

SUMMER 2024

STATE OF THE SOUTH

VOTING RIGHTS UNDER ASSAULT

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Democracy is in crisis, with a resurgence of voter suppression tactics over the last decade that hearken back to the days of Jim Crow.

No region of the country has been more affected by this dangerous retreat from equitable voting access than the South – a 10-state footprint including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

In a new report, “State of the South: Voting Rights Under Assault,” the Southern Leadership for Voter Engagement (SOLVE), documented how voters of color, young voters and those with disabilities have been targeted with repressive laws and policies that undermine the hard-fought progress secured during the Civil Rights era.



“How do you destroy democracy? One bite at a time, and they’re biting and biting and biting away our democracy. I’m just hoping that the people wake up.”

Rosemary McCoy, Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters

AMONG THE FINDINGS

- Voter turnout is lower in the South than any other part of the country.
- Anti-voter laws in states have led to:
 - Increased criminalization of the voting process, targeting vulnerable voters and those that assist voters.
 - Reduced ability to vote-by-mail and cast ballots early as well.
 - Unfair voting maps with race discrimination challenges brought in 9 of 10 Southern states.
- Felony disenfranchisement in every Southern states keeps millions from voting, including 1 in 19 Black adults.

**JOIN US AT SOLVE TO PROTECT
THE VOTE**

Contact us at solve@scsj.org.

SOLVE is a project of Southern Coalition for Social Justice.

SOLVE



**SOUTHERN
COALITION**
for SOCIAL JUSTICE

VOTING RIGHTS IN THE SOUTH



	ALABAMA	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	LOUISIANA	MISSISSIPPI	N.C.	S.C.	TENNESSEE	TEXAS	VIRGINIA
Percentage of eligible but unregistered voters, 2022 data	33%	37%	31%	32%	27%	39%	36%	33%	35%	26%
Voter turnout, 2022	45%	49%	57%	48%	46%	46%	45%	45%	47%	53%
Youth voter turnout, 2022	15%	22%	26%	16%	20%	23%	18%	13%	22%	23%
Same-day voter registration	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, early voting only	No	No	No	Yes
Online voter registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Voting rights remain after felony conviction*	No	No**	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Turnout gap between white/Black voters (2022 election)	4.00%	(x)	6.50%	6.60%	0.70%	6.50%	6.60%	2.20%	(x)	3.50%
Turnout gap between white/Latino voters (2022 election)	(x)	9.80%	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	8.20%	(x)
Congressional voting maps challenged in court?	Yes, new maps ordered by court.	Yes, pending litigation.	Yes, new maps ordered by court.	Yes, new maps ordered by court.	Yes, maps upheld in court.	Yes, pending litigation.	Yes, maps upheld in court.	Yes, pending litigation.	Yes, pending litigation.	No
Photo ID requirements?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, allows for non-photo ID.

SOURCES: Same-day/online voter registration, NCSL; Unregistered voter and turnout rate, U.S. Census 2022 Voter & Registration Table; Youth voting rate, CIRLCE at Tufts University; Voting ID requirements, NCSL, Vote Riders; Felony disenfranchisement data, NCSL and Sentencing Project; Racial turnout gap, Brennan Center.

* Voting rights can be restored in some states after the completion of a sentence, but the process can be unclear leading to further disenfranchisement.

** Florida restored the right to vote for those who have completed the terms of their sentence but state officials have interpreted that to include fines and fees, keeping many from voting.

(x) Indicates that data is unavailable.