

Voting Rights and Campaign Finance Reform

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes that America's right to vote is sacred and fundamental to our continuing democracy. This right must be protected from financial influence of the wealthy and corporations, political influence in the form of the gerrymandering of voting districts, and demographic based influence in efforts to disenfranchise people of color, low-income people, and young people. At the local, state, and national level, steps must be taken to make each and every American's vote count. We believe:

- It is in the best interest of our democracy to make voting easier and not harder.
- Redistricting must be put into the hands of unbiased professionals to ensure districts are drawn in a manner that results in fair and equal representation for all Virginians. Politics needs to be taken out of this process entirely putting an end to the epidemic of gerrymandering.
- Protections under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 must be fully restored.
- A national effort must be made to strengthen our election infrastructure security.
- The federal government must intervene with social media companies to bar foreign agents from influencing our elections.
- Our democracy must be brought into the 21st century by expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing universal automatic voter registration, and either making election day a national holiday or moving it to a weekend day to encourage greater voter participation.
- Voter suppression efforts must stop. These efforts are deliberate and insidious threats to our democracy that specifically target people of color, diverse communities, low-income families, young voters, the elderly, women, and voters with disabilities.
- Real campaign finance reform must be enacted now to stop big money from drowning out the voices of everyday Americans.
- Corporations are not people. The Citizen's United Supreme Court decision must be nullified now. The flow of incredibly large amounts of secret, unaccountable money into our political process must end.
- Any American, regardless of income or economic status, should be able to run for office without needing to depend on large contributions from the wealthy and the powerful.