

## **A RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

Resolution No. 2021-6

### **Support of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**

**Whereas**, in the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court case *Shelby County v. Holder*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In their opinion, they struck down the requirement that states and counties obtain federal preclearance prior to the enactment of any changes to their voting laws or practices (1-2); and

**Whereas**, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, in a 2018 report, found that, following *Shelby County v. Holder*, many states and counties have subsequently enacted discriminatory practices that have adversely affected the ability of minority communities to register and vote, such as Voting ID Laws, Polling Station Closures and Purging Voter Rolls (1-2); and

**Whereas**, the 2018 report recommended that Congress enact a new coverage formula to remedy these infringements (2); and

**Whereas**, to address these issues, Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy introduced the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, which reestablishes a coverage formula and requires states and districts to obtain federal preclearance (3); and

**Whereas**, the act examines states that have enacted Voting ID Laws, Polling Station Closures and Purging Voter Rolls, and uses these, and other voting rights violations and racial discrimination from the past 25 years, and the criteria to determine which states and countries are placed under the coverage formula (4); and

**Whereas**, if the Federal Government determines that these violations are constant and repeated, a state or county will be placed under the coverage formula for a period of 10 years (4); and

**Whereas**, in a speech at the 2012 DNC, John Lewis, speaking about voting violations and racial discrimination, stated, “My dear friends: your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union.” (5)

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

Call on Congress and President Biden to pass and enact the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

**REFERENCES:**

1. OYEZ (June 2013): <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2012/12-96>
2. US Commission on Civil Rights (June 2018):  
[https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/Minority\\_Voting\\_Access\\_2018.pdf](https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/Minority_Voting_Access_2018.pdf)
3. Website of Senator Patrick Leahy (July 2020): <https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/leahy-leads-47-senators-in-introducing-the-john-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act>
4. GovTrack (July 2020): <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s4263/text>
5. C-Span Coverage (Sept 2012): <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c3873564/john-lewis-2012-democratic-national-convention>

Resolution submitted by the Platform and Resolutions Committee.

**ADOPTED** by the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021.



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Tonia Moro,  
Chair, Jackson County Democratic Party