

DEMOCRACY

DEFENDED

Lessons from the
2022 Elections & the
Path Ahead in 2024





LDF's Prepared to Vote and Voting Rights Defender team. Photo by Roberto Hernandez

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Using the power of law, narrative, research, and people, LDF defends and advances the full dignity and citizenship of Black people in America.

The data and narratives included in this report build on years of collaboration between LDF and critical national, state, and grassroots partners. Hundreds of volunteers dedicated their time and attention to collecting and reporting the data, visuals, and stories contained herein.

Most photos included in this publication were taken by LDF staff, contracted photographers, and volunteers, or are otherwise credited. Maps were generated by LDF staff, using Social Explorer mapping tools. Data reported from the 866-OUR-

VOTE hotline was obtained from the Our Vote Live system maintained by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Much of the other data cited is primary source, directly derived from observations made by LDF staff, volunteers, and partners. This report reflects their tireless efforts.

The report was written by members of LDF's Prepared to Vote team, including Amir Badat, Anne Houghtaling, Leigh Logan, and Victoria (Tori) Wenger, as well as Rachel Carter, DeMetris Causer, Christina Das, CeCe Huddleston, Evans Moore, Michael Pernick, and Larnee Satchell. Editorial support was provided by Jin Hee Lee, Tona Boyd, and Janai Nelson. Design was completed by Kaye Lee Johnston, Leigh Logan, and Tori Wenger.



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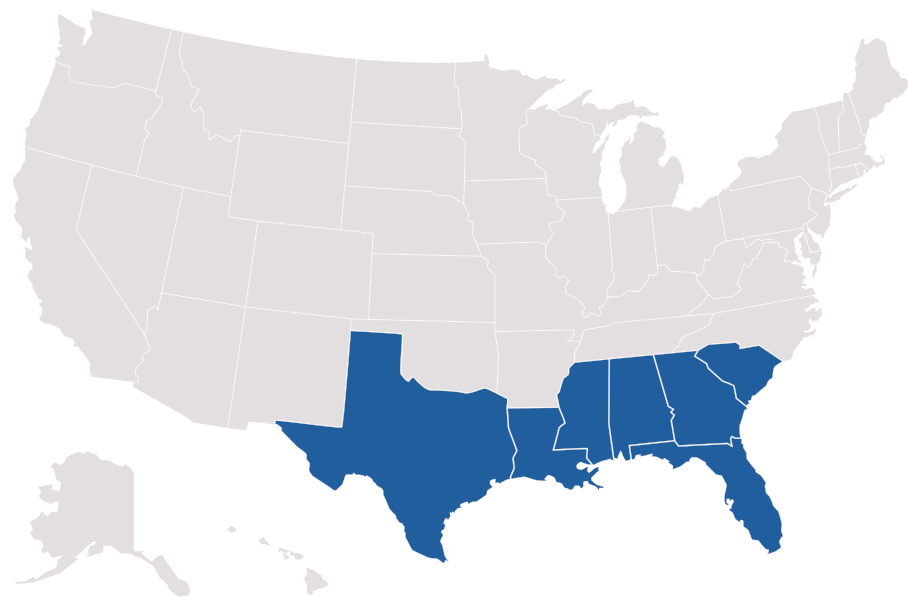
INTRODUCTION

A Model of Year-Round, Integrated Advocacy

Protecting the right to vote has been a core mission of the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) since its founding in 1940. Following the 2000 elections, LDF joined with fellow civil rights organizations to launch the nonpartisan Election Protection network and 866-OUR-VOTE hotline. In tandem with these efforts, LDF later launched its Prepared to Vote (PTV) initiative to provide nonpartisan voter education and on-the-ground election monitoring and advocacy during elections. In 2020, LDF launched the Voting Rights Defender (VRD) project, a companion effort of PTV, to enhance year-round advocacy to expand voting access, invest in sustained partnerships, and broaden multi-tactic advocacy efforts to protect and expand voting rights in target states.

2022 Midterm Elections—Lessons Learned

In 2022, LDF conducted civic engagement, election monitoring, and advocacy efforts in seven southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. As identified through the monitoring and advocacy work during these elections, limitations on the ability of Black voters to access the ballot and have their votes counted remained a prominent factor in U.S. elections. In addition to voter intimidation and election sabotage threats, LDF and our partners observed many obstacles that made it harder for Black voters to vote. This report incorporates just some of the data points and observations conveyed during elections in LDF's target states in 2022. It also reflects lessons informed by these findings and key takeaways from prior Democracy Defended reports that can position civil rights advocates to engage strategically to support voters in 2024 and beyond.



Despite warnings to keep away from the polls, thousands of Black voters turned out in the Georgia Democratic primaries in Marietta, Ga., on July 17, 1946. Photo by Bettmann Archive/Getty Images

Voters line up to cast their ballots on Nov. 26, 2022 in Decatur, Ga. Early voting started in select Georgia counties for a special runoff election days after the Georgia Supreme Court rejected an emergency request from Republicans to block counties from offering early voting. Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images



prepared to VOTE

Non-Partisan Voter Education

Through the Prepared to Vote/Voting Rights Defender initiatives, LDF works to defend and advance the rights of Black voters and the promise of a free and fair democracy through the full life cycle of the political process.



**TRACKING
ELECTION BILLS**
and supporting
voting rights
legislation

**EDUCATING
VOTERS** on
changes in the
election laws and
their voting rights

**MOBILIZING
COMMUNITIES**
to exercise their
right to vote

OBSERVING and
**ADDRESSING
BARRIERS TO
VOTING** before
and on election
days

**CHALLENGING
DISCRIMINATORY
PRACTICES** at the
polls and referring
issues for litigation

MONITORING the
**POST-ELECTION
PROCESS** to ensure
fair and trusted
results

**PROVIDING
RESEARCH** and
publications to
inform future
advocacy

BUILD BLACK POLITICAL POWER

TOP ISSUES IN 2022



Voters wait in line on Nov. 27, 2022 to vote early in the Senate runoff election in Atlanta. Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Voting Infrastructure and Administration Problems

Issues concerning voting infrastructure and administration permeated the midterm elections in each of LDF's target states. Monitors observed polling locations with barriers for seniors and voters with disabilities, poor signage identifying polling locations, insufficient supplies of voting materials at polling locations, and technology failures.

Limited Availability of Voting Options

The availability of multiple voting options continues to be significant for Black political participation. The lack of mail-in and early voting options in several states increased the need for voters to vote on Election Day, leading to long lines and heightened opportunities for disenfranchisement due to voting administration and process failures. Expansion of early voting options in some states, including South Carolina, where early voting was available to voters for the first time, reduced pressures on Election Day and improved access to the ballot box.

Confusion About Nonpartisan Monitor Role

Poll workers in multiple states improperly restricted LDF monitors and other nonpartisan volunteers who were wearing apparel with nonpartisan messaging from being within the no-electioneering zone around the polling place. These issues arose due to incorrect interpretations of electioneering rules and poor training of poll workers.

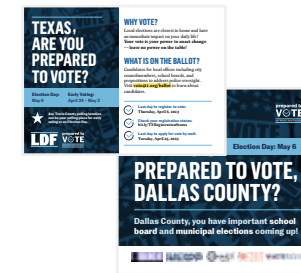
Poor Information About Poll Site Changes

The process for poll site selection varies across states and many states failed to effectively communicate poll site information to voters. Poll site listings in many states remain decentralized, resulting in unreliable information and voter confusion. Moreover, the lack of transparency makes it difficult to track patterns of discriminatory changes and closures in Black communities.

2022 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

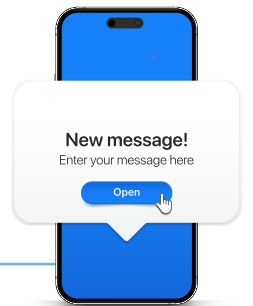
2,444,932

Voters reached through **mailings**



1,437,594

Voters reached by **text message**



100+

Local partner organizations in target states

70+

Volunteer trainings conducted



2300+

Polling sites visited across target states



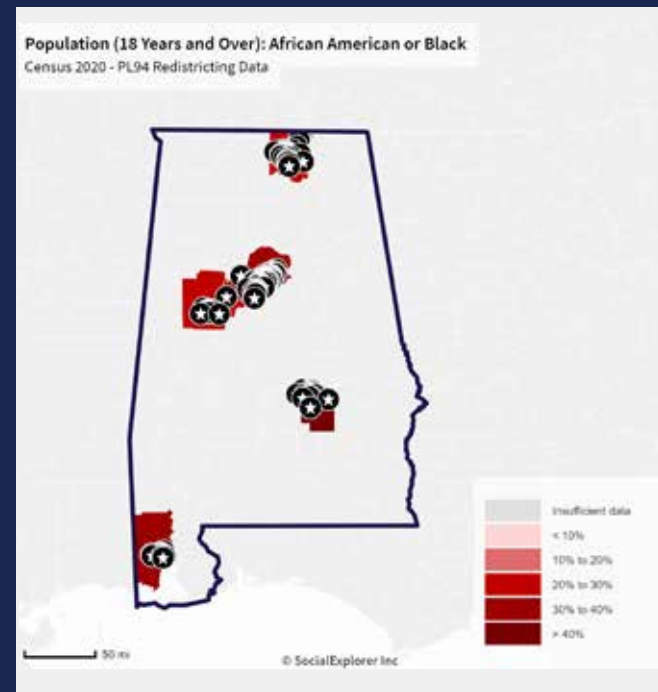
prepared to
VOTE
Non-Partisan Voter Education

STATE REPORTS

People are seen in line to vote on the first day of early voting in Cobb County on Nov. 26, 2022 in Marietta, Ga., for Georgia's Senate runoff election. Photo by Elijah Nouvelage for The Washington Post via Getty Images

ALABAMA 2022

In 2022, the Alabama team addressed issues with poll site changes and transparency in advance of Election Day and dispatched volunteers during the primary and general elections to observe challenges at the polls. As recorded here, problems ranged from poor signage to considerable barriers to accessibility, among other issues.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

30+ nonpartisan field volunteers

18+ cities reached

143 poll sites visited

197+ poll site reports submitted

23% of reports indicating “no issues” – meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting



Polling location in Alabama. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

During the Primary elections on May 24, 2022, and the General elections on November 8, 2022, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection Hotline received over 550 calls from 35 counties.

Most issues reported through the hotline were related to voter registration and absentee ballot status. These issues, as well as misinformation, were among those reported by our volunteers.

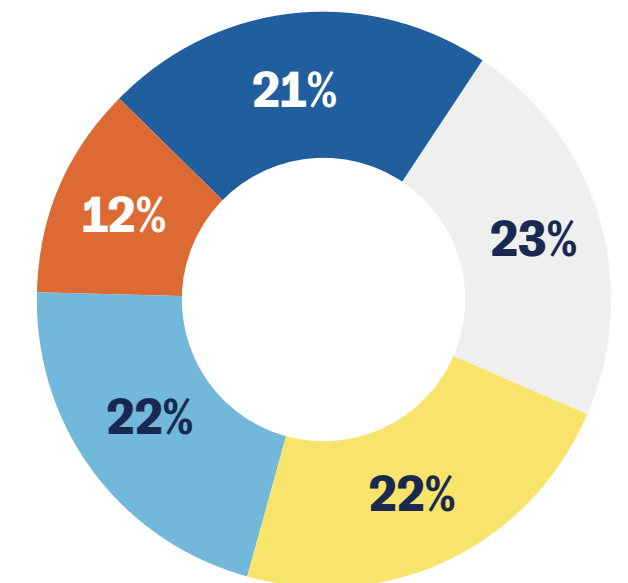
FIELD REPORTS

The top issues reported by monitors, depicted on the chart below, were accessibility and signage, which were oftentimes intertwined. Parking concerns also recurred across sites, which also often implicated accessibility or lack of signage to designate reserved accessible spots.

ELECTION PROTECTION **866 OUR VOTE**

550+
calls

35
counties



■ Parking ■ Accessibility ■ Signage ■ None ■ Other

UNIFORM POLL SITE INFORMATION

In the lead up to the November 2022 midterm elections in Alabama, LDF, along with our partner organizations, determined that the lack of accurate, uniform, and comprehensive polling place information available to voters was a significant barrier to voting that particularly disenfranchised Black voters and other voters of color.

Under state law, Alabama has a duty to notify voters of their polling locations by publishing a list of poll sites. However, some counties failed to publish anything online, while others published information that was inaccurate, contradictory, and at times so seriously lacking in relevant detail as to not meaningfully inform voters of their polling locations. We reviewed poll site information published by county officials in more than a fifth of Alabama counties and found that, among those counties with a Black population greater than 50%, each county lacked a precinct list, poll site map, and an interactive poll locator tool to enable voters to learn their voting location based on their address.

... among those counties with a **Black population greater than 50%**, each county lacked a precinct list, poll site map, and an interactive poll locator tool to enable voters to learn their voting location based on their address.

