

MICHIGAN VOTING RIGHTS ACT FACT SHEET



Mission

The Michigan Voting Rights Act (MVRA) will expand on the original federal Voting Rights Act, add new protections for Michigan voters, and make good on the promise of the 15th Amendment — that no citizen be denied the right to vote based on race.

MVRA Quick Facts



Senate Bills 401-404, sponsored by Sens. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) and Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), were introduced to the Senate on June 22, 2023.



The MVRA mirrors and expands the original federal Voting Rights Act, which has been attacked repeatedly since its passage in 1965.



Secretary Benson and the Department of State are working with advocates on the ground and with leaders in the Michigan Legislature to pass the MVRA this year.



Passage of the MVRA would be a historic civil rights moment for our state.



The MVRA represents a historic pledge to every Michigan citizen – your right to vote is sacred and it will be protected.

*Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State*

Why do we need the MVRA?

In the 2013 case *Shelby County v. Holder*, the U.S. Supreme Court gutted a powerful provision in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, undermining a law widely regarded as the most effective piece of civil rights legislation in American history.

For nearly 50 years, the federal Voting Rights Act successfully prohibited states with a history of racial discrimination in elections from enacting laws or policies to restrict voting rights.

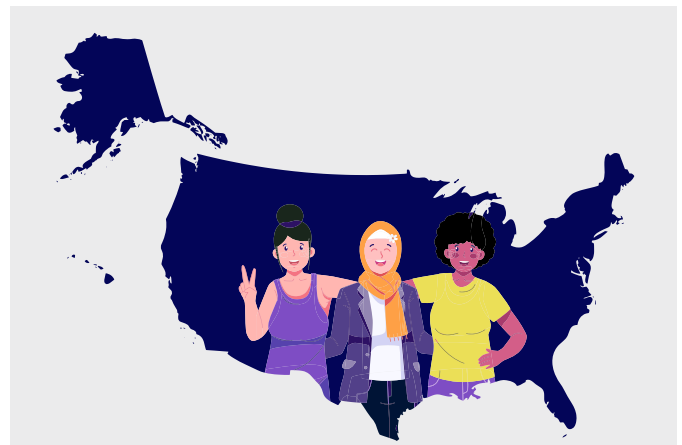
Since the *Shelby County* decision, nearly 100 new laws restricting voting access have been passed by states – including Midwestern states like Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa.*

Michigan has a strong election system and dedicated clerks who uphold the law. The MVRA will protect the access Michigan voters have today and shield us from future attempts to undermine our fair and accessible elections.

**Brennan Center for Justice*

The MVRA will:

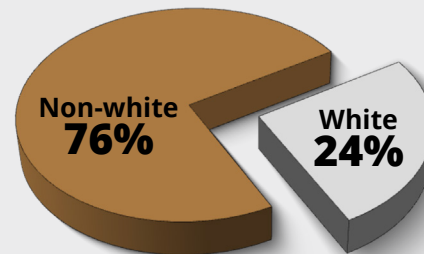
- ✓ Prohibit voter denial, dilution, and suppression.
- ✓ Expand the number of jurisdictions that must translate election-related information into languages other than English.
- ✓ Enhance and clarify protections for voters with disabilities or others who need assistance to participate in elections.



The racial balance of the U.S. electorate is changing. We need to fight voter suppression and subversion targeting the growing number of non-white voters.

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Non-white eligible voters have accounted for more than three-quarters of total U.S. electorate growth since 2000.



From 2000 to 2018, the number of eligible U.S. voters grew from 193.4 million to 233.7 million – an increase of 40.3 million. Voters who are Hispanic, Black, Asian or another race or ethnicity accounted for more than three-quarters (76%) of this growth.

**Pew Research Center*

Passage of the Michigan Voting Rights Act will secure our place as a national leader in protecting the rights of our citizens and the integrity of our democratic system.