/Miscellaneous

Delaware: Elaine Manlove

Hawaii: Scott Nago

Illinois: Jesse R. Smart

Maryland: David J. McManus, Jr.

New York: Todd Valentine and Robert Brehm

North Carolina: Kim Westbrook Strach

Oklahoma: Steve Curry



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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.

Disclaimer

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