We sent a letter to the Alabama Secretary of State urging him to publish a comprehensive list of poll site locations and precinct information for each county so that Alabamians could have accurate and up-to-date information on their correct polling place on Election Day. We also requested that he issue guidance to each county's election officials on the requirement that any poll site closures or changes comply with Alabama and federal laws. The Secretary of State, however, shirked his responsibility to oversee election administration by stating the duty to publish polling location information falls on county officials.

State and local advocates are now directing efforts to future legislative changes that would ensure all Alabamians have access to information on where to vote. LDF will continue to join partners in advocating for transparency in poll site selection and information.

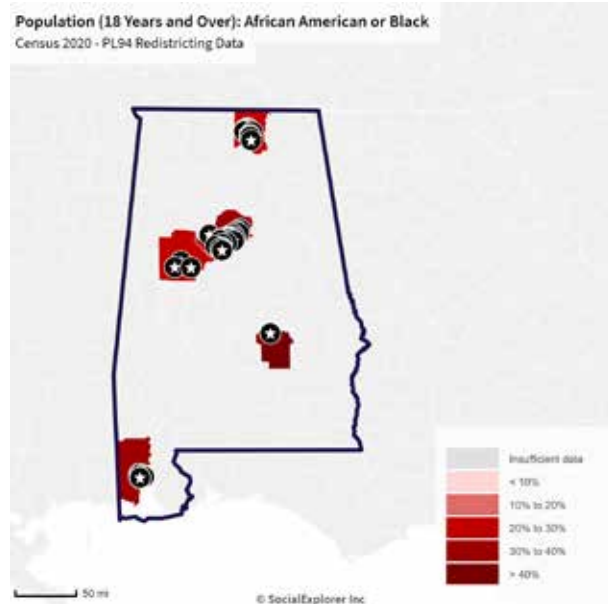


This image taken during the primary election on May 24, 2022 shows the polling site at the Wenonah High School gym in Birmingham, Ala. Photo by volunteer



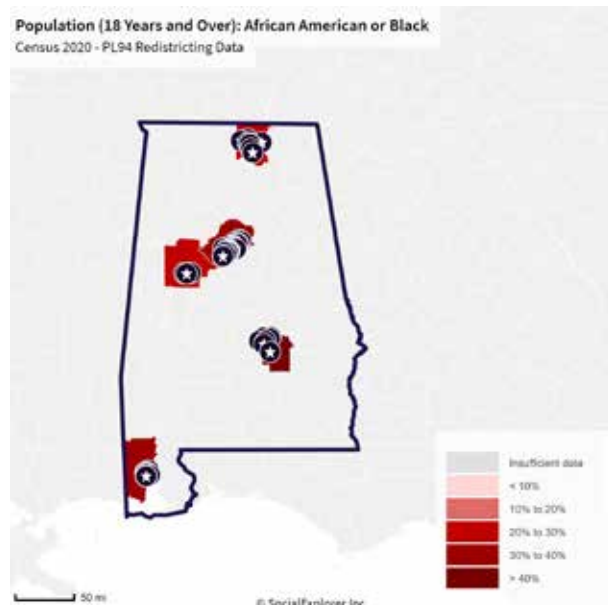
This image taken during the general election Nov. 8, 2022 shows the polling site at the Memorial Recreation Center in Birmingham, Ala. Photo by volunteer

TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY



SIGNAGE: Signage issues were reported in nearly all poll site issue checklists submitted.

Many of the reported signage issues cited problems with directional signage. This included issues with volunteers having difficulty locating the polling location from the street, but also instances in which it was hard to find the poll site entrance from the parking lot. Many sites were in large multi-purpose buildings, and the lack of signage indicating where voters should go to cast their ballots proved to be a significant impediment during the elections.



ACCESSIBILITY: Volunteers reported accessibility issues in almost every poll site issue checklist.

As discussed above, the reported signage and accessibility issues were often intertwined. A majority of the poll site reports that referenced accessibility issues concerned with signs that incorrectly directed voters to inaccessible entrances. In addition, the accessibility issues revolved around inaccessible poll site entrances and lack of parking, i.e., poll sites often lacked curb cuts and ramps that allowed voters who use wheelchairs to access the polling locations.

Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.

ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

LABELED AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING



A voter with a walker is forced to walk over grass to access the pathway to a poll site after a car parked illegally in the area designated for accessible vehicle ramps and lifts next to reserved accessible parking spots on Nov. 8, 2022, Jefferson County, Ala. *Photo by volunteer*

The most common parking issue identified was no designated parking spaces for voters, especially at polling locations that were open to the public for other purposes on Election Day. This caused voters to park in areas that were not designated for parking. Monitors also observed that even at polling locations with an open lot, or open spaces, there often was

no signage to indicate that any parking, including accessible parking, was specifically available to voters.

Some voters with disabilities had no available designated parking spots, or there were no designated spots left at congested parking lots.

NEXT UP FOR ALABAMA

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE BLACK BELT

The congressional elections in 2024 will mark the first time that Black voters in Alabama will comprise the majority in two congressional districts, following LDF's success litigating *Allen v. Milligan* in the Supreme Court. In that case, LDF litigators and co-counsel argued that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act required a congressional map that provides Black voters with an opportunity to elect their candidate of choice in two districts, now enacted for the 2024 elections.

LDF Senior Counsel Deuel Ross appears before the Supreme Court after presenting oral argument. Photo by Allison Shelley

Looking ahead, LDF and partners will...

- ➔ Educate voters about the impact of *Allen v. Milligan* for voters in their communities and nationwide
- ➔ Mobilize Alabama voters to realize their power in the new Black-majority districts, and statewide



ALABAMA ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

Note: All links are case sensitive.

- ✔ Confirm your registration status. bit.ly/AIVoteInfo
- ✔ See what's on your ballot. bit.ly/AIBallotInfo
- ✔ Find your polling place. bit.ly/AIVoteInfo
- ✔ Bring your Photo ID!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Monday, October 24
 Last day to register. Register here: bit.ly/REGVote

PICK A VOTING PLAN



PLAN 1: VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8
 Vote in person on Election Day!
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PLAN 2: VOTE ABSENTEE

Tuesday, November 1
 You can apply for an absentee ballot through the mail before this date. Make sure to send a copy of your photo ID along with your application.

Thursday, November 3
 You can apply for an absentee ballot in person before this date. The sooner, the better!

Monday, November 7 by 5 p.m.
 Bring your absentee ballot to your county's Absentee Election Manager by this date and time.

Tuesday, November 8 by 12 p.m.
 Your mailed absentee ballot should be received by your county's Absentee Election Manager before this date and time.

Find your county Absentee Election Manager:
bit.ly/AIAbsenteeManager

Check if you qualify to vote absentee here:
bit.ly/AIAbsentee

What IDs can I use?

Valid AL Driver's License, non-driver ID, or photo voter ID card	AL law enforcement agency digital driver's license	Valid AL movement/booking sheet (photo required)
Valid pistol permit (photo required)	Valid federal or state issued ID (AL or any other state)	Valid employee ID from federal government or Alabama state or local government
Valid Tribal ID	Valid student ID	

What if I don't have one of these IDs?

Receive a **FREE Voter ID card** at your local Board of Registrars, the Secretary of State's Office, or a mobile location. Find where to obtain one: bit.ly/AIVoterId

Know Your Rights!

- ✔ Vote if you're in line when polls close at 7 p.m.
- ✔ Vote free from intimidation.
- ✔ Get help voting if you need help due to blindness, disability, or you struggle to read English. Anyone can help you so long as they are not your employer or union representative.
- ✔ Move to the front of the line if you have a physical disability or are over the age of 70.
- ✔ Vote by provisional ballot if there is uncertainty about your registration status.
- ✔ Vote if you are currently in prison or jail and have not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, misdemeanor.

Have questions or issues?

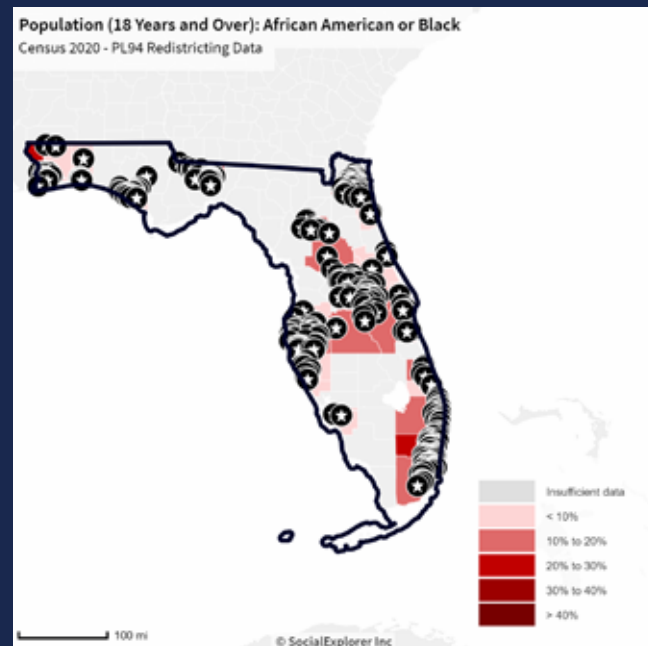
Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation? Voting machine or other technology issues?
 Email vote@naacpldf.org or call Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.



Disclaimer: The information here is a resource and not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only and not as a substitute for or supplement to the legal advice necessary to address the specific concerns of any individual. Alabama may revise its laws and information after this is published. It is your responsibility to determine how all applicable laws concerning voter registration, voting, and the restoration of voting rights in Alabama affect you.

FLORIDA 2022

In 2022, the LDF team and partners recorded an overwhelming number of issues, ranging from improper voter challenges and other suppression efforts prior to Election Day, to confusing signage, long lines, and accessibility concerns once polls opened. This report provides a lens into just some of these concerns and the steps ahead.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

400+ nonpartisan volunteers

168 cities reached

356 early voting and poll sites visited

1600+ poll site reports

75% of reports indicating “no issues” – meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting.



This image depicts signage at a poll site in Leon County, Fla., on Aug. 23, 2022, the date of the state's primary election. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

From the beginning of the year up to the Nov. 8 elections, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection hotline received over 2,600 calls from over 40 counties.

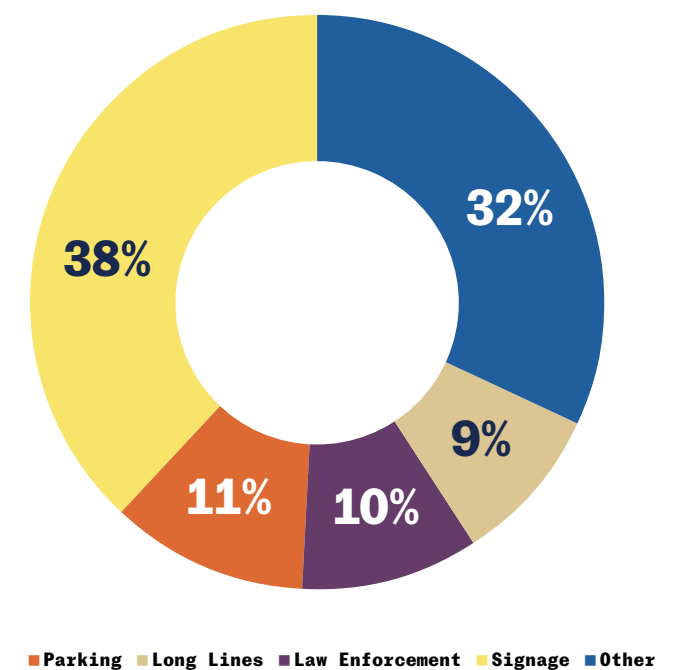
While many of the calls regarded individual voters' questions about their registration, absentee ballots, or other individualized needs, broader issues reported included topics like malfunctioning or broken machines at poll sites.

ELECTION PROTECTION

2600+ calls | **40+** counties

FIELD REPORTS

The majority of poll site reports indicated no issues (75.5% of the total reports submitted). Of poll sites with reported issues, charted below, the main concerns related to signage, followed by parking, law enforcement activities, and long lines, while a variety of other miscellaneous issues rounded out the remaining issue reports.



ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

RESPONDING TO VOTER CHALLENGES

Voter challenges prior to the election presented a concerning threat in Florida. A member of the public submitted a frivolous mass voter challenge to the eligibility of 2,257 voters in Pinellas County. LDF sent a letter to county Supervisors of Elections (SOEs) ahead of the 30-day challenge period prior to Election Day providing recommendations for how to deal with frivolous mass voter challenges under the law. The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections followed LDF's recommendations and rejected the challenges outright.

The decision in Pinellas to reject this challenge was an important win and set a helpful precedent for frivolous voter challenges in Florida.

At least 14 Supervisors of Elections submitted voter challenges against at least 2,370 Florida voters during the 30-day period before Election Day defined under law. These challenges were based on information provided to Supervisors by the new Florida Office of Election Crimes indicating that certain voters were ineligible.

