

WASHINGTON VOTING JUSTICE COALITION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2023

HB 1048/SB 5047 STRENGTHENING THE WASHINGTON VOTING RIGHTS ACT



Whether we are Black, brown, or white, voters should all have an equal opportunity to exercise our freedom to vote and see ourselves represented in our government. When local governments create voting barriers for communities of color, communities should feel empowered to challenge oppressive laws and systems through the Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA).

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE?

If we strengthen the Washington Voting Rights Act...

- Communities of color would be able to more affordably seek justice against discriminatory election practices.
 - Parties who violate the WVRA would reimburse the community up to \$50,000 for the costs of their WVRA case.
- Voters would have stronger protections against vote dilution, where districting or voting practices cancel out the voting strength of racial and other minority groups.
- Organizations that serve communities of color would have the power to challenge discrimination on behalf of their members, and we would level the playing field for jurisdictions of all different sizes who are seeking justice.

We successfully fought for the Washington Voting Rights Act in 2018, and now it's time to improve upon it and ensure that it can continue to be a powerful tool for communities of color to advocate for justice in our elections.

WHO WE ARE

The Washington Voting Justice Coalition is committed to protecting and expanding voting rights across the state. We're a coalition of community-based organizations and individuals who believe that justice, participation, and the freedom to vote are the foundation of a real democracy. We believe that our vote is our instrument of change, and our tool to have a voice in our government.

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