



# CONVERSATION ★ GUIDE ★

VOTE YOUR  
★ RIGHTS ★





# ACLU 2024 Election Voting Rights Conversation Guide

As this year's election ramps up, many of us would like to talk about the impact of this election on our right to vote but don't know where to start. So we want to make it easy for you.

Just a simple conversation with your friends and family can activate your community during this election. In fact, having a conversation with your network has shown to increase voter turnout. With our voting rights on the ballot, the ACLU is here to help you navigate those conversations.



Below you'll find information about the importance of a free and fair democracy. We've also included responses to some frequently asked questions about voting rights, and conversation starters that can help kick-start a dialogue.

In addition, here are some helpful tips to keep in mind when engaging in a conversation:

## Helpful Tips

- ★ Create a safe space - A safe conversation is one in which everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts and feelings. Offer mutual respect and make the most of common ground.
- ★ Listen - Be interested in what others have experienced and acknowledge their point of view.
- ★ Advocate - Inform yourself about the issues that matter to you, so that you can share the facts. Sharing personal stories can also show what's at stake.





## Key Points

- 1 Democracy is free and fair only when every eligible American has the freedom to vote.
- 2 Voting is a fundamental and constitutional right, not a privilege.
- 3 Our elected officials should be reflective of all communities and represent our interests.
- 4 The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest.
- 5 Voting should be equally accessible for all citizens, no matter where they live, the color of their skin, or how much money they make.

## FAQ

**Q:** I thought everyone could vote. Is voter suppression a real thing?

**A:** Voter suppression, the practice of influencing the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting, is a real problem. Voter suppression bills put up unnecessary barriers for people to register to vote, vote by mail, or vote in person. The result is a severely compromised democracy that doesn't reflect the will of the people. Our democracy works best when all eligible voters can participate and have their voices heard.

**Q:** I've been hearing so much about voter fraud. Is this a real problem?

**A:** There is no evidence that the United States has a problem with voter fraud. Studies have shown there's less than a one tenth of a percent chance of voter fraud in the United States. Many studies have found that voter fraud is extraordinarily rare in our country, yet some public officials continue to tell Americans falsehoods about the state of our elections. The true threat to our elections is voter suppression, not fraud.



**Q:** What's wrong with requiring voter ID?

**A:** Unnecessarily strict voter identification laws are a part of an ongoing strategy to roll back decades of progress on voting rights. The fact is that nearly 29 million voting-age Americans do not have the photo identification these laws require. Not all voter ID requirements are discriminatory or burdensome to voters, but seven states have strict photo ID laws, under which voters must present one of a limited set of forms of government-issued photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot.

## Conversation Starters

- ★ Seventy-two percent of Americans are dissatisfied with how our democracy is working. That's why it's important we elect leaders who want to make sure every eligible voter can access the ballot box.
- ★ In the last two years, hundreds of voter suppression bills have been introduced. Voter suppression efforts can seem unobstructive, like strict voter ID laws and cuts to early voting, but they have a real impact. These measures make it harder for people of color, students, the elderly, and people with disabilities to register and vote.

## Time to Fight for Your Rights

This November let's remind our elected officials that they don't have the final say when it comes to our rights — we do. We know you're ready to vote and take action, make sure your friends and family are ready too.

To find out how each elected official plays a key role in defending our rights, visit:

[aclu.org/vote](https://www.aclu.org/vote)

Share this guide with others so that they can engage their circles too.

**ACLU**

The ACLU dares to create a more perfect union — beyond one person, party, or side. Our mission is to realize this promise of the United States Constitution for all and expand the reach of its guarantees.