

EDDIE B. JOHNSON

30 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
DEAN

LLOYD DOGGETT

35 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

**SHEILA JACKSON
LEE**

18 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HENRY CUELLAR

28 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

JOAQUIN CASTRO

20 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

MARC VEASEY

33 RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Texas Democratic Delegation

Washington, DC 20515-4309

FILEMON VELA

34 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

VICENTE GONZALEZ

15 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COLIN ALLRED

32 ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

VERONICA ESCOBAR

16 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

LIZZIE FLETCHER

7 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

SYLVIA GARCIA

29 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

AL GREEN

9 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
CHAIRMAN

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC, 20510

Re: H.R. 1 - For the People Act and H.R. 4 (116th Congress) - the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

As members of the Texas delegation, we write in urgent need of your help to preserve every Texan's right to vote. The Texas Legislature is considering a litany of bills that would make voting more difficult, particularly for voters of color and voters with disabilities. Our most marginalized citizens are being disproportionately targeted by these bills, which will have an impact not seen since the pre-civil rights era if enacted.

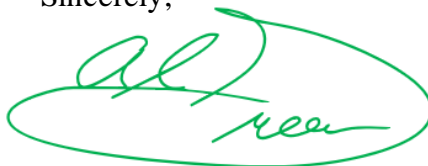
The most notable of these bills are H.B. 6 and S.B. 7. Both are swiftly moving through our state's Republican-dominated legislative chambers, and any opportunity to stop these efforts to limit Texans' ability to vote greatly depends on our ability to pass the For the People Act (H.R. 1) and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4 in the 116th Congress).

Since the Supreme Court invalidated key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, Texas has passed, defended, and implemented a number of election laws that have added barriers for communities to access the ballot box. Most infamous is its strict voter ID law that federal courts ruled was discriminatory against minority voters. The bills that the Texas legislature is prioritizing this session would close polling places in communities of color, foster intimidation of voters with disabilities as well as those who have limited English proficiency, and reduce opportunities for early voting. The testimonies of trusted civil rights organizations – including the NAACP of Texas, MALDEF, and the Texas Civil Rights Project – detailing the many ways in which these bills would make voting less accessible have not deterred legislators from moving the bills forward.

Although civil and voting rights activists across Texas continue to fiercely fight to prevent these Texas bills from becoming law, they require reinforcement from the Federal government. It is imperative that the U.S. Senate immediately take up and move forward the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, with appropriate amendments if necessary, to ensure all Texans – and all Americans – can access their right to vote, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, income, disability, or party affiliation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Congressman Al Green in Washington, D.C., by phone at (202)225-7508 or by emailing Congressman Green's Chief of Staff, Niha Razi at Niha.Razi@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Al Green
Chairman
Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation

Eddie B. Johnson
Dean
Texas Democratic Congressional
Delegation

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Vincente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Sylvia Garcia
Member of Congress