

SONGS FOR ELECTION PROTECTION AND GET OUT THE VOTE

Lyrics and adaptations by BVOCAL: Boston
Voices of Community and Labor bvocalchorus.org

WE THE PEOPLE

By L. Gallatin

Part I:

We the people have a voice.
We the people have a choice.

Part II:

They can lie, they can cheat,
Change the laws, turn back the clock,
But in November I will vote
'Cause this nightmare's gotta stop.

WE WILL PROTECT EACH OTHER

By the Peace Poets with Francisco Herrera and Oona Valle

We will protect each other
And we will be everything we need.
The good land, the wild water,
The whole sky is always on our side.

(Drone: Protect the elections, free and fair elections.)

KEEP IT MOVING

By L. Gallatin

They're trying to rig the election and your right to be heard,
Making it hard to cast a ballot on November 3rd.
They're trying to rig the election and your right to be heard,
Making it hard to cast a ballot on November 3rd.
I said, What do we want? Count my vote (2x)
What do we want? Count my vo-o-o-ote,
Count every vote.
[chant] Count my vote! Count my vote!

I said keep it movin', feel the heat,
Rockin' to the rhythm as we take to the streets.
Keep it movin', feel the heat,
Rockin' to the rhythm as we take to the streets.
I said keep it movin', now's the time
Keep it moving, now's the ti-i-ime,
Lives are on the line.
[chant to fit the occasion]

HARD WON FREEDOM

By the Peace Poets

We won't, we won't
Ever let go
Of that hard won
Freedom,
Freedom to vote

We the people are for the people
And for the people we act.
We the people are for the people
Now will you have our back.

(sing the two parts together)

REBEL

By the Peace Poets

Rebel against the wars they sell,
Rebel against the lies they tell,
Rebel and let us do this right
Rebel for all the children of [the world] tonight.

[insert name of any town, state, or country]

For the people, for the land, for the future in our hands,
For our elders, for our children, We must rise up, take
a stand.

HOSTILE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER

By L. Gallatin

Refrain:
It's a takeover,
It's a take, takeover,
A hostile government takeover.

Sample verses:

Due process rights are under attack.
What do we do? Stand up, fight back!

Voting rights are under attack.
What do we do? Stand up, fight back!

The constitution's under attack.
What do we do? Stand up, fight back!

Billions wasted, what's it for?
We say: President Trump, no more war!

Death and suffering, what's it for?
We say: President Trump, no more war!

CAST YOUR VOTE

To the tune of If You're Happy; lyrics by MetroWest Sings Out

If you don't like how it's going, cast your vote
[clap, clap]
If you don't like how it's going, cast your vote
[clap, clap]
Together we can raise our voice,
Now's the time to make a choice.
Have a say in how you're governed,
Cast your VOTE (early)!

If you haven't voted yet, make a plan...

KNOCK, KNOCK

By L. Gallatin

Knock, knock, who's there?
Your friendly neighborhood canvasser,
Let's keep elections free and fair.

Knock, knock, who's there?
Vote at the polls or vote by mail,
The right to vote is not for sale.

STRONGER THAN THE FEAR

By Sarina Partridge

Our vote is stronger than the fear (x3)
We see the path before us and we are not afraid
We are a mighty chorus and we are not afraid
[love, courage, hope, truth...]

DON'T YOU WANNA VOTE

Adapted by Yara Allen

Come on come on come on,
Don't you want to vote (3x)
Yes, I want to vote.

Stop complaining, come on,
Don't you want to vote...
Have you registered somebody...
Will you meet me at the polling place...
Go and raise your voices...
Do it for the children...

THAT'S AMERICA (call and response)

By L. Gallatin

It's not about who's in or out,
Race, religion, code, or creed
It's all for one and one for all.
That's how America should be.
[stomp, stomp, clap, clap]

It's not about where you were born,
Citizen versus refugee.
It's about our common dreams.
That's how America should be.

It's not about cis versus trans,
Them or they or he or she.
It's liberty, of thee I sing.
That's how America should be.

It's not just about the floods or fires,
Rising temps or rising seas.
It's about sustaining life.
That's how America should be.

Pay the rent or pay the bills,
Healthcare versus whether you eat.
It's about the right to thrive.
That's how America should be.

It's not about the body count.
War is not a road to peace.
Hold on to your humanity.
That's how America should be.

