

New Jersey Voters Have Protections Against Voter Intimidation, Obstruction, Deception, and Racially Discriminatory Voter Suppression

Heading into the election, learn how to use new tools to protect your right to vote.

The John R. Lewis Voter Empowerment Act of New Jersey (NJVEA) sets a new standard for protecting voters of color. The NJVEA allows New Jersey voters to sue a person, or a group engaged in acts of voter intimidation, obstruction, deception, or suppression.

The NJVEA aims to strengthen voting rights for all New Jersey voters and provide equal access to the polls for all eligible voters.

What is voter intimidation and obstruction, and what are some examples?

Voter intimidation occurs when someone does or says something that makes you feel unsafe about exercising your right to vote.

Voter obstruction occurs when someone prevents or makes it more difficult for you to vote.

■ Examples of voter intimidation or obstruction include:

- Using threats or harassment to pressure you into voting a certain way or not voting at all
- Physically blocking roads or pathways to access polling
- Phone calls claiming negative consequences for voting, like having your information accessed by law enforcement, credit card companies, or immigration authorities

What is voter deception, and what are some examples?

Voter deception occurs when someone uses false information to trick or mislead you about the voting process.

■ Examples of voter deception include:

- Falsely telling voters they can vote on Wednesday when the election is on Tuesday
- Falsely telling voters they are not eligible because of an arrest
- Falsely telling voters that only members of a particular political party can vote at a certain location
- AI content containing false or misleading information about voting

What is voter suppression, and what are some examples?

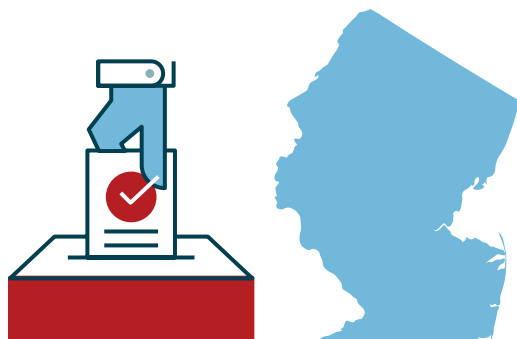
Discriminatory voter suppression refers to laws and practices that make it harder for voters of color to cast ballots, compared to other voters.

■ Examples of voter suppression include:

- Polling place closures in Black and other communities of color
- Longer lines in Black and communities of color
- Removing voters from the rolls in a racially discriminatory fashion

How does the NJVEA protect against voter intimidation, deception, obstruction, and suppression?

- The NJVEA bans voter intimidation, deception, and obstruction no matter who does it – including private individuals, campaigns, law enforcement, or other officials.
- The NJVEA empowers voters, organizations that represent voters, and the Attorney General to sue any person or group engaged in intimidation, deception, or obstruction to prevent the harm or hold them accountable.
- The NJVEA instructs courts to take action to prevent or fix acts of intimidation, deception, and obstruction, which may include issuing a legally enforceable order to stop, providing more time to vote, or making the bad actor give money damages to the voter.
- The NJVEA also empowers voters, organizations that represent voters, and the Attorney General to sue local governments or officials engaged in discriminatory voter suppression and instructs courts to take action to fix the problem.



LEARN ABOUT THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE NJVEA:

naacpldf.org/njvra

FIGHT BACK AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION, DECEPTION, OBSTRUCTION, AND SUPPRESSION DURING THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

What should I do if I see or experience voter intimidation, deception, obstruction, or suppression?

- **Document what you saw** or experienced in as much detail as possible—write down dates and times, take pictures, etc.
- **Call a voter protection hotline:**
 - Election Protection at **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683).
 - Assistance available in Spanish at **888-VE-Y-VOTA** (888- 839-8682).
 - Assistance available in Asian languages at **888-API-VOTE** (888-274-8683).
 - Assistance available in Arabic at **844-YALLA-US** (844-925-5287)
- **Notify the Attorney General and your local election officials:**
 - Contact New Jersey's Voter Information and Assistance line at **1-877-NJ-VOTER** (1-877-658-6837), or you can file a report with the New Jersey Attorney General Office's Division on Civil Rights at **bias.njcivilrights.gov** or by calling **1-833-NJDCR4U** (1-833-653-2748)
 - Contact your local county election officials at **www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-county-election-officials.shtml**
- If you fear imminent physical harm, call 911.