

# HOW THE NYVRA FIGHTS VOTER INTIMIDATION

## The NYVRA protects your rights as a New York voter

The 2022 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York sets a new standard for protecting voters of color at the state level. To learn about all its key provisions, visit [www.naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act/](http://www.naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act/).

### What is "voter intimidation"?

- Voter intimidation occurs when someone does or says something that makes you feel unsafe about exercising your right to vote. Intimidation might pressure you into voting a certain way, or to not to vote at all.

### Does this happen in New York?

- Yes! In the 1870s, factory owners told their workers it was either "your job or your vote."
- In 2020, bad actors directed 5,949 robocalls with threatening and deceptive claims about voting by mail to phone numbers with New York area codes.
- That same year, poll workers made racist remarks to an individual of Asian descent as they directed them to a voting booth.

### What are examples of illegal voter intimidation?

- Phone calls claiming that bad things will happen if someone votes -- for example, that their information will be used by law enforcement, credit card companies, or ICE.
- Having police officers take down the license plate numbers of people going to voter registration meetings.
- Physically blocking a polling place.
- Pretending to be an election official, either at the polling place or by visiting you at your home, and suggesting your vote was illegal.

### Voting intimidation takes many forms.

**It can be illegal even if there are no threats of physical violence. As long as the action, in context, would reasonably have the effect of interfering with, coercing, or threatening a person's voting rights, it may be illegal voter intimidation prohibited by the NYVRA.**



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### What should I do if I see or experience voter intimidation?

Call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Assistance is also available in Spanish at 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888- 839-8682), in Arabic at 844-YALLA-US (844-915-5187), and Asian languages at 888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683). A video American Sign Language line is available at 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683).

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Notify your local election official.

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Document what you saw or experienced.

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Contact one of the organizations listed below.

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Contact the New York Attorney General office's voter protection hotline through phone, at 866-390-2992; email, at [election.hotline@ag.ny.gov](mailto:election.hotline@ag.ny.gov); or by filling out their Election Complaint Form online, at [www.electionhotline.ag.ny.gov](http://www.electionhotline.ag.ny.gov). Reports and complaints are accepted in any language.

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If you fear imminent physical harm, call 911.

## How does the NYVRA protect against voter intimidation?

- The NYVRA empowers New Yorkers to sue a person or group engaged in intimidation, deception, or obstruction.
- The NYVRA prohibits interference with access to the polls or delays in the voting process.
- The NYVRA instructs courts to remedy acts of intimidation or obstruction with appropriate remedies, which may include more time to vote or money damages to the voter.
- The NYVRA bans voter intimidation no matter who does it -- including private individuals, campaigns, law enforcement, or officials.

# YOUR NEW RIGHTS UNDER THE NYVRA EXPLAINED. FIGHT BACK AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION.

LEARN ABOUT THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE NYVRA:  
[naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act](http://naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act)