



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch**

Public Policy: Open and Fair Elections (October 2022)



“AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights.”

Elected officials make decisions impacting all of us—from our paychecks to paid leave, from reproductive health care to education. Our Vote is Our Voice. We must ensure everyone who is eligible is registered to vote!

Background

1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made it illegal for any election law or practice to discriminate against or prevent anyone from voting. Protecting the right to vote continues today.

2013 - the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision from the U.S. Supreme Court gutted key protections in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 making way for many new discriminatory and restrictive voting laws. The impact was seen within 24 hours. We need new legislation.

2021 -The Freedom to Vote Act (also known as The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act) passed in the House in 2021 and remains under consideration in the Senate. This Act will modernize The Voting Rights Act formula to counter anti-voter bills sweeping the nation and determine where patterns of discrimination exist; increase transparency and ensure last-minute voting changes do not adversely affect voters; and expand government authority to send Federal observers to the polls. The Act will also:

- **Require** every state to have automatic voter registration
- **Establish** Election Day as a federal holiday
- **Ensure** the ability to vote by mail
- **Protect** communities vulnerable to disenfranchisement
- **Ban** partisan gerrymandering

Our democracy works best when everyone fully participates! Be the change you want to see! Become a 2-Minute Activist by contacting your senators today:

- Rick Scott, 202-224-5274, rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick
- Marco Rubio, 202-224-3041, rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

PLEASE VOTE!