



The New Frontier: How Ohio Can Expand Voting Rights

Voting is the foundation of our democracy.

It is the right upon which all of our other rights depend. Generations of Americans fought and died for our right to vote, the freedom to choose our leaders, and the right to speak up for our beliefs. It's important that we honor these sacrifices and ensure that no American is unfairly denied the right to vote.

Ohio ranks behind 20 other states when it comes to running smooth elections (<https://elections.mit.edu/#state-OH>). As we strive to improve our ranking, we can modernize our elections, improve voting access for all Ohioans, and ensure that every eligible citizen is able to cast a secure ballot. To that end,

members of the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition (OVRC) have developed a platform of proactive reforms focused on improving the voter registration process, maximizing opportunities for early voting, and fully enfranchising people in the criminal justice system.

We recognize there is much work to be done and it cannot all be accomplished overnight. Nonetheless, it's important that we take steps now to create an election system that works for all Ohioans. **We recommend the following legislative and administrative reforms take priority in 2019:**

ADOPT AUTOMATED VOTER REGISTRATION

1

When an eligible citizen gives their information to government agencies they will automatically be registered to vote unless they opt-out.

INCREASE EARLY VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

2

Expand and make permanent evening and weekend early in person voting hours, and allow counties the option of having multiple early voting sites.

IMPROVE ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

3

Make technical enhancements so that government agencies and voter registration groups can register voters effectively.

These reforms can greatly improve the quality of our democracy. We stand ready to work with legislators, local election officials, and the Secretary of State's office to make these reform ideas a reality.

WHO WE ARE: The Ohio Voting Rights Coalition (OVRC) is a non-partisan network of local, state, and national voting advocates. Members supporting this proposal include: All Voting is Local, American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, Campus Vote Project, Common Cause Ohio, Fair Elections Center, Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates, ProgressOhio, Ohio Conference NAACP, Ohio Student Association, Policy Matters Ohio, and The League of Women Voters Ohio.

**OHIO
VOTER RIGHTS
COALITION**

ALLVOTINGISLOCAL.ORG