

WASHINGTON VOTING JUSTICE

2020 Legislative Priorities

Support SB 6228 and HB 2292

Voting Eligibility Restoration for People Under Community Supervision

Under current law, people with a felony conviction who have served their sentence and been released to community supervision are not eligible to vote in Washington. Thousands of Washingtonians with a conviction history have re-entered society and are already taking steps to be active members of their communities. The freedom to vote is a fundamental American value; our laws should encourage all eligible voters to participate, including those who have served their time, earned back the freedom to vote, and deserve a voice in our democracy.

-  If passed, this bill would bring 10,000 voters back into our democracy
-  Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are overrepresented in Washington prisons due to decades of racial and economic injustice; our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard — it's time to right this wrong and make our democracy stronger and more equitable for all of us

Support SB 6313

Voting Opportunities Through Education (*VOTE Act*)

This bill would allow eligible 17 year olds who will turn 18 by the next special or general election to vote in the preceding primary election, as well as adding Engagement Centers for voting and other civic engagement activities on college campuses. Research shows that voting is habitual — young voters who participate early in their adulthood are more likely to vote consistently as they get older. Additionally, registering and activating young voters before they move out of their childhood homes leads to higher turnout rates.

-  The turnout rate for young voters is typically low compared to other demographics; our democracy should encourage, not make it more difficult, for eligible young adults to participate

Support HB 2575

Update Washington's Redistricting Commission

This bill increases the transparency and accountability of Washington's Redistricting Commission as well as maximizing public input. Washington's current redistricting process is perceived as overly partisan, opaque and nonrepresentative. By updating the redistricting guidelines and appointments, lawmakers can ensure all voices are heard and accurately represented in our democracy.

-  If passed, this bill would make the redistricting process more effective and transparent by appointing commissioners earlier, requiring public forums statewide, and publishing the data used to determine final maps
-  This bill would improve accessibility by allowing for public comment, requiring notices in a broader set of languages, and providing language accommodations during public forums for non-English speakers