

# Compilation of the Biden administration's public statements on the For the People Act



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## Summary

This document is a compilation of the White House's major public statements and Tweets on the For the People Act since President Joe Biden's joint address to Congress on April 28. Although the president promised to “**fight like heck with every tool at my disposal for its passage**,” his public-facing advocacy for the bill is largely limited to a handful of Tweets and short references in statements.

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### **From President Biden directly (speeches, statements, etc.):**

**July 1** -- [Statement by President Joe Biden on the Supreme Court's Voting Rights Decision in \*Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee\*](#):

*Today's decision also makes it all the more imperative to continue the fight for the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and expand voting protections. The Court's decision, harmful as it is, does not limit Congress' ability to repair the damage done today: it puts the burden back on Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act to its intended strength.*

**June 30** -- [A Proclamation on the 50th Anniversary of the 26th Amendment](#)

*Today's youth are more diverse than past generations — and laws aimed at suppressing voter turnout in Black and Brown communities also impact young voters. **My Administration supports the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to protect the fundamental right to vote and make our democracy more equitable and accessible for all Americans.***

**June 22** -- [Statement by President Joe Biden on the For the People Act](#)

***Today, Democrats in Congress unanimously came together to protect the sacred right to vote.***

***In supporting the For the People Act and defending the rights of voters, they stood united for democracy. They stood against the ongoing assault of voter suppression that represents a Jim Crow era in the 21st Century.***

*Unfortunately, a Democratic stand to protect our democracy met a solid Republican wall of opposition. Senate Republicans opposed even a debate—even considering—legislation to protect the right to vote and our democracy...*

*I'll have more to say on this next week. But let me be clear. This fight is far from over—far from over. I've been engaged in this work my whole career, and we are going to be ramping up our efforts to overcome again—for the people, for our very democracy.*

**June 11** -- [FACT SHEET: How the Biden-Harris Administration is Fighting Against Attacks on Americans' Constitutional Right to Vote:](#)

***The President and Vice President are fighting for legislation. That includes the For the People Act**, which would set basic national standards for fair voting access in federal elections, and help ensure the ethical conduct of those elected to office. And it includes the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would stop racial discrimination in our elections before that discrimination has the chance to take effect.*

**June 2** -- [Speech in Tulsa commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre:](#)

*But today, as for the act of voting itself, I urge voting rights groups in this country to begin to redouble their efforts now to register and educate voters. (Applause.)*

*And in June — **June should be a month of action on Capitol Hill.** I hear all the folks on TV saying, “Why doesn’t Biden get this done?” Well, because Biden only has a majority of, effectively, four votes in the House and a tie in the Senate, with two members of the Senate who vote more with my Republican friends.*

***But we’re not giving up.** Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed For the People Act to protect our democracy. The Senate will take it up later this month, and **I’m going to fight like heck with every tool at my disposal for its passage.***

**May 29** -- [Statement by President Joe Biden on Texas Senate Bill 7:](#)

*Today, Texas legislators put forth a bill that joins Georgia and Florida in advancing a state law that attacks the sacred right to vote. It’s part of an assault on democracy that we’ve seen far too often this year—and often disproportionately targeting Black and Brown Americans.*

*It’s wrong and un-American. In the 21st century, we should be making it easier, not harder, for every eligible voter to vote.*

***I call again on Congress to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.** And I continue to call on all Americans, of every party and persuasion, to stand up for our democracy and protect the right to vote and the integrity of our elections.*

**From the POTUS Twitter account:**

**July 1**

*Today's decision by the Supreme Court undercuts voting rights in this country — and makes it **all the more crucial to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** to restore and expand voting protections.*

*Our democracy depends on it.*

**June 22**

*We can't sit idly by while democracy is in peril — here, in America. We need to protect the sacred right to vote and ensure “We the People” choose our leaders, the very foundation on which our democracy rests. We urgently need the For The People Act.*

**Send it to my desk.**

**June 22**

*Today, [@SenSchumer](#) and I held our latest strategy call on getting the For the People Act to my desk. **Democrats are united and committed to passing this landmark legislation to protect voting rights, ensure the integrity of our elections, and repair and strengthen our democracy.***

**June 2**

*We're witnessing an all-out assault on our democracy — and we need to act swiftly to protect the sacred right to vote.*

**We need the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.**

**From Vice President Kamala Harris directly:**

**June 23** -- Harris meets with Stacey Abrams, voting rights advocates ([The Hill](#)):

*Harris hosted leaders from the NAACP, the AFL-CIO, the Center for American Progress, Black Lives Matter, the American Federation of Teachers and several progressive groups.*

*The discussion, she said, would focus on strategies for passing federal legislation and building grassroots coalitions to protect and strengthen access to the ballot box.*

***"The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy,"** Harris told the group. "And when we look in particular at the challenges, at the attempts to attack our democracy and most recently one of the most vivid, outrageous examples being Jan. 6, we know that our democracy is under attack in many ways and that we must preserve the promises of a democracy, including appreciating that the right to vote is fundamental to that democracy. That truth remains."...*

*(On the unanimous support from the Democratic Caucus on the vote) "That was a feat, and I think we should all consider that an accomplishment," she said. "As diverse and varied geographically as is the Democratic caucus, there was unity in recognizing the importance of moving forward to ensure that the American people have full access to the ballot box."*

***Harris called the failed vote an "inflection point,"** and she reiterated her mantra that the fight for voting rights is not over because of Tuesday night's developments.*

## **June 22 -- [Statement by Vice President Kamala Harris on the For the People Act:](#)**

At this critical moment, the United States Senate had a critical opportunity to make voting more accessible nationwide. **The For The People Act has the broad support of the American people. Yet, as Senate Democrats united around the legislation, this afternoon, Senate Republicans voted against advancing it.**

The President and I are undeterred, and I know the American people are as well. Like generations before, we will not give up, we will not give in, and we will continue the fight to strengthen the right to vote. We will fortify and expand the nationwide coalition on voting rights, and promote voter engagement and registration nationwide. We will lift up leaders in the states who are working to stop anti-voter legislation, and work with leaders in Congress to advance federal legislation that will strengthen voting rights.

**I want to be clear that our Administration remains determined to work with Congress to pass the For The People Act,** and we will keep working with Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Here is the bottom line: Our democracy is stronger when everyone participates—and it is weaker when people are denied meaningful access to participation. And that is why the right to vote is neither Democratic nor Republican. The right to vote is an American right.

It is our duty, at every opportunity, to protect and strengthen the right to vote.

**June 16** -- [Remarks by Vice President Harris in a Meeting with Members of the Texas State Senate and Texas House of Representatives:](#)

*These are some of the issues that are at play. And so, I welcome you. **I welcome you on behalf the President and myself.** As you know, he's in Europe right now. But we wanted to greet you here in the Roosevelt Room as an extension of the importance of the work you are doing, not only on behalf of the people of Texas, but the people of our country and our nation as a whole.*

*And while we will meet, **we will also talk about the administration's absolute commitment to seeing Congress — the United States Congress — pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and to pass the For the People Act** to, again, put back in place the protections that existed before and to ensure, as we go forward, that as there are new attacks on the access to the polls and voting, that we head them off in a way that ensures again that the people retain their right to vote however they choose, but unimpeded.*

*So with that, I want to thank all of you, and we will talk about Senate Bill 7 and how it clearly has been written in a way that will make it difficult for people and what you all are doing as courageous leaders that, again, speak up for the people. And that is what you are doing.*

**June 11** -- [FACT SHEET: How the Biden-Harris Administration is Fighting Against Attacks on Americans' Constitutional Right to Vote:](#)

***The President and Vice President are fighting for legislation. That includes the For the People Act***, which would set basic national standards for fair voting access in federal elections, and help ensure the ethical conduct of those elected to office. And it includes the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would stop racial discrimination in our elections before that discrimination has the chance to take effect.

**June 11** -- [Statement from Vice President Kamala Harris on Nevada Expanding Voting Access:](#)

***The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy***—and defending that fundamental right is the most important work we can do as a nation. Earlier this month, Nevada made voting easier by expanding mail in voting. And today, the Governor signed into law additional legislation to increase access to the ballot box. The fact is: when Americans cast a ballot, we not only decide our leaders. We determine the future of our nation, and we strengthen our democracy.

***That's why the Biden-Harris Administration strongly supports the For the People Act, which would ensure fair participation in every state, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would curb racial discrimination in our elections.***

**June 1 -- [Statement from Vice President Kamala Harris on Administration's Voting Rights Efforts:](#)**

*We must protect the fundamental right to vote for all Americans regardless of where they live. There are two important bills in Congress that would do just that. **The For the People Act would provide all Americans with fair and accessible voting options**, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would prevent discriminatory changes to voting laws and procedures.*

*President Joe Biden asked me to help lead our Administration's effort to protect the fundamental right to vote for all Americans. In the days and weeks ahead, I will engage the American people, and I will work with voting rights organizations, community organizations, and the private sector to help strengthen and uplift efforts on voting rights nationwide. And we will also work with members of Congress to help advance these bills.*

**From the VP Twitter account**

**[June 22](#)**

*Our democracy is stronger when everyone participates—and it is weaker when people are denied meaningful access to participation. Today, as Senate Democrats united around the For The People Act, Senate Republicans voted against advancing it. My Statement: (See statement in the “From Vice President Kamala Harris” section above)*

**[May 29](#)**

*Today, Texas legislators advanced a bill attacking the right to vote. It's yet another assault on our democracy. **Congress needs to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.***

***We need to make it easier for eligible voters to vote. Not harder.***

**From Press Secretary Jen Psaki:**

**July 12 -- [Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki](#)**

Q Thanks, Jen. What can you tell us about the **President's message in his voting rights speech tomorrow**? Is going to be pushing more for congressional action? Is he going to be talking about state action? And what is his strategy to tackle this issue beyond the speech tomorrow?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, first — well, thank you for the question, because he's very focused on this speech tomorrow — one that he himself wanted to deliver...

And **he will highlight the work of the administration against this, the necessity of passing the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**, and how we need to work together with civil rights organizations to build as broad a turnout and voter education system to overcome the worst challenge to our democracy since the Civil War.

**June 23 -- [Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki](#)**

***I'd also note, today — and obviously the President will speak to all of this later this afternoon — today, the Vice President will hold a listening session with leading civil rights and voting rights groups from across the country following the Senate vote on the For the People Act just yesterday.***

*The meeting builds on the Vice President's work to bring together a national coalition on voting rights to promote voter registration and engagement — engagement among Americans across the country — from Greenville, South Carolina, to Atlanta, Georgia — to protect our fundamental right to vote.*

*She will drive the message that the fight is not over and that the President and the administration remain committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to the ballot.*

**June 7 -- [Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, June 7, 2021](#)** (see "Other relevant releases and briefings" for Sullivan's responses):

*I think where we are at this point is, clearly, Senator Manchin has stated his point of view in his opinion piece over the weekend, which many of you, it sounds like, have read, as did we.*

***But the President's view is that we need to move forward not just with the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, but also with legislation, like the For the People Act, which enjoys, I should note, broad support for — from the American people and — because it does a couple of things that he thinks are essential: It provides basic protections for registering to vote and how we cast a ballot; it will prevent politicians from drawing***

**congressional district lines for partisan advantage; to ensure that people are choosing the representatives that will help end the corrupting power of money and politics.**

Now, in terms of the path forward and what that looks like and the mechanics of how it moves forward in Congress, the President is quite open to and willing to work with anyone to enact commonsense reforms that benefit the American people. **We will stay lockstep with Democratic leadership on what that looks like from here, but I don't have anything to preview about the next steps...**

**I think it's important to know and understand: The President doesn't feel that, you know, the John Lewis Voting Act — Voting Rights Act is a replacement for the For the People Act, and that it is necessary to move forward with more than that.**

Q And a follow-up on that: Tomorrow, Joe Manchin is meeting — it's reported he's meeting with civil rights leaders, civil rights leaders who pretty much align themselves with this administration. What are your hopes?...

