

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation and the freedom of slaves in America. It is a day normally celebrated with family gatherings, barbeques, parades, and more. This holiday has been celebrated by the Black community for decades, but was recently made a federal holiday by the United States government. Not only is Juneteenth a day of celebration, but it is also a day in which we must recognize the ongoing struggle of Black Americans and commit to fighting oppression and injustice. One of the injustices affecting Black Americans is voter suppression, which will be highlighted in this guide. In honor of Juneteenth Cal Band has decided to focus on voting rights and voter suppression, which is crucial to maintaining the freedom that Black Americans achieved in 1865. It is a fundamental right that we must protect because we all deserve an equal opportunity to have our voices heard, and we all deserve to be fairly represented in government. This resource guide covers how to make sure you're registered to vote and how to recognize and combat voter suppression.

For more information on Juneteenth click [here](#) for a video.

Register to Vote

How do I register to vote?

Click [here](#). Select your state, and you will be directed to a website where you can register.

How can I double check that I am registered to vote?

Check [here](#) to make sure you are registered to vote.

Voter Suppression

What is voter suppression?

Voter suppression aims to influence election outcomes by preventing and/or discouraging certain demographics from voting. Examples of voter suppression include legislation that makes voting more inconvenient, or physical intimidation of voters. Voter suppression has a long history in our country and after the 2020 election, lawmakers have introduced a troubling number of bills that threaten voting rights. Concerningly, voter suppression tactics disproportionately disenfranchise racial minorities. (Source: [Brennan Center for Justice](#))

As we celebrate Juneteenth, we must recognize that throughout history, voter suppression efforts have disproportionately targeted Black voters. See this [timeline](#) and [video](#) to learn more about our nation's long history of Black voter suppression. Unfortunately, voter suppression still largely affects the Black community today, and can take many different forms. Felony disenfranchisement, for example, affects more Black voters due to persisting racial inequalities in the criminal justice system.

How can I make sure I am not a victim of voter suppression?

Voter suppression is something that you can be a victim of even if you are registered and know your rights.

1. Check [here](#) to make sure you are registered to vote. Between 2016 and 2018, around 17 million voters were purged from voter rolls. (Source: [Brennan Center for Justice](#))
2. Know your rights (here are some important ones - this is by no means an exhaustive list):
 - a. If the polls close while you're still in line, stay in line – you will still be able to vote.
 - b. If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new one.
 - c. If the machines are down at your polling place, ask for a paper ballot.
 - d. Voters are entitled to a provisional ballot, even if they aren't in the poll book.
 - e. See [this list](#) for your rights if you are a voter with a disability.
 - f. If you run into any problems or have questions on Election Day, call the Election Protection Hotline:
 - i. English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683
 - ii. Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682
 - iii. Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287
 - iv. For Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683

(Source: [ACLU](#))

What can I do to combat voter suppression?

1. Consider [volunteering as a poll worker](#) on election day.
2. Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español). (Source: [ACLU](#))
3. Report intimidation to local election officials. Find yours [here](#). (Source: [ACLU](#))
4. Donate to organizations that are actively fighting against voter suppression
 - a. [Fair Fight Action](#)
 - b. [Color of Change](#)
 - c. [The Voting Rights Alliance](#)
 - d. [Black Votes Matter](#)