The overwhelming majority of these challenges were based on past felony convictions, although a small number of challenges were based on mental incapacity, death, double-voting in past elections, or residing at a non-residential address. These challenges present a serious concern for Florida voters who may have prior felony convictions.

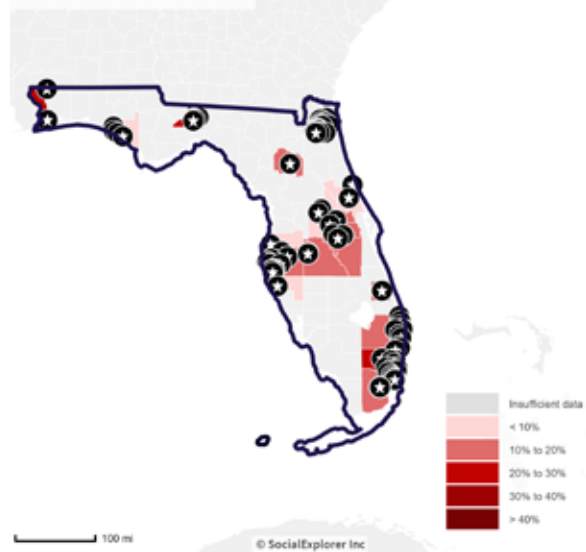
The decision in Pinellas to reject this challenge was an important win and set a helpful precedent for frivolous voter challenges in Florida.



A man looks at an electronic device during an event held by the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRC) to clear the fines and fees of dozens of Florida residents with past felony convictions, in Miami on April 28, 2022. Despite the approval of a 2018 statewide amendment aimed to restore the voting rights of more than 1.4 million Floridians with felony convictions, many voters remain disenfranchised because of requirements for full payment of legal obligations before voting rights restoration. Photo by Marco Bello/AFP via Getty Images

TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY

Population (18 Years and Over): African American or Black
Census 2020 - PL94 Redistricting Data

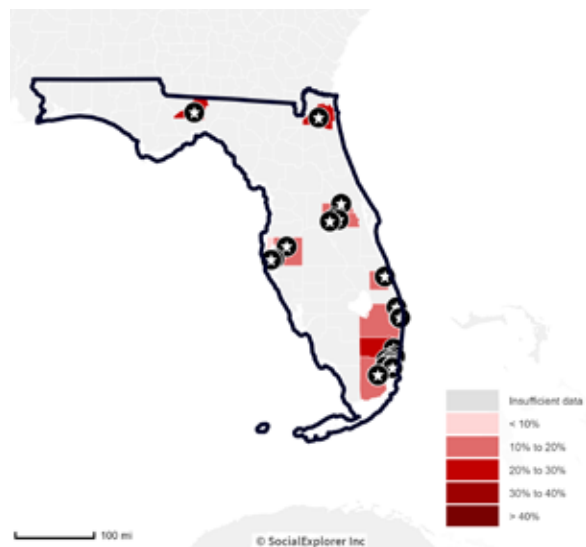


SIGNAGE: When citing signage issues, most volunteers indicated inadequate Spanish-language information.

Signage proved to be a tremendous barrier for Florida voters in the 2022 election season. Spanish translation is required across the state, and many of the reports regarding improper signage cited the lack of Spanish language access. In some instances where the signs had Spanish translations, the font size of the translation was significantly smaller than the English translation. Additionally, many sites did not have enough “Vote Here” signs directing voters to the polling site entrance.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES: Law enforcement presence was reported in various regions across the state.

Volunteers reported an unexpected amount of law enforcement activity at polling locations this cycle. One volunteer submitted a report noting that there was a police car idling near the poll site entrance and that around the site itself were many signs highlighting the police’s presence in the area. Police presence at poll sites can intimidate voters, which can, in turn, deter voters from casting ballots.



Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.

ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

MISLEADING SIGNAGE

Leading up to Election Day, LDF, the Okaloosa County Branch NAACP, and the NAACP Florida State Conference sent a letter to the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections expressing concern over misleading signage outside early voting locations. Temporary signs reading “Republicans Vote Here Today” were placed in the immediate vicinity of at least two early voting sites.

Even if posted beyond the electioneering boundary, these signs created an unacceptable risk of voter confusion and violated state and local law, including prohibitions on dissemination of false information to induce others to refrain from voting.

Specifically, the signs created a risk of voter confusion because they implied that Republicans and non-Republicans vote in different locations and on different days. Neither was true. The risk of confusion was also significant because the signs were similar in color and typography to the official “Vote Here” signs used by election officials.

Due to LDF’s advocacy, the Okaloosa County Attorney arranged to remove misleading signs prior to Election Day.

LDF will continue to monitor this issue in future election cycles.

Misleading signage suggesting that only one party’s voters may cast ballots at certain poll sites certain sites during the early voting period on Aug. 23, 2022, in Okaloosa County, Fla. *Photo by volunteer*





A law enforcement vehicle is seen near a poll site in Okaloosa County, Fla., on Aug. 23, 2022. Photo by volunteer

NEXT UP FOR FLORIDA

COUNTERING INTIMIDATION

Florida has been a focal point of efforts to deter and intimidate eligible voters from participating in the democratic process—both through the state’s efforts to expand the policing of elections and through voter challenges and the spread of mis- and disinformation by private actors.

Looking ahead, LDF and partners will...

- Educate voters on their rights to inoculate against mis- and disinformation about registration and voting rights
- Monitor for mass voter challenges and voter roll purge attempts
- Continue to recruit volunteers to serve as trusted messengers in their communities for reliable voting rights information and to support poll monitoring efforts

LDF

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Non-Partisan Voter Education

FLORIDA ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

- Scan this QR code to:
- Confirm your registration status.
 - See what’s on your ballot.
 - Find your polling place.
 - Remember your ID.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Tuesday, October 11
 Last day to register.

PICK A VOTING PLAN



PLAN 1: VOTE BY MAIL

Saturday, October 29 by 5 p.m.
 To vote by mail, apply for a mail ballot before this date and time. You can apply in person, by phone, mail, email, or fax. The sooner, the better!

Tuesday, November 8 by 7 p.m.
 Your county Supervisor of Elections needs to **receive** your ballot before this date and time! Be sure it arrives on time. Send your ballot in the mail or at a drop off location as soon as possible.

Thursday, November 10 by 5 p.m.
 If your ballot is rejected you can “cure” your mail or provisional ballot before this date and time. Learn how to cure your ballot here: bit.ly/CureMyFLBallot.

PLAN 2: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

October 29 – November 5
 Your county’s hours may be different. Find your county’s voting hours and dates at your county’s election website.

PLAN 3: VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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What Photo IDs can I use?

Florida driver’s license or ID card	Federally Issued ID - including U.S. Passport or Military ID or Veteran Health Card	Employee ID Issued by Federal, State, or Local Government
Concealed Carry License	Student ID	Public Assistance ID
Retirement Center ID	Debit or Credit Card	Neighborhood Association ID

If your Photo ID doesn’t contain your signature, an ID with your signature will be required.

What if I don’t have one of these Photo IDs?

You can cast a provisional ballot.

Changes to Florida Law

Stay up to date! Florida passed new laws that may make your voting experience different from 2020. Learn about the new changes at bit.ly/FLaws2022.

Since 2020, Florida passed new laws impacting voters:

- Drop boxes (*a.k.a. secure ballot intake stations*) are now available only during early voting hours at your county Supervisor of Elections office, each branch office, and early voting sites.
- A request for a mail ballot will now cover only elections through the end of the calendar year of the next general election.

Know Your Rights!

- Vote free of intimidation.
- Vote if you’re in line when polls close at 7 p.m.
- Get help voting if you need help due to blindness, disability, or your inability to read or write. Anyone can help you so long as they are not your employer or union representative.

Have questions or issues?

Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation? Voting machine or other technology issues?

Email vote@naacpldf.org or call Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.



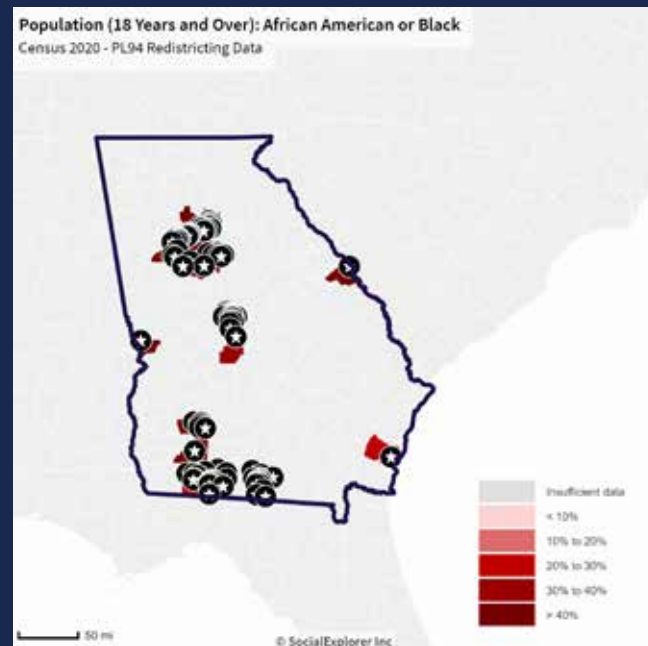
New Gulf Coast Choir



Disclaimer: The information here is a resource and not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only and not as a substitute for or supplement to the legal advice

GEORGIA 2022

Facing barriers from the enactment of Georgia's 2021 omnibus voter suppression bill, SB 202, the Georgia team pursued a range of advocacy efforts to reduce harm to voters in advance of the 2022 elections. In addition to proactive advocacy, the team and partners compiled extensive data on barriers experienced by voters at the polls.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

40+ nonpartisan field volunteers

29 cities reached

124 early voting and poll sites visited

148+ poll site reports submitted

37% of reports indicating "no issues" – meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting.



In a photo taken during the primary election on May 5, 2022, a sign describes prohibition on electioneering within 150 feet of a poll site in Newton County, Ga. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

During the May 24, Nov. 8, and Dec. 6, 2022 elections, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection Hotline received over 2,500 calls from the 120 LDF target counties.

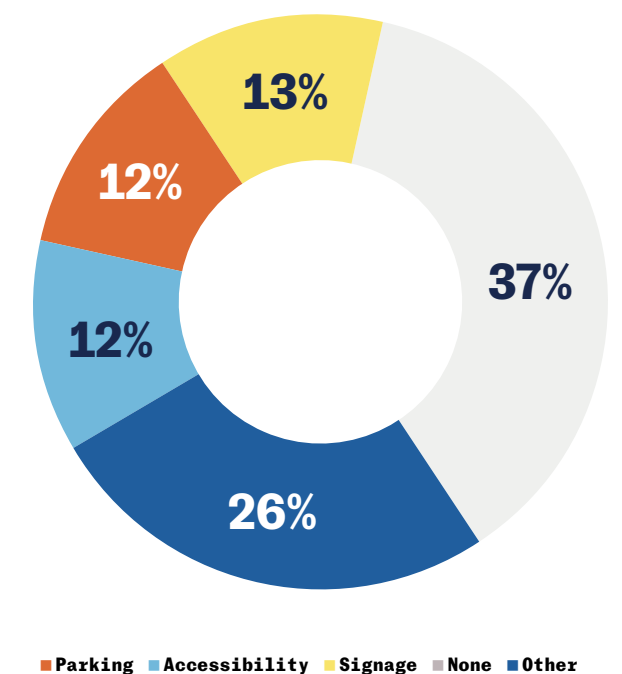
Of the thousands of reports into the hotline, many were questions about individuals' registration status or absentee ballot tracking. The others cited poll sites that opened late, voter roll purges, voting machine malfunctions and more.

ELECTION PROTECTION

2500+ calls | **120+** counties

FIELD REPORTS

The main trends of the issues reported by monitors visiting poll sites, charted below, revolved around accessibility, parking, and signage, which were reported at comparable rates. Other miscellaneous issues made up over a quarter of issue reports, while over a third of reports submitted indicated no issues at all.



ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

EARLY VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

As a result of SB 202, the omnibus voter suppression bill enacted in Georgia in 2021, the time period for early voting in runoff elections was limited to just five mandatory days (compared to 17 mandatory days in previous elections), with discretion among county election officials to offer a limited number of additional days. The Georgia Secretary of State issued a last-minute bulletin further limiting the availability of early voting in runoff elections by prohibiting counties from exercising their discretion to offer early voting on Saturday, Nov. 26, based on an incorrect reading of state law.

LDF filed an amicus brief in support of plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the Secretary's misinterpretation of state law, which emphasized the racial disparities that would result from the Secretary's incorrect interpretation and also educated the court on the democracy canon as a tool to interpret ambiguities in state law. The court ultimately ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and held that counties could provide Saturday early voting.

LDF coupled this litigation with extensive letter writing efforts urging counties to exercise their discretion to offer weekend voting and sent nearly **300,000 text messages** to voters in 23 counties about these opportunities.



