**Resolution by Four Freedoms Democratic Club on**

**H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2021and** [**S.4263**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4263)**, The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**

In light of unprecedented attempts to subvert our democracy by former President Trump and others, including many Republican state lawmakers, The Four Freedoms Democratic Club (“FFDC”) believes that federal legislation is urgently needed to protect and strengthen the right to vote. Specifically, FFDC calls on the Senate to pass [H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2021,](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1/text) which was recently passed by the House of Representatives. We also call on both the House of Representatives and Senate to pass [S. 4263](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4263), The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which is designed to restore the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Among other things, H.R. 1 creates national automatic voter registration, adding voters unless they intentionally opt out; requires the government to keep voter registration up-to-date by collecting information from agencies such as state motor vehicle administrations; provides for same-day voter registration and at least 15 days and 10 hours per day of early voting for federal elections; and requires nonpartisan, independent commissions to review and approve the drawing of new congressional districts to prevent gerrymandering.

In addition to advancing voting rights, H.R. 1 contains sorely needed campaign financing reforms, requiring the federal government to provide 6-1 matching on donations up to $200 for presidential and congressional candidates; and requiring super PACs to disclose their donors and Facebook and Twitter to disclose the source of money used for political advertisements. Finally, H.R. 1 establishes an ethics code for Supreme Court justices and requires that presidential candidates disclose their tax returns.

[S. 4263](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4263), The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, is designed to restore key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, addressing many of the issues noted above. Such provisions, which are essential to protect voting rights, were voided by the Supreme Court Case, *Shelby County v. Holder.* In *Shelby*, [the Supreme Court ruled](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-to-restore-and-strengthen-voting-rights-act) thatCongress was using an outdated formula to decide which states and jurisdictions were required to obtain federal preclearance to change voting laws because of a history of discrimination. S. 4263 updates the criteria for preclearance, among other things, restoring the protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

H.R. 1 and S. 4263 are needed now more than ever. Motivated by former President Trump’s “big lie” that he lost the last election because of fraud and the desire to hold on to legislative power, Republican state lawmakers have proposed numerous voting restrictions, including a Georgia bill blocking early voting on Sundays, which is meant to stop the turnout effort, [“Souls to the Polls,” where black churchgoers vote after attending services](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/06/us/politics/churches-black-voters-georgia.html). The Brennan Center for Justice noted that, in February, state lawmakers across 33 states had drafted over 165 bills restricting voting, which was more than four times the number bills proposed last year.

To counteract these blatant and racist attempts to suppress the vote, FFDC urges the Senate to pass both H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2021 and the House of Representatives and Senate to pass [S. 4263](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4263), The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.