

Talking Points -- Election Modification Legislation (SB 90 & HB 7041)

- We had a near-perfect election in Florida in 2020. Those who won (mostly Republicans) were happy, and even those who lost (mostly Democrats) had no complaints about the process itself. Statewide turnout, at 77%, was as high as it has been in 65 years, in part because nearly six million Floridians signed up to vote by mail. There was no cheating, fraud, or problems with voter rolls. Vote counting went well and was quick. All of it was validated by careful audits and recounts
- These oppressive election laws are aimed at disenfranchising People of Color and would disproportionately impact communities of color. This legislation is in response to the high minority turnout in the 2020 election. Black and Brown people have fought for decades to gain access to the ballot box, and let's be clear, any regressive legislation that seeks to turn back the clock should be soundly defeated. We will continue to push back against unnecessary laws. We will continue to fight for access to the ballot box. Jim Crow will not return!
- Instead of money going towards the unnecessary measures in these bills, these funds could instead be used to make voting easier by adding early voting locations or additional drop boxes, ensuring voters have resources in their first language, and providing voter education and outreach to communities who have less access to voting.
- SB 90 would eliminate drop boxes altogether while HB 7041 will likely create lines and hurdles for many voters with strict new ID requirements.
- Both bills will impact seniors and voters with disabilities by severely limiting who can serve as a designees to drop off vote-by-mail ballots (VBM).
- Rather than erecting new hurdles to VBM, lawmakers should focus on improving the process for voters by:
 - Adding additional time to return & cure VBM ballots
 - Create better tracking & reporting requirements for drop box usage
 - Institute more uniform procedures for signature matching and ballot cures
- Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy but faces attack across the nation - more than 250 bills in 43 states have been filed to limit voting. This is voter suppression.
- States legislators in Georgia, Arizona, Ohio, and others have taken aim at voting reforms brought on by the pandemic, and are intent at rolling back vital progress for voters.
- At a time when our state is still grappling with the most significant public health emergency in our lifetime--COVID-19--legislators seem to think "fixing" a stable and effective election system in Florida is their top priority.
- These proposals are not Florida solutions for Florida problems. Instead, they must be viewed as a return, in fact, an amplification of the Jim Crow South.

- After the Civil War and Reconstruction, southern legislatures and white supremacists responded to newfound political participation by African Americans by passing a series of laws that stripped away African Americans of the ability to vote for decades to come. This new round of legislation is clearly a response to the increased turnout by Black and Brown communities in 2020, and will have the greatest negative impact on them.
- In 2020, millions of people made it clear that they want to build a representative and functioning democracy where everyone, regardless of race, color, or background, can participate. Voters turned out in record numbers to support laws and policies aimed at making voting more accessible and eliminating unnecessary, racist barriers to the ballot.
- Legislators claim that their constituents are “demanding” more transparency and security in elections but produce no proof. Instead, people are demanding to be able to vote without having to jump through more technical hurdles that mask overt voter suppression. Legislators must let people vote!