It's not about blue versus red,
Young or old or white or black.
It's billionaires against all of us.
It's time to take our country back.

WE ARE THE MOVEMENT

By the Peace Poets

We are the movement,
Liberation moving,
For every single human
We have come to win/love.

THE PEOPLE ARE MY REASON

By the Peace Poets

The people are my reason (2x)
The people are the reason I am never giving up.
'Cause you can't hide from freedom (2x)
You can't hide, no you can't hide,
'Cause freedom's gonna come.

RISE UP (call and response with sample verses)
By Charon Hribar and Jose Vasquez

Rise up we're gonna rise up (2x)
We ain't gonna let nobody turn us around,
Because the people united will stand our ground.

The military doesn't belong in our streets,
We have the right to vote and we won't retreat.

We say no to ruling by fear,
Refugees and immigrants are welcome here.

It's not enough to barely survive,
We believe in a world where everybody can thrive.

We say no to hate and greed,
We say tax the rich and give to those in need.

The powers that be can't keep us down.
We're gonna rise up and turn the world around.

Red, blue, young, old, white, or black
Together we're gonna take our country back!

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING

Traditional African-American spiritual; jazzy version
first popularized by Louie Armstrong and his orchestra.

When We the People go marching in (2x)
Well, I want to be in that number
When We the People go marching in.

Nobody is above the law (2x)
Not you, or me, or the president,
Nobody is above the law.

The right to vote is not for sale (2x)
They may lie and cheat and spend millions,
But the right to vote is not for sale.

When the people vote November 3rd (2x)
When the people vote November 3rd,
Well, I want to be in that number,
When the people vote November 3rd.

[add your own verses]

ALL YOU FASCISTS BOUND TO LOSE

By Woody Guthrie, updated lyrics by Bette Midler

Refrain:
All you fascists bound to lose (3x)
You're bound to lose, you fascists bound to lose.
Hey there all you fascists, you may be surprised,
The people in this world are getting organized!
You're bound to lose, you fascists bound to lose.

We'll battle ICE together until they cut and run
Just like in Minneapolis and when the midterms come
You're bound to lose, you fascists bound to lose.

To hell with all the cowards who hide behind their masks
We're gonna win the midterms, we're coming for his ass!
He knows it too, that bastard's bound to lose.

America, get ready, midterms are at hand
We got to stick together folks and vote to save this land
It's time to choose, those fascists bound to lose

BELLA CIAO

A traditional Italian folk song adopted by women protesting harsh conditions in rice fields and later an anti-fascist anthem. Lyrics by BVOCAL and the 2012 Sing for the Climate mass mobilization in Belgium.

Refrain:
We need to wake up, we need to wise up,
We need to open our eyes and do it now, now, now.
We can build a better future,
'Cause we the people have the power.

Freedom of speech,
And of the press,
Are sacred rights that protect our liberty.
But the lawsuits and the mergers
Imperil our democracy.

Erasing history, denying science,
Crypto coins and the family business ties.
We can protect our rights and our democracy
When We the People organize.

FIRST AMENDMENT

By L. Gallatin

Part I:
Nobody gonna hold us back,
No bully gonna knock us down,
No fear gonna silence us,
No order gonna shut us up.

Part II:
Keep it free, keep it free, keep it free,
Freedom of speech....Freedom of the press...
Freedom to assemble...Freedom to petition.
Freedom of religion.
We the People
No fear gonna silence us,
No order gonna shut us up!

MY NEIGHBOR IS A SOCIALIST

By L. Gallatin

My neighbor is a socialist,
But that is not a threat.
Some are Dems and some Republican,
But I'm not upset.
'Cause we all
Want clean water from the tap,
Protection from crime,
Affordable healthcare for our families,
A job, a home, a life.

My neighbor is an immigrant,
But that is not a threat.
Some are citizens, some refugees,
But I'm not upset.
'Cause we all
Want our children to be safe,
To play and run free,
Go to school, work hard, and get ahead,
A job, a home, a dream.

My neighbor is a Muslim,
But that is not a threat.
Some are Jewish, some are Christian,
But I'm not upset.
'Cause we all
Want to pay our bills without drowning in debt,
Each and everyone of us deserves
A job, a home, a chance.

It's only right that billionaires should pay their fair
share of tax,
And just as right that everyone deserves
A job, a home, a chance.