Voters fill out paperwork before casting their ballots in a runoff election on Nov. 26, 2022 in Decatur, Ga. Early voting was held in select Georgia counties for a special runoff election days after the Georgia Supreme Court rejected an emergency request from Republicans to block counties from offering early voting on Saturday. Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Nov. 15, 2022

LDF sends letters to **all 159 Georgia counties** encouraging them to provide at least three additional early voting days

Nov. 17, 2022

LDF files amicus brief in support of Saturday early voting opportunities

Nov. 18, 2022

Court rules that counties **can host Saturday voting**

Nov. 21, 2022

LDF sends letters to all 159 counties encouraging them to provide early voting on Saturday in light of the court ruling

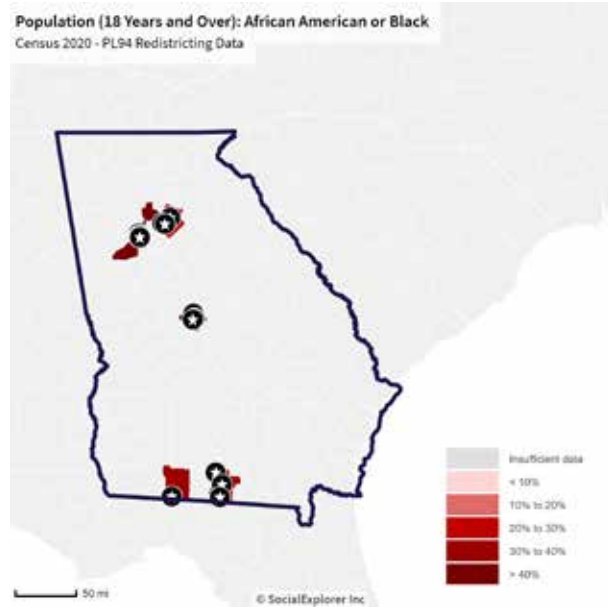
Nov. 26, 2022

27 counties offer early voting and **over 70k voters cast a ballot**

Nov. 27, 2022

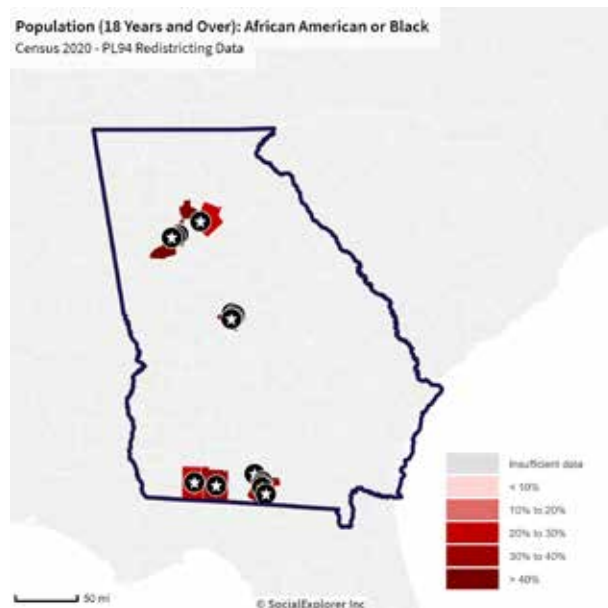
28 counties offer early voting and **over 87k voters cast a ballot**

TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY



PARKING: Parking issues were identified in almost all reports.

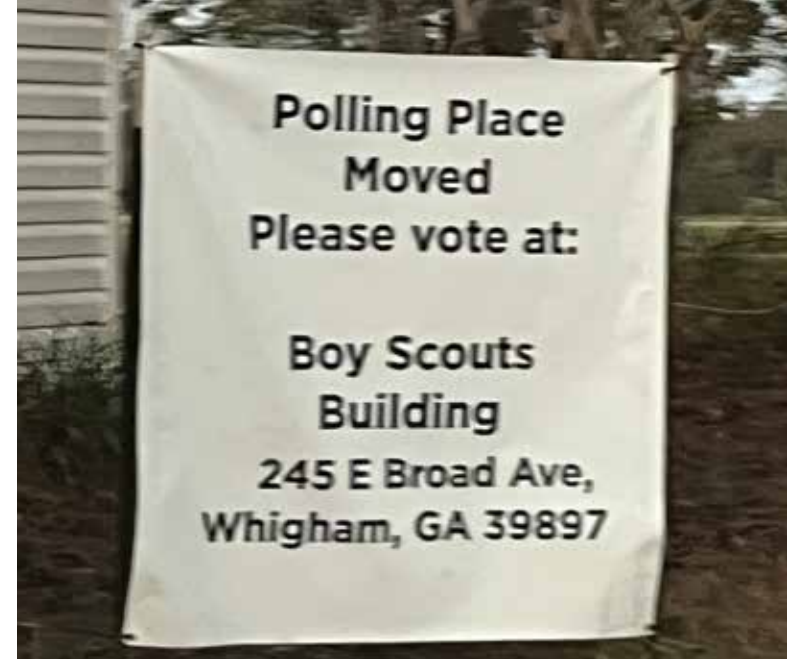
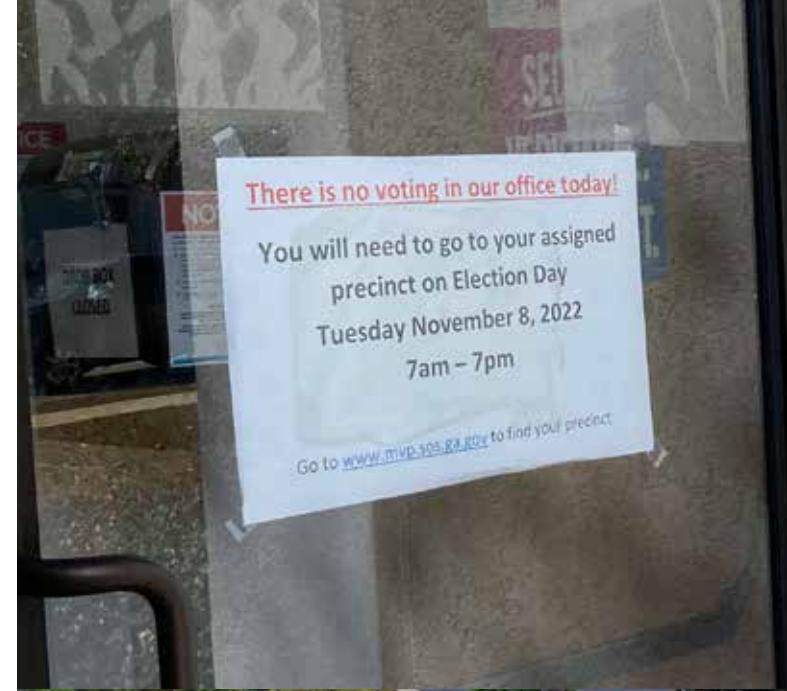
Volunteers cited many instances of inadequate parking, which were intertwined with signage and accessibility issues. Often reports indicated that polling locations did not have any parking lots or designated parking spaces for voters and others highlighted sites that did not have any accessible parking. Schools served as the location for many of these poll sites, and school buses and cars that filled the parking lot for pickup and drop off blocked any designated parking for voters.



SIGNAGE: Campaign signage obstructed the view of “Vote Here” signs at many poll sites.

Like parking, signage issues highlighted other underlying inadequacies at poll sites. In addition to the frequent signage issues, e.g., the lack of directional signage to poll site entrances and accessible parking spaces, many sites had issues with electioneering. Voters reported many instances in which campaign signs blocked “Vote Here” signs, which made locating the polling places difficult.

Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.



ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

POLLING PLACE CHANGES AND TRANSPARENCY

Changes in polling locations between early voting and Election Day led LDF volunteers to a handful of polling locations not operating on Election Day. This happened across the state, and each location had signage indicating the closure.

Weeks before the election, LDF filed an open records request with the Georgia Secretary of State’s office to receive a list of polling locations statewide but did not receive a list from the office until after the election (well past the deadline for responding to open records requests).

Transparency around polling location placement and changes is an important issue to be addressed moving forward.

In photos taken on May 24 and Nov. 8, 2022, signs indicate relocated polling locations at sites across Georgia. Photo by volunteer



Masked voters walk into a poll site to cast their ballots for the statewide primary on May 24, 2022 in Covington, Ga. Photo by volunteer

NEXT UP FOR GEORGIA

MOBILIZING VOTERS WHERE THEY ARE

2024 is another important year for our nation's democracy, and once again, all eyes will be on Georgia.

LDF will work tirelessly to ensure Georgia's Black voters are able to fairly access the ballot free from intimidation or voter purges and combat any effort at the local or state level to diminish Black voting power.

Looking ahead, LDF and partners will...

- Build alliances in rural communities to support Black voters across the state
- Use multi-tactic methods to reach voters and defend democracy through the full life cycle of the voting process: from registration, GOTV, voting days, and the process of counting and certifying the election

GEORGIA ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

- Scan this QR code to:
-
- ✔ Confirm your registration status.
 - ✔ See what's on your ballot.
 - ✔ Find your polling place.
 - ✔ Remember your ID.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Tuesday, October 11
 Last day to register.

PICK A VOTING PLAN

PLAN 1: VOTE BY MAIL

Friday, October 28
 To vote by mail, apply for an absentee ballot by this date. The sooner, the better!

Tuesday, November 8 by 7 p.m.
 Your county registrar needs to **receive** your absentee ballot before this date and time! Be sure it arrives on time by sending your ballot by mail or at a drop off location as soon as possible. Visit your county's election website to find an early voting site to drop your absentee ballot.

Learn more about absentee voting here: bit.ly/GaAbsenteeVoting

PLAN 2: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

October 17 – November 4
Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Your county's days and hours may be different. Find your county's voting hours and dates by visiting bit.ly/GaVotersInfo.

PLAN 3: VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Find your polling location and

What Photo IDs can I use?

Any valid state, federal, or tribal government-issued photo ID	GA driver's license, even if expired	Student ID from GA public College or University
Valid employee ID from any federal or Georgia state or local government entity.	Valid U.S. passport ID	Valid U.S. military ID

What if I don't have one of these Photo IDs?

Get a free ID card at any county registrar or Department of Driver Services. Learn more at bit.ly/GAVoterIDs.

Changes to Georgia Law

Stay up to date! Georgia passed new laws that may make your voting experience different from 2020. Learn about the new changes and how they affect your voting plan at bit.ly/GANewLaw.

- Drop boxes are now only available during early voting hours inside some early voting locations.
- The deadline for voters to request absentee ballots is now 11 days before Election Day.

Know Your Rights!

- ✔ Vote if you are in line when polls close.
- ✔ Vote free from intimidation.
- ✔ Vote a regular ballot even if you are on the "inactive" list.

- ✔ Vote a **provisional ballot** if there is uncertainty about your registration status.
- ✔ **Move to the front of the line** if you have a physical disability or are 75 or older.
- ✔ **Get help voting** if you need help due to blindness, disability, or you struggle to read English. Tell a poll worker you need assistance.

Have questions or issues?

Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation? Voting machine or other technology issues?

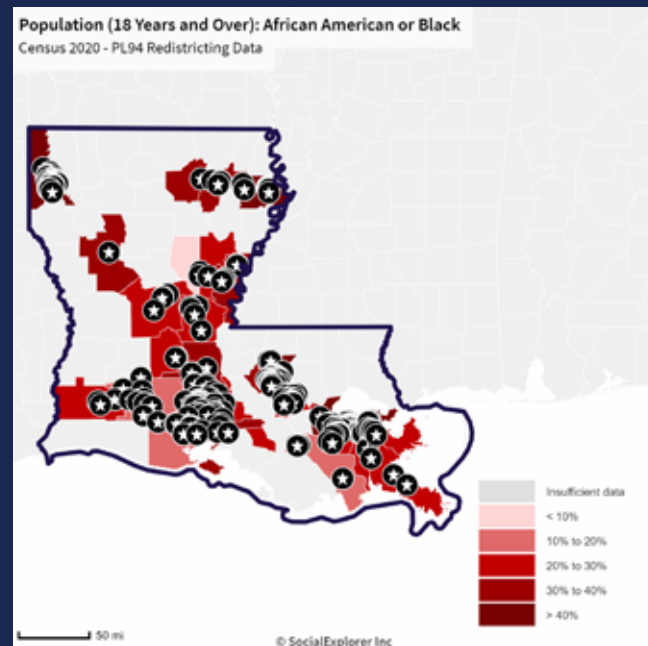
Email vote@naacpldf.org or call Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.



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LOUISIANA 2022

In 2022, the Louisiana team provided voter support and poll monitoring efforts during four elections with various municipal and statewide races on the ballots. The data revealed important trends regarding issues such as poll site changes and accessibility concerns. This report sheds light on these topics and more.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

40+ nonpartisan field volunteers

29 parishes reached

348 early voting and poll sites visited

400+ poll site reports submitted

32% of reports indicating “no issues” – meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting.



