



May 1, 2024

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: HR14/S4 *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*

Dear Senator Markey,

Thank you for your co sponsorship of The *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* (JLVRAA)--the most pressing piece of legislation we can pass to prevent discrimination and restore the *Voting Rights Act of 1965* (VRA). This legislation will ensure that those who seek to prevent voters of color, voters with language access needs, and voters with disabilities from casting their ballots are not allowed to infringe upon the right to vote.

Since the Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision rolled back key provisions of the *Voting Rights Act* in 2013, we have seen voting become more challenging, especially for women and communities of color. In recent elections, voters have faced a variety of obstacles, from reduced polling locations and stringent voter identification requirements to the illegal removal of registered voters from the rolls and restrictions that limit voters' options when it comes to how they cast their ballot. This election year, we cannot risk further erosion of the freedom to vote and the equality of opportunity for all eligible voters to cast their ballots.

We urge you to work together with your colleagues in Congress to pass the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, which will ensure that voters are able to cast their ballots free of discriminatory or administrative barriers.

Although the JLVRAA is a federal piece of legislation, the impacts of voting policies — both positive and negative — are felt most acutely at the local level. For millions of Americans, it is now harder to register, vote, and have their voices heard equally. This stands in stark opposition to the promise and values of American democracy. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), a member of the Election Modernization Coalition, works to reduce barriers for all voters including voters of color by advocating for passage of the [ACCESS Act](#) including same day registration here in the Commonwealth.



Our democracy needs legislation that prevents discrimination at the ballot box so that all voters have an equal right to make their voices heard. Access to the vote is not a partisan issue. We hope to continue to partner with your office to protect all voters. Please do not hesitate to contact us via our staff, Fiona Schultz, at [fschultz@lwvma.org](mailto:fschultz@lwvma.org).

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, on the left, reads "Elizabeth L. Foster-Nolan" in a cursive script. The second signature, on the right, reads "Marie Gauthier" in a similar cursive script.

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan and Marie Gauthier  
Co-presidents, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts