



# Dear Senators Manchin and Capito,

As former West Virginia office holders, we write to express our concern at the lack of bipartisan support for protecting the freedom to vote and ensuring that every American can have their voices heard in our democracy with the same level of access as West Virginians.

Like both of you, we had reservations about the *For the People Act* as both too broad and not focused enough on some of the most troubling election problems emerging in our country. But we are heartened to see that Sen. Manchin is engaging on the issue and has developed a compromise which modernizes election processes to make sure that every voter who wants a say has one, addresses new problems like the dark money that drives so much animosity in campaigns, and sets reasonable national voter identification standards to ensure election integrity without limiting access. What's best is that the reform is in part modeled on West Virginia.

West Virginia has long been an example of common sense rules to ensure election access and integrity. Most famously, Sen. Jennings Randolph spearheaded the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution to lower the voting age to 18 under the straightforward principle that someone old enough to fight and die for this country is old enough to vote. West Virginians believe that elections should be fair, secure, and accessible to all.

The country, as a whole, believes that too. For decades bipartisan majorities in the Senate have reauthorized the Voting Rights Act to help ensure that Americans are not discriminated against in our elections, most recently in 2006. Congress voted overwhelmingly for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to create national standards for voting systems to avoid the confusion caused by the 2000 elections.

Both of our current senators are connected to this history: Congressman Arch Moore was a strong proponent of the Voting Rights Act and the 24th Amendment which prohibited poll taxes, and Sen. Manchin, you implemented HAVA yourself in the state while making cleaning up the voter rolls for election integrity your first priority.

We applaud Sen. Manchin for this proposal and urge Sen. Capito to follow Sen. Manchin's lead and do everything in your power to ensure that every American has the same freedom to vote as we do here in the Mountain State.

Signed,

**HARLEY STAGGERS**  
US House (1983-1993)

**JEFF KESSLER**  
Lt. Governor (2011-2015)  
WV State Senate (1997-2017)

**TRUMAN CHAFIN**  
WV State Senate (1983-2015)  
Majority Leader (1998-2010)

**RICK STATON**  
WV House of Delegates (1989-2006)  
Majority Leader (2001-2006)

**DONALD COOKMAN**  
WV State Senate (2013-2014)  
Circuit Court Judge (1993-2013)

**HERB SNYDER**  
WV State Senate (1997-2005 & 2009-2017)  
Jefferson County Commission (1991-1997)

**BOB WILLIAMS**  
WV State Senate (2009-2017)

**BONNIE BROWN**  
WV House of Delegates (1983-1989, 1991-1995, 2001-2013)

**DENISE CAMPBELL**  
WV House of Delegates (2011-2017)

**BILL HARTMAN**  
WV House of Delegates (2003-2013)

**SUSAN HUBBARD**  
WV House of Delegates (1995-2003)

**CINDY LAVENDER-BOWE**  
WV House of Delegates (2019-2021)

**PATRICK MURPHY**  
WV House of Delegates (1983-1991)  
Berkeley County Commission (1991-1997)

**RODNEY PYLES**  
WV House of Delegates (2017-2021)  
Monongalia County Assessor (1989-2009)

**DOUG REYNOLDS**  
WV House of Delegates (2013-2017)

**ALEX SHOOK**  
WV House of Delegates (2007-2011)

**LOCKE WYSONG**  
WV House of Delegates (2005-2009)

**PETE DOUGHERTY**  
Jefferson County Sheriff (2013-2021)

**BUTCH TENNANT**  
Marion County Commission (2009-2015)

**RALPH LORENZETTI**  
Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney (2009-2017)  
Jefferson County Commission (2018-2021)

**PATSY NOLAN**  
Jefferson County Commission (2009-2021)  
Jefferson County Circuit Clerk (1994-2009)

**ALAN STURM**  
Jefferson County Board of Education (2005-2011)

**SCOTT SUDDUTH**  
Jefferson County Board of Education (2007-2019)

## TIMELINE OF MAJOR BIPARTISAN VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Voting Rights Act of 1965	●	1965
Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970	●	1970
Resolution in Support of the 26th Amendment	●	1971
Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975	●	1975
Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982	●	1982
Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voting Act	●	1986
Voting Rights Language Assistance Act of 1992	●	1992
National Voter Registration Act	●	1993
Help America Vote Act	●	2002
Voting Rights Act Amendments of 2006	●	2006