The image above taken on Dec. 10, 2022, is of the Nina R. Boyette polling site in Jonesville, La. (LaSalle Parish), where there is no paved parking, accessible pathway, or restroom with running water. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

Across the multiple Louisiana elections held in 2022, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection hotline received 228 calls from roughly half of Louisiana’s 64 parishes.

While many of the calls regarded individual voters’ questions about their registration, absentee ballots, or other individualized needs, broader issues reported included topics like machine and technology issues and improper instructions from poll commissioners.

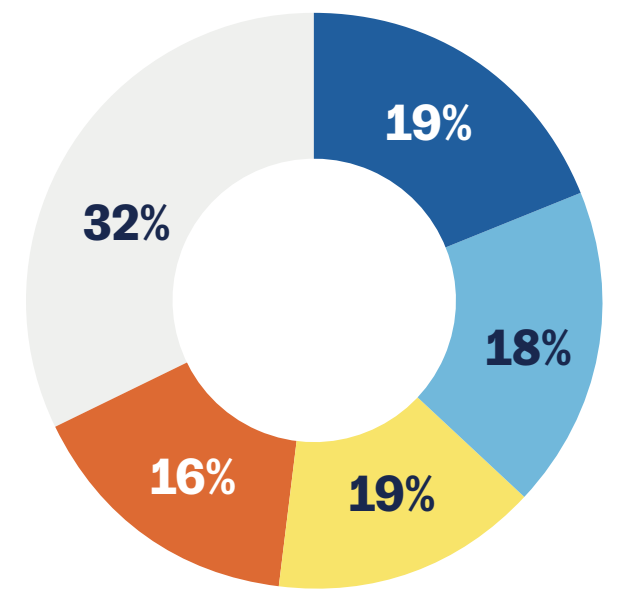
ELECTION PROTECTION

228
calls

32
parishes

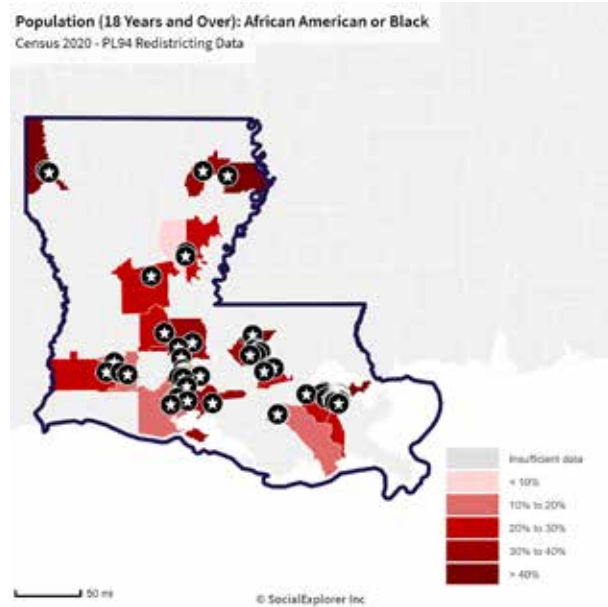
FIELD REPORTS

The main trends of the issues reported by monitors visiting polling sites, charted below, revolved around accessibility and parking, which were oftentimes intertwined. These reports with accessibility issues often had to do with insufficient or lack of accessible parking.



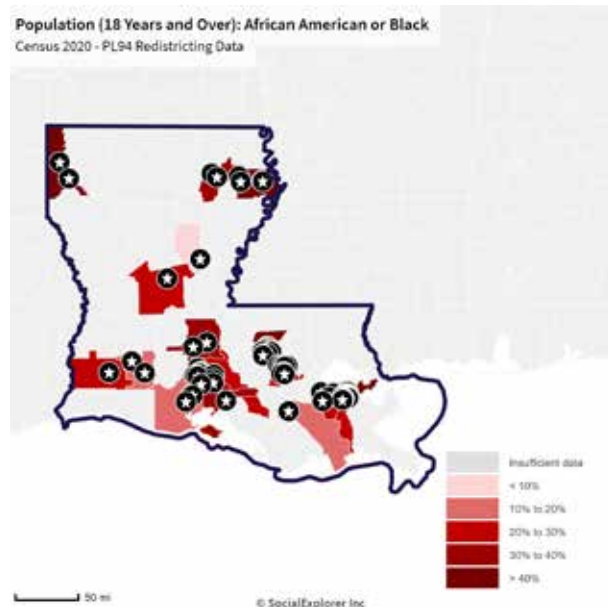
■ Parking ■ Accessibility ■ Signage ■ None ■ Other

TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY



PARKING: Parking limitations were reported for polling sites in nearly every parish monitored.

Parking proved to be a significant impediment in the voting process for all Louisianans. One monitor submitted a report where the reserved parking at a polling location was paid parking, and even those spots were occupied by law enforcement vehicles. Additionally, many of the polling locations were situated in buildings that have reserved parking spaces, which limited the availability of parking spaces for voters and made it difficult to access the poll site in a timely manner.



ACCESSIBILITY: Inaccessible entrances, parking spaces, and walkways were reported almost 100 times.

Volunteers submitted 94 reports in which poll sites had issues regarding accessibility. These came from the majority of monitored parishes. In addition to the parking issues mentioned above, many volunteers cited accessible entrances being blocked off by vehicles and instances where entrances were inaccessible due to staircases or other barriers but were nonetheless inaccurately marked accessible.

Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.

ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

POLL SITE CHANGES

By the end of 2022, Louisiana implemented hundreds of changes to assigned poll sites, many of which were disproportionately located in three parishes with significant Black populations:

27 in Iberia

31 in St. Landry

26 in St. Martin

In other words, **39% of the changed poll site assignments** were in parishes that represent **less than 5% of Louisiana's population.**

Many of those changes were complicated—for example, in St. Martin Parish, a previous polling place was split into three new sites, all changed from the previous location.

Some changes were made within days of an election. In one severe circumstance, a poll site in Jefferson Parish had to be evacuated and relocated to a nearby site due to a bomb threat. LDF's rapid response team sent text messages to the thousands of impacted voters about the relocation and dispatched LDF team members to the site. Later reports confirmed that the threats were not related to the election, but the impact of displacing and frightening voters remained.

In a photo taken on Nov. 8, 2022, a sign indicates that a polling location has been moved in Lafourche Parish, La. Photo by volunteer





Images of poll site entrances and signage across Orleans Parish from the March 26, 2022 primary election and the Nov. 8, 2022 general election.

Photos by volunteer

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

May 23, 2022

LDF and partners advocate for the successful passage of HCR14, a joint resolution creating a task force to study voting accessibility and report policy recommendations back to the Louisiana Legislature.

Dec. 10, 2022

Election monitors report multiple accessibility issues during the General Election, including an unstable wooden ramp at a polling site in New Orleans with a hole in the middle of the ramp.

Feb. 10, 2023

The HCR14 Task Force publishes a report with over a dozen recommendations to improve voting accessibility.

June 9, 2023

The Louisiana governor signs Act 277 into law, adopting multiple recommendations from the HCR14 Task Force.

ACT 277 PROVIDES FOR:

- Increased poll commission training and testing on accessibility laws
- Appointment of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Officer in the Secretary of State's Office
- The establishment of a Voting Accessibility Advisory Group in the Secretary of State's office, including voters with diverse disabilities

LDF staff and partners stand by at the Louisiana Capitol on June 9, 2023 as then-Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards signs Act 277 into law. Photo by LDF staff





In a photo taken on Dec. 10, 2022, voters are seen waiting in line at a polling location in Orleans Parish, La. Photo by volunteer

NEXT UP FOR LOUISIANA

MAXIMIZING VOTER PARTICIPATION

The Dec. 10, 2022 general election marking the sixth election held in Louisiana that year alone, with similarly packed election calendars set to marking the following calendar years—including, among other elections, the statewide election for executive and state legislative seats in 2023 and the federal election in 2024. Strained resources and voter exhaustion result from Louisiana’s endless election cycles.

Looking ahead, LDF and partners will continue to try to counteract the effects of election fatigue by:

- ➔ Advocating for a comprehensive study of election consolidation options
- ➔ Providing voter education on the importance of voting in every election, including training on the power of local offices
- ➔ Continuing to advocate for fair maps that provide Black voters equal opportunities to elect their candidates of choice

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

And mark your calendar for runoff elections on Saturday, December 10!

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

Before you vote, remember to visit GeauxVote.com to:

- ✔ Confirm your registration status.
- ✔ See what is on your ballot.
- ✔ Find your polling place.
- ✔ And be sure to bring your ID.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Tuesday, October 11

Last day to register in person or by mail.

Tuesday, October 18

Last day to register online, with a LA driver’s license or special ID.

PICK A VOTING PLAN

PLAN 1: VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL*

Friday, November 4 by 4:30 p.m.

For a mail-in ballot, apply before this date and time. The sooner, the better! Apply online or print an application. Deliver the application to your parish registrar by hand,** mail, or fax.

Monday, November 7 by 4:30 p.m.

Registrar of voters needs to receive absentee ballots before this date and time.**

PLAN 2: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

October 25 – November 1

Early voting (8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.) | Closed Sunday
All Louisiana voters qualify to vote early in person!
If you have not already cast a ballot, you can vote early.

PLAN 3: VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8

If you have not already cast a ballot, you can vote on Election Day between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.!

Use an ID that has your photo, name, and signature

- ✔ Driver’s License
- ✔ LA Special ID
- ✔ LA Wallet Digital ID
- ✔ U.S. Military ID

No ID? You may still cast your vote by signature on a voter affidavit.

What’s on the ballot in my parish?

This season, voters across Louisiana will cast ballots on a variety of races at the federal, state, and local level. Contests on the ballot will vary statewide and you can find a sample ballot for your precinct at GeauxVote.com.

Additionally, voters this year will decide on important constitutional amendments impacting a range of issues and rights. You can find out more information about amendments on the ballot on Nov. 8 at bit.ly/Nov8Amends.

Have questions or issues?

Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation? Voting machine or other technology issues?

Email vote@naacpldf.org or call Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.

Know Your Rights!

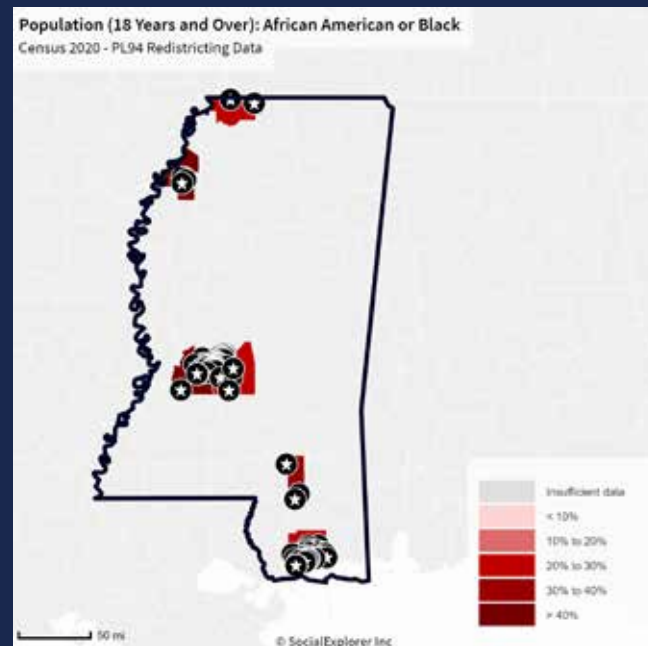
- ✔ Vote if you are in line by the time polls close.
- ✔ Vote free from intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, and undue influence.
- ✔ Vote a regular ballot if you are on the “inactive voters” list.
- ✔ Choose who assists you (with some exceptions) if you need help voting due to blindness, disability, or if you struggle to read or speak English. More info at bit.ly/LaVoteInPerson
- ✔ Vote if you are formerly incarcerated and 1.) off probation or parole; OR 2.) on parole for 5 or more years; OR 3.) currently on probation. Learn more at bit.ly/FIPVoteLa



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MISSISSIPPI 2022

In 2022, less than one-third of Mississippi voters cast a ballot, among the lowest voter turnout in the nation. This low turnout is caused in part by multiple barriers: no early voting, no online voter registration, and no simple absentee ballot process. As this report captures, these barriers are compounded by other issues at the polls.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

22+ nonpartisan field volunteers

25 cities reached

108 poll sites visited

100+ poll site reports submitted

16% of reports indicating “no issues” - meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting



The image above depicts the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Gluckstadt, Miss. (Madison County), where a monitor reported that there was an alternative entrance with an accessibility ramp but no directional signage to label that alternative route. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

During the elections on June 7 and November 8, 2022, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection hotline received 200 calls from 50 of the 82 counties in Mississippi.

Of the 200 hotline reports, almost all were from individual voters who had questions about their registration status or how to locate their poll site. There were also multiple documented issues of intimidation, electioneering, machine malfunctions, and related problems.

