

WHY JOE BIDEN?



Voter suppression efforts by anti-worker politicians at the federal, state and local levels have been emboldened by the 2013 Supreme Court ruling in the *Shelby County v. Holder* case. The ruling gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that required federal oversight of election laws in certain Southern states.

In recent years, our country has witnessed some of the most extreme voter suppression attempts in decades. Twenty-five U.S. states have enacted voting restrictions, including strict photo ID requirements, early voting cutbacks and registration restrictions. Registered voters have been intentionally purged from voter rolls and hundreds of polling stations have been closed, many in predominantly African American communities.

Politicians at all levels of government have repeatedly, and falsely, claimed the 2016 and 2018 elections were marred by millions of people voting illegally. However, extensive research reveals that fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is virtually nonexistent, and many instances of alleged fraud are, in fact, mistakes by voters or administrators. The same is true for mailed ballots, which are secure and essential to holding a safe election amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Anti-union forces have also used similar voter suppression tactics to dampen turnout by union members in elections.

Gerrymandering has already expanded in several states, by manipulating voting districts through redrawing lines that weaken the voting power of certain groups. Gerrymandering in many states is used to further political agendas rather than to ensure fair representation of the citizens they represent.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of expanding voting options including online or vote by mail (no-excuse absentee), providing online and same day voter registration, and additional protections for in-person voting. Voters should not risk their health and safety to exercise their fundamental right to vote in the upcoming election. Long lines, confusion at the polls, voters not getting their ballots on time are just some of the reasons that Congress should direct funding to states to expand safe access to the ballot.

The House passed several UAW-endorsed bills to expand voting rights and reverse the *Shelby County v. Holder* case. However, these bills have not advanced through the Senate. The bills are:

- ★ The For the People Act (H.R. 1) which would make Election Day a holiday, limit efforts to purge voting rolls, expand same day voter registration and promote online voter registration.
- ★ The Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4) reverses the misguided *Shelby v. Holder* decision by the Supreme Court in 2013 that gutted voter protections established in the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The UAW supported this bill because it empowers Americans to vote and ensures that everyone has equal access to participate in the voting process, a core value of our democracy.

Get out the vote. Know your voting rights. Register to vote.

Know where your polling place is located and know what to bring to the polling location.

If you cannot vote in-person on Election Day, you may be able to vote early or by absentee vote-by-mail ballot. It is your right to request an absentee ballot if you do not vote in person. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines if you vote in person.

If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new one. If the machines are down at your polling place, ask for a paper ballot. Voters are entitled to a provisional ballot, even if they aren't in the poll book.