



State Voting Rights Acts

No updates required since February 13, 2025

Background

The federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), passed in 1965 thanks to the efforts of the civil rights movement, is one of the most important pieces of legislation ever enacted in our country. However, due to U.S. Supreme Court decisions over the past decade, some of the most important protections of the federal VRA have been stripped away. In response to this shifting landscape, some states have taken renewed interest in putting their own voting rights protections in place. These state voting rights acts differ in scope but are generally modeled after the federal VRA. State voting rights acts provide new legal tools to fight voter suppression in court and create protections against voter intimidation and racial discrimination, among many other critical safeguards.

Scoring

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act, 1 point
- State does not have a state level voting rights act, 0 points

Summary Table

| Category | Number | List |
|---|------------------|---|
| State does not have a state level voting rights act | 42 states & D.C. | Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas Colorado Delaware D.C. Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Missouri |



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| | | Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming |
| State conducts all-mail elections | 8 states | California Connecticut Illinois Minnesota New York Oregon Virginia Washington |



Chronology

- 2002: California passes first state VRA
- 2011: Illinois passes state VRA
- 2013: Shelby County decision weakens federal VRA
- 2018: Washington passes state VRA
- 2019: Oregon passes state VRA
- 2021: Virginia passes state VRA
- 2022: New York passes state VRA
- 2023: Connecticut passes state VRA
- 2024: Minnesota passes state VRA

State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Alaska (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Arizona (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Arkansas (0)

- State has no applicable law.

California (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([West's Ann. Cal. Elect. Code § 14025 – 14032](#)).
- California's law is more narrow than recent legislation, and focuses primarily on "vote dilution," which occurs when legislative maps are drawn in a discriminatory fashion to deny voters of color the ability to elect candidates their communities support.

Colorado (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Connecticut (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([HB 6941](#), 2023).
- Connecticut’s law includes 1) a “preclearance” program that puts the burden on local governments with records of discrimination to prove that certain voting changes won’t harm voters of color before they can go into effect. 2) Expanding language assistance for voters with limited English proficiency. 3) strong protections against voter intimidation, deception, or obstruction. 4) requirements for state judges to interpret election laws in a pro-voter way.

Delaware (0)

- State has no applicable law.

D.C. (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Florida (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Georgia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Hawaii (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Idaho (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Illinois (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([10 ILCS 120/Art. 5](#)).
- Illinois’ law is more narrow than recent legislation, and focuses primarily on “vote dilution,” which occurs when legislative maps are drawn in a discriminatory fashion to deny voters of color the ability to elect candidates their communities support.

Indiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Iowa (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Kansas (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Kentucky (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Louisiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maine (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maryland (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Massachusetts (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Michigan (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Minnesota (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([MN HB 4772](#) (2024)).
- Minnesota's law includes 1) Prohibition Against Voter Suppression 2) Prohibition Against Vote Dilution 3) Enshrining the "Democracy Canon": instructing state judges to interpret election laws in a pro-voter way whenever reasonably possible. 4) A private right of action

Mississippi (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Missouri (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Montana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Nebraska (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Nevada (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Hampshire (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Jersey (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Mexico (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New York (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([NY SB 1046](#) (2022)).
- New York's law includes 1) a preclearance requirement 2) new legal tools to fight discriminatory voting rules in court. 3) Expanded language assistance for voters with limited English proficiency. 4) Creating strong protections against voter intimidation, deception, or obstruction. 5) Requiring state judges to interpret election laws in a pro-voter way whenever possible.

North Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

North Dakota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Ohio (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Oklahoma (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Oregon (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([OR HB 3310](#) (2019)).
- Oregon's law is closely modeled on Washington state.

Pennsylvania (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Rhode Island (0)

- State has no applicable law.

South Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

South Dakota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Tennessee (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Texas (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Utah (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Vermont (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Virginia (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([VA SB 1395](#) (2021)).
- Virginia's law was the most expansive to date and closely mirrors the original federal Voting Rights Act. Most significantly, Virginia became the first state to implement a preclearance provision at the state level (see below to learn more) and the first to establish a private right of action, which allows lawsuits to be filed by individuals or advocacy organizations.

Washington (1)

- State has enacted a state level voting rights act ([Chapter 29A.92 RCW](#)).
- Washington became the first state to [adopt a law](#) responding directly to the weakening of the federal VRA. Washington's law protects voting rights by preventing "electoral systems that deny race, color, or language minority groups an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice."

West Virginia (0)

- State has no applicable law.



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Wisconsin (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Wyoming (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Democracy Map & Additional Resources

- See our Democracy Map, [State Level Voting Rights Acts](#), which is updated in real time.