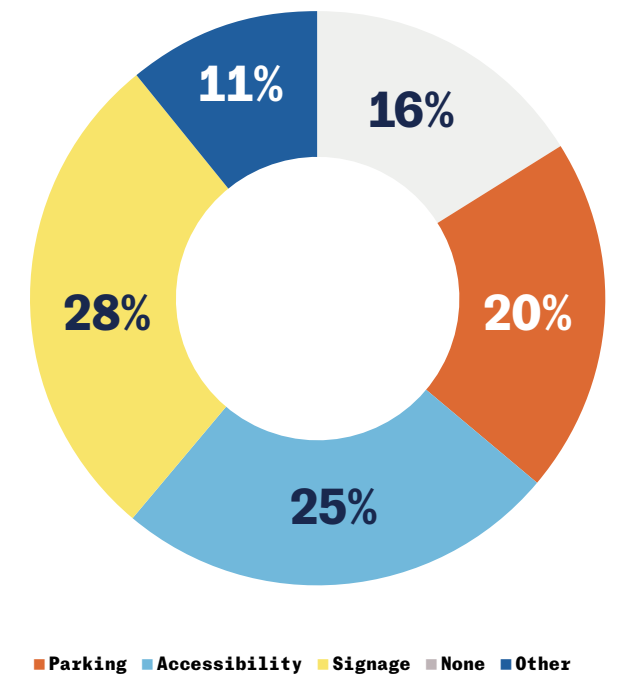
ELECTION PROTECTION

200
calls

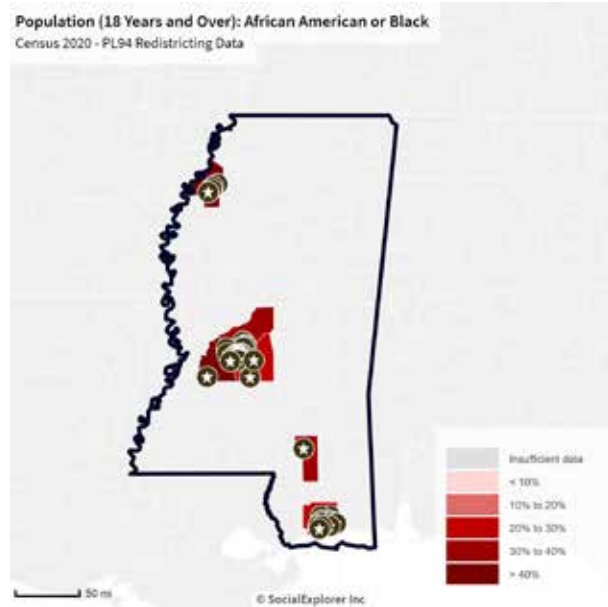
82
counties

FIELD REPORTS

The primary issues reported by monitors, charted below, revolved around accessibility and signage, which were oftentimes intertwined. Parking concerns also recurred across locations, which often included accessibility issues and lack of signage to designate reserved accessible spots.

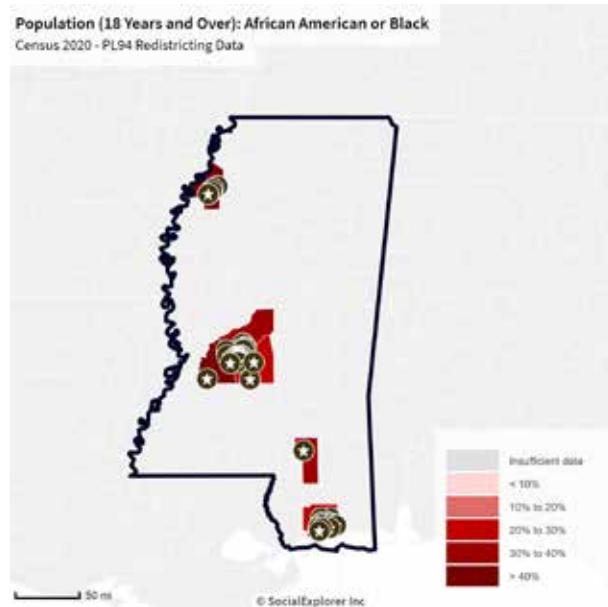


TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY



ACCESSIBILITY: Many poll sites did not have accessible entrances.

Most poll sites lacked proper accessibility measures which, made it difficult for voters to access the locations. Some sites could only be reached by stairs and did not have an alternative route, while others that may have had a ramp were too steep or narrow for wheelchair users to navigate safely. Volunteers also reported many polling locations that did not have accessible door handles (those that can be opened with a closed fist). Finally, parking was difficult for voters who use wheelchairs. Volunteers cited many sites that had accessible parking, but in order to enter the poll sites, voters had to cross through an inaccessible grassy area or another lot.



SIGNAGE: Volunteers reported signage issues in at least one poll site in each county monitored.

Improper signage outpaced all other issues reported in the state. Volunteers documented poll sites that had zero “Vote Here” signs (which caused confusion on where to enter to vote), no signage directing voters to the accessible entrances (if there were any), and inadequate signage indicating the designated parking for voters.

Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.



ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

ELECTION SUPPLIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The lack of physical election infrastructure has been a persistent problem in Mississippi’s elections, creating issues for all voters, particularly those with disabilities. This was true of the 2022 elections as well. Throughout Election Day, poll monitors repeatedly cited lack adequate signage at polling locations across the state. Too often, signage was not visible from the street, and was not effective in directing voters to the voting location. Some sites only had one sign affixed to the door with no accompanying signage.

Many polling locations were given a single lawn sign and a single paper sign to tape on the entrance to their polling location. This caused difficulties for voters at polling sites located in a campus-style area, necessitating the need to ask for directions to the specific building and room that served as a polling location. This also caused issues for buildings that were difficult to find off main highways and roads.

At some polling locations, the lack of signage forced poll monitors to create their own signage.

Hand written signage indicating entrance to polling location in Mississippi. Photos by volunteer

POLLING SITE MISINFORMATION

In 2022, Mississippi voters continued to receive inaccurate information regarding their voting locations. In particular, many voters used the Secretary of State’s poll locator to identify their voting site, a tool that contained inaccurate voting site information—leading to confusion and disenfranchisement.

In 2021 and 2022, LDF sent the Mississippi Secretary of State letters demanding that he fix systematic misinformation in the Mississippi online poll locator that gave voters inaccurate information about their poll location. This issue affected over 65,000 voters in 2020 and persisted in the 2022 elections. As a result of LDF’s advocacy, the Secretary of State contacted county officials across the state to confirm that polling locations were accurately reported to

voters. To supplement this effort, LDF sent a letter to all local officials regarding their reporting obligations and discouraging further lack of transparency with polling locations.

This effort resulted in clear publication of polling locations for Mississippi voters and reduced many closures.

Still, despite our advocacy, there were problems related to polling location misinformation on Election Day. In Precinct 45 in majority-Black Hinds County, voters were directed to the wrong polling location because the correct polling location was misidentified by the Secretary of State. LDF sent a mass text to the 2,600 voters in that precinct to inform them of the correct information.

[LDF’s] effort resulted in **clear publication of polling locations** for Mississippi voters and reduced many closures.



This image taken Nov. 8, 2022 shows the polling site entrance at Triumph Church in Jackson, Miss. Photo by volunteer



LDF staff with partners at civic engagement event in Jackson, Miss. Photo by LDF staff

NEXT UP FOR MISSISSIPPI

FIGHTING FOR VOTER INFORMATION AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION TRANSPARENCY

In response to the recorded challenges identifying accurate poll site information and anticipating last-minute hurdles to voting access, LDF will continue to organize around advocacy solutions to mitigate voter confusion and increase transparency of election administration decision-making and information.

Looking ahead, LDF and partners will...

- Monitor poll site misinformation and pursue policy solutions
- Continue to fight for election administration transparency
- Coordinate with partners and volunteers to ensure voters have the information they need in advance of Election Day and the support they need to navigate voting barriers in real time on Election Day

MISSISSIPPI ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

Want more information?
voting.naacpldf.org

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

Note: All links are case sensitive.

- Confirm your registration status.**
bit.ly/MSVoteReg
- Know which Photo ID to bring.**
bit.ly/MSVoteID
- Find your polling place.**
bit.ly/PollingMS

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Monday, October 10
 Last day to register.

PICK A VOTING PLAN



PLAN 1: VOTE ON ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8
 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Vote in person on Election Day!

PLAN 2: VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON
September 24 – November 5
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.*
 Vote absentee in person at your Circuit Clerk's office during these dates.

Check if you qualify to vote absentee here:
bit.ly/MSAbs

PLAN 3: VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL
Friday, September 9
 To vote absentee by mail, you can apply for a ballot starting on this date. You can request an application from your Circuit Clerk by phone, email, or in-person.

Tuesday, November 8
 When you vote absentee by mail, the envelope must be **postmarked** by this date. The sooner you mail your ballot, the better!

Tuesday, November 15
 Your Circuit Clerk needs to **receive** your absentee ballot by this date.

What IDs can I use?

MS Driver's License	Federally Issued ID – including U.S. passport, Military ID, or employee ID
Firearms License (Photo Required)	Photo ID card issued by any branch, department, or entity of any state
Student Photo ID from MS accredited university, college, or community/junior college	Valid employee ID from federal or Mississippi state or local government
MS Voter ID Card	Tribal Photo ID

What if I don't have one of these IDs?

Receive a **FREE Voter ID card** at your County Circuit Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Find out how: bit.ly/MSVoterCard

Know Your Rights!

- Vote if **you are in line** when polls close at 7 p.m.
- Vote **free from intimidation**.
- Get help voting** if you need it due to blindness, disability, or you struggle to read English. Anyone can help you so long as they are not your employer or union representative.
- Vote by **affidavit ballot** if there is uncertainty regarding your registration status.

Have questions or issues?

Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation about voting requirements or polling location? Voting machine or other technology issues?

Email vote@naacpldf.org or or call the Mississippi Election Protection **888-601-VOTE** (888-601-8683).

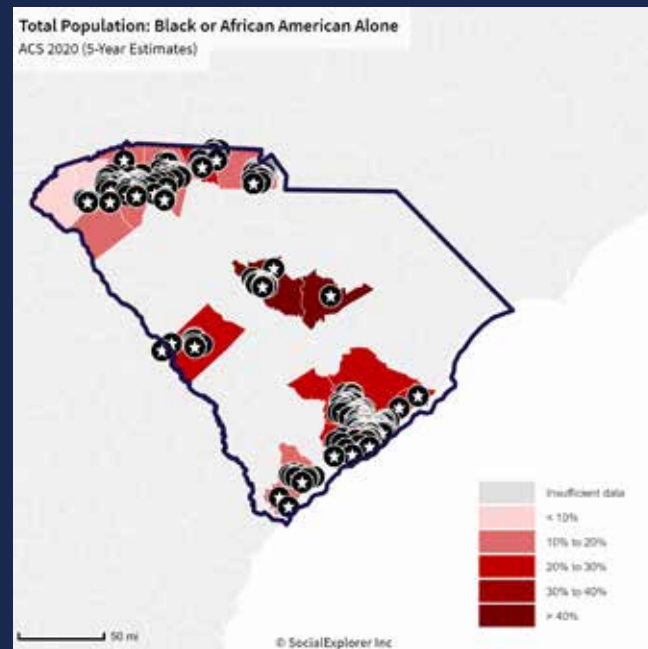
Or call the National Election Protection hotline number: **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.



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SOUTH CAROLINA 2022

The 2022 primary election in South Carolina provided many insights, especially as the first election implementing statewide early voting. LDF worked with the South Carolina Election Protection Coalition to monitor the June primary election and the November general election. This report provides a snapshot of data collected, actions taken to ameliorate issues, and steps ahead.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

50+ nonpartisan field volunteers

21 counties reached

229 poll sites visited

459 poll site reports submitted

52% of reports indicating “no issues” - meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting



Voters in Columbia, S.C. wait in line to cast their ballots on the last day of early voting. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

During the Nov. 8, 2022 general election, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection hotline received 366 calls from 33 of 46 counties across South Carolina.

Similar to the field data, the majority of the reported issues referenced signage and accessibility issues, and the Election Protection Coalition, with the help of LDF attorneys, helped triage issues and support the voters who called.

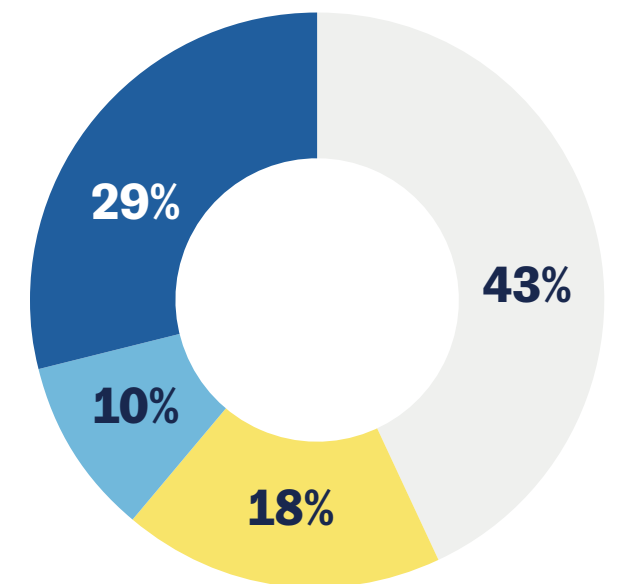
FIELD REPORTS

The most prevalent voting access issues reported during the elections were related to signage, and the next most common issue was accessibility. Analysis of these reports indicated that signage and accessibility issues often originated from the same polling locations. Many causes of these issues were insufficient signage directing voters to accessible entrances, parking, or curbside voting.