MS. PSAKI: Well, look, I don't know that I can speak to a meeting that has no member of the administration as participating in, April.

But I can tell you that the President is going to continue, and as are members of this administration who've been leading this effort — from Susan Rice to Cedric to anyone who's at the highest level, and, obviously, to the Vice President, when she returns from her trip — to advocating for a path forward on how we can ensure that everyone knows their vote counts, that we make voting more accessible, that we make it easier and not harder. Those are fundamentals.

**The President, the Vice President, and other members of the administration will be open to, eager to have that discussion with anyone who wants to be constructive in that, moving forward...**

Q On the same topic: Could you speak more to the actual argument that Senator Manchin was making, which was less about the content of the For the People Act and more about the fact that it doesn't have bipartisan support and that being behind it would be wrong for that reason alone?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think the President's view continues to be that making voting easier for people, making it easier to vote, ensuring people have access to that fundamental American right should be something that Democrats and Republicans all support. And he certainly will continue to advocate for that...



Q And then, given the fact that we've been talking about how a bill becomes a law, if he's against the For the People Act, **does that mean that for all intents and purposes — at least for right now — it is dead?**

MS. PSAKI: **I'm certainly not going to make that prediction. As you know, there can be many ups and downs of legislation moving forward. And as I noted earlier, he's been — the President has been clear he's willing to work with anyone to enact commonsense reforms that benefit the American people, that make it easier to vote. He'll have those discussions with Democratic leadership, and we'll work together on what the path forward looks like.**

#### **From other White House officials:**

**June 7 -- [Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, June 7, 2021](#)** (see above for Psaki's responses)

Q My second question, Jake, on voting — the For the People Act. If it is not passed, what is the national security issue with it? Is there a national security issue with it if it's not passed? Because we've heard so much over the past few years about issues of voting. If that is not passed, is it a national security issue?

MR. SULLIVAN: **I would say the basic notion of democratic reform and voting rights in the United States is a national security issue.** We are in a competition of models with autocracies, and we are trying to show the world that American democracy and democracy writ large can work, can effectively deliver the will of the people. And to the extent that we are not updating, refurbishing, revamping our own democratic processes and procedures to meet the needs of the modern moment, then we are not going to be as successful in making that case to the rest of the world — to China, to Russia, or to anyone else. And so there is a national security dimension to this today, just as there was through the decades of the Cold War...

Q And on voting, can you talk a little bit — is Congress being briefed on the idea of voting as a national security issue? And **if the For the People Act isn't passed, what will that say globally, given the fact that you just laid it out as a national security issue?**

MR. SULLIVAN: So, I will say, humbly, as the National Security Advisor, **I don't tend to get into the middle of the debates up on the Hill on issues like voting rights.** All I can say is the bottom-line principle — not a specific question about the vehicle or the timeframe, but rather the fundamental principle — which is that **a strong, vibrant American democracy that protects voting rights is the best way for us to make the case to the world that our model, and not some other model, is the right model to actually vindicate the will of**

*the people here in the United States, and for other democracies to be able to do the same.*

**June 1** -- [Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre Aboard Air Force One En Route Tulsa, OK:](#)

*So he is again calling on Congress to pass the **For the People Act** and the John Lewis Voting Rights Amendment Act, and will continue to call on Americans — every party and persuasion — to stand up for our democracy and protect the right to vote and the integrity of our elections...*

*And if you think about the American Rescue Plan, that had bipartisan support across the country — Republicans, Democrats, and independents. **And that's what the President is going to continue to do: try to bring both sides together and work with Congress to get the For the People Act passed, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act passed.** And so that's what we're going to continue to do. And he'll have — he'll actually have more to say about that later today, so I don't want to get ahead (inaudible).*