ELECTION PROTECTION

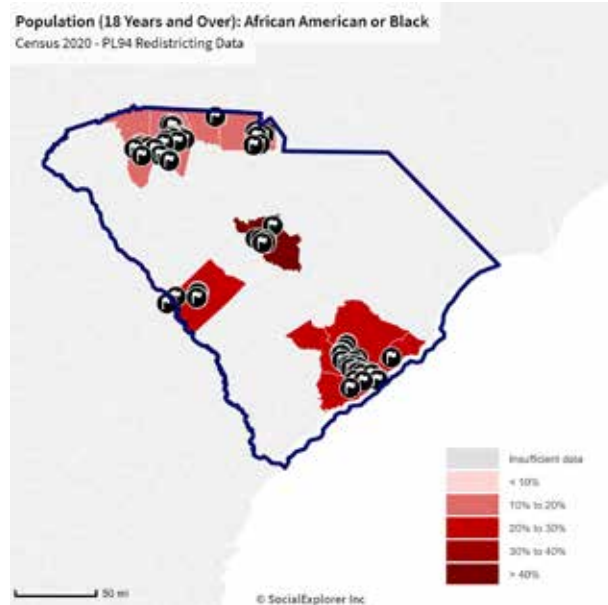
336
calls

33
counties



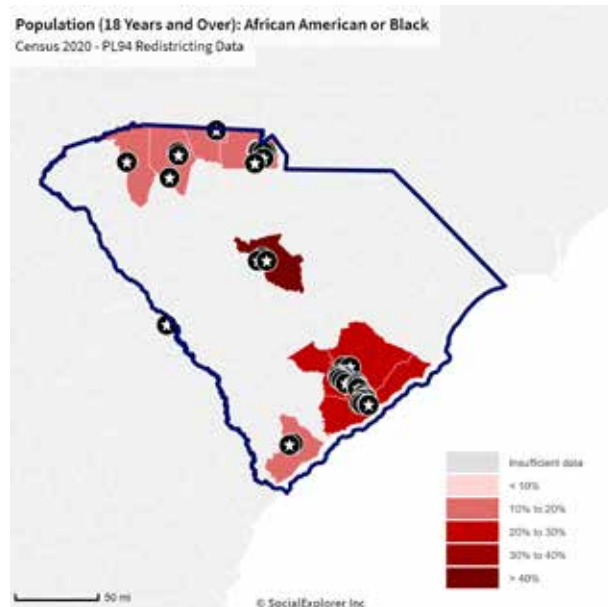
■ Accessibility ■ Signage ■ None ■ Other

TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY



SIGNAGE: Across over two dozen counties, volunteers submitted 83 signage issue reports.

The main signage issues were a lack of directional signage to the poll site entrance and parking. Many of the poll sites in the state are public buildings that transformed a portion of the space to accommodate voting, which meant that the site had more than one entrance. Many sites also did not have designated voter parking or signs directing voters to the reserved parking space. The lack of signage directing voters to the correct locations made it difficult to find the correct entrance and in turn made the voting experience longer than necessary.



ACCESSIBILITY: Almost 10% of field reports submitted statewide referred to lack of accessibility at poll sites.

Many accessibility issue reports were due to a lack of access at curbside voting. Curbside voting laws require that a poll worker check outside for voters looking to vote curbside every 15 minutes. Volunteers reported that poll workers were not checking for curbside voters despite having a designated space for curbside voting. In one instance, a voter got out of their car to notify the workers that they were waiting outside. Curbside voting is supposed to limit barriers to voting for voters with disabilities, but that is only the case when the law is followed.

Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.



ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

IMPROPER ENFORCEMENT OF THE ELECTIONEERING BOUNDARY

Monitoring electioneering boundaries and ensuring poll workers' proper enforcement is crucial to the work of poll monitors. In South Carolina, electioneering is defined as persons wearing or handing out any campaign materials (apparel, buttons, stickers, literature, etc.) within 200 feet of any entrance to the polling place. Often, these boundaries need to be clarified because they are not marked at poll sites, and what consists of campaign materials can be subjective.

During the fall 2022 elections, the South Carolina Election Protection Coalition received numerous calls from across the state where poll workers wrongly turned away voters for wearing "Black Lives Matter" attire. As these reports accumulated, LDF worked with the ACLU of South Carolina to call local elections administrators and alert them of the First Amendment issues this practice posed, as well as the proper definition of partisan electioneering.

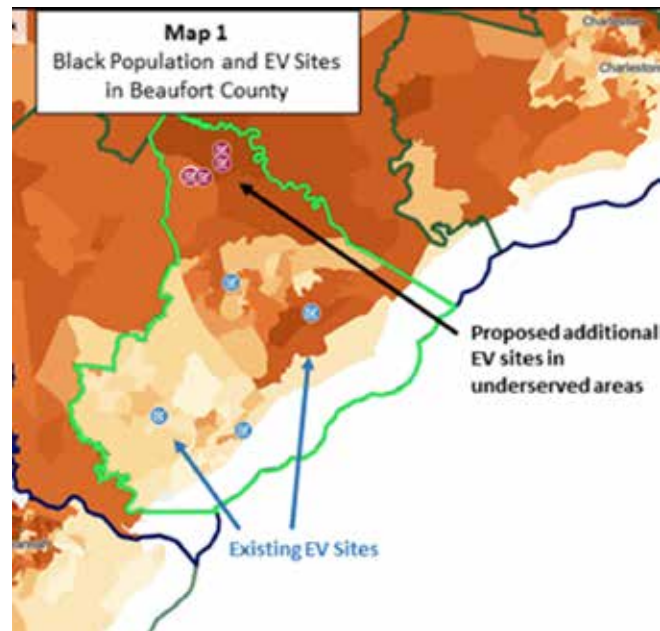
This image taken Nov. 8, 2022 shows campaign signage next to the voter parking lot at the Isle of Palms Recreation Center polling site in Charleston, S.C. Photo by volunteer

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

EQUITY IN EARLY VOTING IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 midterms were the first election in which South Carolina implemented early voting. After a bill enacting early voting passed during the 2022 legislative session, South Carolina voters were able to vote early without an excuse during the midterms.

According to the South Carolina State Election Commission, 560,622 people, or nearly 16.5% of all registered voters, voted early during the November 2022 election.



The map above shows early voting locations in Beaufort County overlaying the Black population, which LDF submitted in an advocacy letter to the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections to ensure Black voters in the north were not denied equal access to early voting centers.

While the turnout numbers were extraordinary, implementation of early voting was not without its shortcomings, with voters of color facing inequitable distribution of early voting locations. South Carolina law authorizes counties to designate up to seven early voting centers for an election that maximizes accessibility for all voters to the greatest extent possible. However, several counties implemented early voting plans that fell short of their statutory obligations to voters.

LDF identified inequities in early voting locations and sent rapid response letters to five counties with significant Black populations—Florence, Marion, Beaufort, Berkeley, and Orangeburg—where LDF identified additional possible early voting locations. LDF urged the local Boards of Election to provide reasonable and fair accessibility to early voting for Black voters, and to appropriately distribute locations throughout the counties. In Florence County, this aided in the addition of an early voting site, and several other counties have expressed a desire to add more sites in response to LDF’s advocacy.

Sign indicating availability of curbside voting at polling location in South Carolina. *Photo by volunteer*





LDF staff and volunteers participating in election protection in South Carolina during the November 2022 midterm elections. Photo by LDF staff

NEXT UP FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

AVOIDING ISSUES THROUGH POLL WORKER TRAINING IMPROVEMENTS

Many issues observed in South Carolina could be prevented with proper poll worker training. As the South Carolina Election Protection Coalition plans for the 2024 presidential elections, the focus will be on training and providing election workers with information to ensure safe and accessible voting for all South Carolinians.

Following the coalition's advocacy in 2022 and 2023 to fight misinformation, the coalition plans to continue to advocate for more informed poll worker training that covers:

- proper signage
- precise definitions of “electioneering” and the electioneering boundary
- accessibility, particularly curbside voting requirements

SOUTH CAROLINA ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

Note: All links are case sensitive.

- Register to vote. bit.ly/SCregister2Vote
- Confirm your registration status. bit.ly/SCRegStatus
- Find your polling place. bit.ly/SCRegStatus
- Bring your ID!

Need to Register to Vote?

Friday, October 7 at 5 p.m.

Last day to register if you want to register in person.

Sunday, October 9 at 11:59 p.m.

Last day to register if you want to register online, by fax, or email.

Tuesday, October 11

Last day to register if you want to register by mail (your envelope needs to be postmarked by this date).

PICK A VOTING PLAN



PLAN 1: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

October 24 – November 5

Early voting hours: 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Closed Sundays

Find your early voting site:

www.scvotes.gov/early-voting

PLAN 2: VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PLAN 3: VOTE BY MAIL

Friday, October 28 by 5 p.m.

Apply for an absentee ballot before this date and time. You can submit your application in person or send your application by mail. The sooner the better!

Tuesday, November 8 by 7 p.m.

Your county registrar needs to receive your absentee ballot by this date and time.

Check if you qualify to vote absentee here:

What IDs can I use?

- SC Driver's License or ID Card
- SC Concealed Weapons Permit
- SC Voter Registration Card (with Photo)
- Federal Military ID
- U.S. Passport

What if I don't have one of these IDs?

Get a free Photo ID from your county voter registration office or local DMV. Or bring your non-photo voter registration card to the polls and vote a provisional ballot after signing an affidavit stating you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining a Photo ID. Learn more at bit.ly/SCVOTERID22

Know Your Rights!

- Vote if you are in line when polls close.
- Vote **curbside from your vehicle** if you are physically unable to enter the polling place or if you are 65 or older.
- Vote **free from intimidation**.
- Get help voting** if you need help due to blindness, disability, or you struggle to read English. Anyone can help you so long as they are not your employer or union representative.
- Vote if you are **detained pre-trial** or if you have been convicted of a misdemeanor that is not a violation of an election law and have completed your term of incarceration.
- Vote **after serving a felony conviction** if you have (1) fully completed the sentence, including any incarceration or parole, or (2) completed court-ordered probation.
- Vote by absentee ballot if you are in jail for failure to pay child support.

Have questions or issues?

Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation? Voting machine or other technology issues?

Email vote@naacpldf.org or call Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.

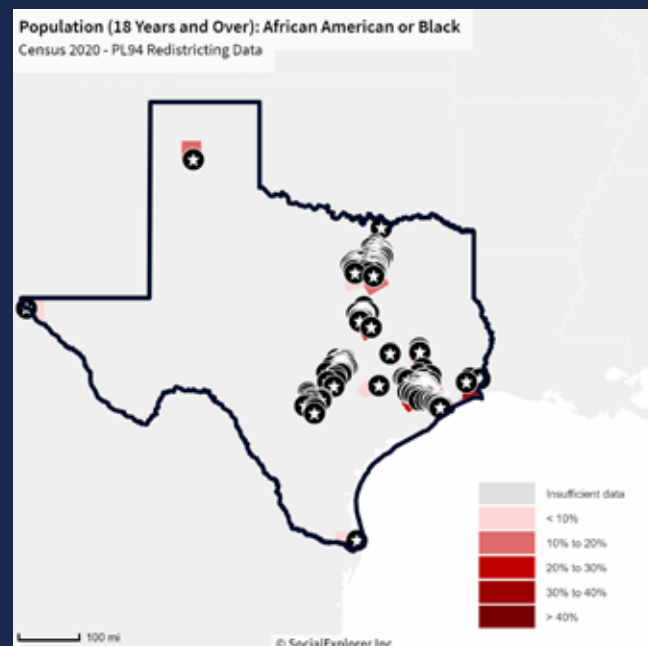
If you are experiencing accessibility issues, call **Disability Rights SC** at **1-866-275-7273**.



Disclaimer: The information here is a resource and not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only and not as a substitute for or supplement to the legal advice necessary to address the specific concerns of any individual. **South Carolina may revise its laws and information after this is published.** It is your responsibility to determine how all

TEXAS 2022

In 2022, LDF's Texas team recorded an overwhelming number of voter incidents across the state, ranging from lack of accessibility, delayed curbside voting, long lines, machine malfunctions, and intimidation. This report captures just a snapshot of these trends.



The map depicts the poll sites visited across target counties statewide. The map overlays this data with the Black Voting Age Population. Map produced in Social Explorer.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

244+ nonpartisan field volunteers

95 cities reached

324 early voting and poll sites visited

494+ poll site reports submitted

30% of reports indicating "no issues" - meaning that when the reports were submitted, the poll sites showed no barriers to voting



The image above is from the Universal City Library in Universal City, Texas (Bexar County), where a volunteer reported an 80-minute wait time and full parking lot. Photo by volunteer

HOTLINE REPORTS

During the various 2022 elections, the 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection hotline received over 4,000 calls from more than half of the state's counties.

Many Texans called the hotline with questions regarding their individual statuses, but a significant majority of the calls dealt with polling place accessibility issues, tech malfunctions, intimidation, and more.

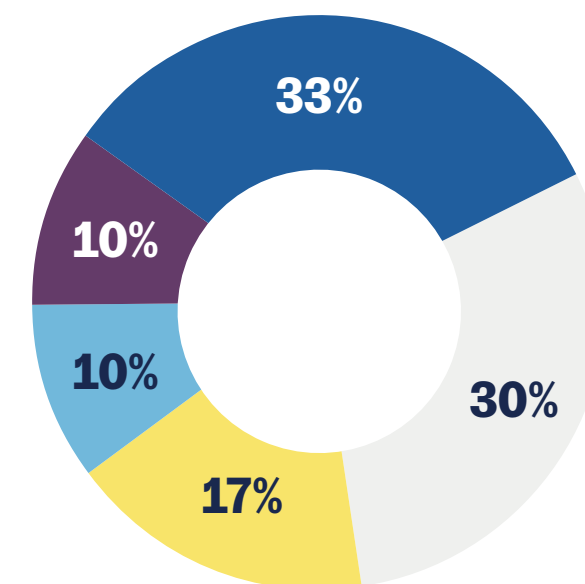
ELECTION PROTECTION

4000+
calls

50%+
counties

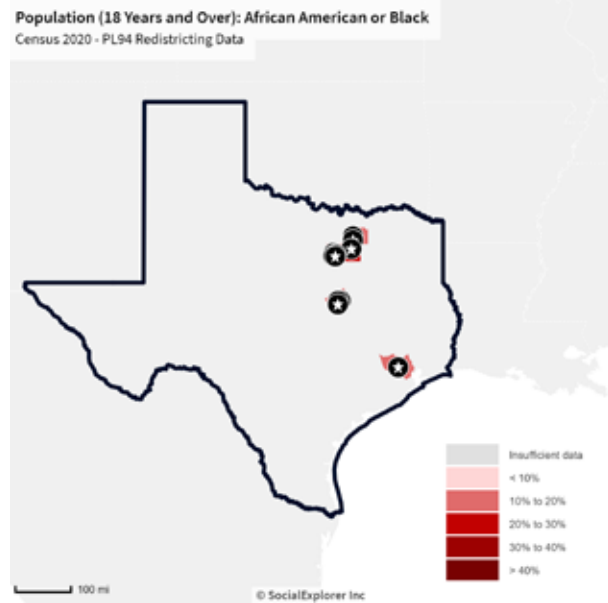
FIELD REPORTS

While most sites either had no issues or miscellaneous concerns, there were recurring reports of signage, accessibility, and law enforcement presence at polling sites in target counties monitored across Texas.



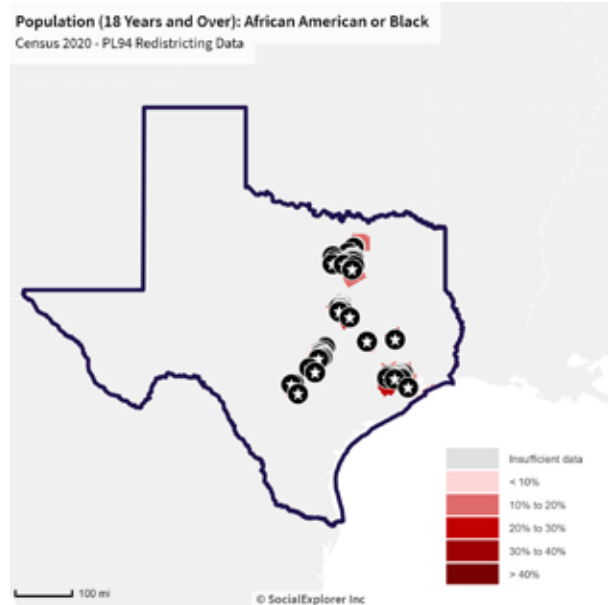
■ Parking ■ None ■ Law Enforcement ■ Signage ■ Other

TOP ISSUES ON ELECTION DAY



LAW ENFORCEMENT: Many poll sites were located next to police precincts.

Volunteers reported many instances of intimidating law enforcement presence across the state, citing multiple sites that were located adjacent to police precincts. In one report during the primaries, a volunteer documented a sheriff that set up a tent outside a polling location, forcibly grabbing voters and telling them to vote for a specific candidate. The volunteer spoke to voters who mentioned feeling intimidated and less compelled to vote because of this encounter.



SIGNAGE: Signage was the top issue reported across poll sites monitored.

The main problems with signage revolved around inadequate markings of curbside voting, which forced voters to find alternative measures. Some poll sites had confusing signage that directed voters to two separate places for curbside voting, and neither was the correct place. Volunteers also documented many sites that lacked proper directional signage into the polling location.

School Police Car at Cesar Chavez Middle School in Waco, TX
March 1, 2022. Photo by volunteer

Maps overlay issue reports on 2020 Census Black Voting Age Population data generated using Social Explorer.



ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

ELECTION TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPLIES



The image above is from the Mortan Ranch High School polling site in Harris County, where a volunteer recorded lines lasting over an hour and malfunctioning curbside voting machines. *Photo by volunteer*

Problems with polling place technology caused severe delays for voters on Election Day.

Due to malfunctioning machines or confusing user interfaces, wait times reached over two hours at times at some poll sites.

Most machines that malfunctioned were either freezing or failing to input votes. In some cases, confusing user interfaces caused user error, forcing voters to redo their ballot until the machine accepted their choices.

Additionally, polling places began to run out of paper ballots. In those instances, such as at the Houston Community College Alief Hayes Campus in West Houston, the sites were forced to close and refer voters to a nearby polling place. The Harris County election tech team was so inundated with calls that they were unable to fix issues at most polling places.

ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

VOTER INTIMIDATION

In 2022, Texans faced serious instances of voter intimidation during the early voting period and on Election Day. In one case, a voter received a threatening letter regarding her party affiliation. At one poll site on Election Day, a voter was harassed and berated by another voter, causing her great distress. There were also numerous instances of poll workers incorrectly wearing party apparel or electioneers harassing voters inside the electioneering boundary. Though some harassers remained outside the 100-foot electioneering boundary, some boasted Confederate flags, large political banners and/or audio expressing their political views.

Throughout early voting, there were several concerning reports of intimidation and voter suppression from a historically Black polling place in Beaumont, Jefferson County. There, white poll workers repeatedly spoke in aggressive tones to Black voters and asked them to recite their addresses within earshot of other voters, poll workers and poll watchers, even when the voter was already checked in. White poll workers and white poll watchers followed Black voters and, in some cases, their Black voter assistants, around the polling place, including standing two feet behind a Black voter and the assistant, while the voter was at the machine casting a ballot. White poll workers helped white voters scan their voted ballots into voting machines but did not help Black voters trying to do the same thing. Partner organizations ultimately had to sue to ensure similar patterns were not repeated in the future.



The image above was taken just outside a polling site in Collin County, Texas. While signs and flags were positioned beyond the 100-foot electioneering boundary, volunteers reported the intimidating effects of the display, which included a Confederate flag. *Photo by volunteer*



NEXT UP FOR TEXAS

ADDRESSING INTIMIDATION FOR ALL FORMS

In the face of third-party efforts to intimidate voters, excessive presence of police at poll sites, and the state-level attempts to undermine local election official's authority in communities with large populations of voters of color, LDF and partners will continue to monitor and address efforts aimed to deter voters and threaten democratic institutions.

Looking ahead, LDF and partners will...

- Monitor issues of intimidation at individual and systemic levels
- Support voters and election officials targeted by intimidation efforts and election sabotage attempts

LDF prepared to **VOTE**
Non-Partisan Voter Education

TEXAS ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your Prepared-to-Vote Checklist

Note: All links are case sensitive.

- ✔ Confirm your registration status. bit.ly/TXRegistrationStatus
- ✔ See what ID you need to bring. bit.ly/TXVoterID22
- ✔ Find your polling place. bit.ly/TXPollSites

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Tuesday, October 11
Last day to register.

PICK A VOTING PLAN



PLAN 1: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

October 24 – November 4
Hours vary by county. Find your county's voting hours on their election administration website.

PLAN 2: VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8
Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PLAN 3: VOTE BY MAIL

Check if you qualify to vote absentee here: bit.ly/TXAbs

Friday, October 28

Your county registrar needs to **receive** your request for an absentee ballot by this date. You can fill out your application with pen on paper. Then, mail it or drop it off at your county registrar's office. The sooner the better!
Request an application here: bit.ly/TXAbs

Tuesday, November 8 by 7 p.m.*

Your county registrar needs to **receive** your absentee ballot by this date and time. You can mail your absentee ballot or you can drop off your absentee ballot at a drop off location.

LDF prepared to **VOTE**
Non-Partisan Voter Education

What IDs can I use?

- ✔ Texas Driver's License**
 - ✔ Texas Election ID Certificate**
 - ✔ Texas Personal ID Card**
 - ✔ Texas Handgun License**
 - ✔ U.S. Military ID Card ***
 - ✔ U.S. Passport
 - ✔ U.S. Citizenship Certificate***
- ** Issued by Texas Department of Public Safety
*** Must include photo

What if I don't have one of these IDs?

Voters can present a supporting form of ID and make a Reasonable Impediment Declaration that they are unable to obtain an acceptable form of ID. Learn more at bit.ly/TXVoterID22

Know Your Rights!

- ✔ Vote **free from intimidation.**
- ✔ Vote **if you are in line** when polls close at 7 p.m.
- ✔ **Get help** voting if you need help due to blindness, disability, or you struggle to read English. Anyone can help you so long as they are not your employer or union representative.
- ✔ Vote **after serving a felony conviction** if you have (1) fully completed the sentence, including incarceration, parole, or supervision, or (2) completed any court-ordered probation.
- ✔ **Receive up to two more ballots** if you make a mistake while marking the ballot when voting in person.

Have questions or issues?

Long lines? Polling location changed or not well marked? Name removed from voter roll? Voter intimidation? Misinformation? Voting machine or other technology issues?

Email vote@naacpldf.org or call Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683). Multiple language support (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages) is available.



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THE PATH AHEAD IN 2024

prepared to
VOTE
Non-Partisan Voter Education

LDF Legal
Defense
Fund



Veronica Blalock, 70, a first-time poll worker, puts out a sign for voters at Worship With Wonders Church in Marietta, Ga., on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. Photo by Kevin D. Liles for The Washington Post via Getty Images

Election Infrastructure Improvements

Whether to ensure timely delivery of absentee ballots, visible signage and adequate parking at poll sites, or functioning machine technology on Election Day, investment in the fundamental infrastructure of America's elections must be a critical priority in 2024. Accessibility should be prioritized at every level.

Transparency in Poll Site Changes

While standards vary across states for reporting poll site changes and making them available to the public, LDF and partners will continue to pursue efforts to promote transparency and monitor for discriminatory poll site changes and closures.

Voter Education and Mobilization

As election rules continue to evolve due to legislative actions or court interventions, it will be essential that voters are informed of the rules that apply in their states. Voter education campaigns should be catered to address the unique circumstances of first-time voters, out-of-state and college students, and

formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted voters. Outreach materials should also be provided in a range of languages.

Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

Poll workers serve as the frontline of America's democracy. Recruiting a rising generation of poll workers and election staff will help promote the resilience of our political process. Further improvements to poll worker training can also serve as one of the most proactive means to avoid confusion, congestion, and other issues on voting days.

Countering Election Sabotage

Strategic monitoring and messaging efforts to detect and counteract mis- and disinformation campaigns will continue to be vital to dismantle election sabotage efforts. The rise of new technology and rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies will make these efforts increasingly vital. The strength of our democracy depends on trust in our elections.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Democracy Defended: Key Findings from the 2020 Elections

AVAILABLE AT:
bit.ly/DemocracyDefended2020

Democracy Defended captures and analyzes LDF's election-related activities during the 2020 election season.

Democracy Defended: An Analysis of Barriers to Voting in the 2018 Midterm Elections

AVAILABLE AT:
bit.ly/DemocracyDefended2018

Democracy Defended captures and analyzes LDF's election-related activities during the 2018 election season.

LDF's Voting Rights Microsite

AVAILABLE AT:
voting.naacpldf.org

LDF's one-stop resource for voting rights information in target states.





The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Using the power of law, narrative, research, and people, we defend and advance the full dignity and citizenship of Black people in America.

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