



Election Reforms to Expand Access to the Ballot

Call To Action Goal (Mississippi)

The call to action is *to convince the Mississippi state legislature to authorize two weeks of early voting*. A bill of this nature would permit eligible Mississippi voters the opportunity to vote during a two-week period prior to Election Day, helping to ensure that last minute work or family obligations do not deprive eligible voters of their fundamental right.

Under the call to action, we will also seek *to convince the legislature to authorize online registration*. This secondary objective would allow authorized persons eligible to vote in the state to submit their voter registration applications through a secure internet website established by the Secretary of State, making it easier for disabled persons and others to register to vote.

These key election reforms were the consensus recommendation of a bipartisan blue ribbon panel, and a version of a bill that would authorize these reforms was introduced by the current Secretary of State and passed the House last legislative session, before stalling in the Senate. With this effort, People Power volunteers can help broaden access to the ballot box, and strengthen democracy in Mississippi.

Call To Action Plan (Mississippi)

To get acquainted with the Let People Vote call to action for Mississippi, People Power volunteers/activists will:

- watch the livestream/recording of the October 1, 2017 Let People Vote launch event; and
- review and discuss [background materials](#) on the benefits of early voting and online registration.

In the period between now and the end of the legislative session in April, People Power activists/volunteers will work in partnership with the ACLU of Mississippi and partner organizations to achieve our goal of early voting and online registration. The ACLU of Mississippi and partner organizations will periodically post important events at www.map.peoplepower.org, and you will be invited to attend via email, text message and/or phone call.

In the period between now and the end of the legislative session in April, People Power activists/volunteers will also be able to work independently with their teams and other teams on activities including:

- [meet with elected officials and their staff](#), [gather](#) and [deliver](#) petition signatures, [speak out at public meetings](#) and [town halls](#), [organize protests](#), make phone calls, and [send letters](#), in order to:
 - o urge their state lawmakers to pass these two election reform bills;
 - o urge their local officials, in particular county clerks who run local elections, to release [public statements](#) in support of these key election reforms;
- [gather petition signatures](#) in high-traffic public locations and at local events like farmers' markets, as well as canvass for these signatures by going door-to-door in your neighborhood discussing the importance of early voting and online registration with members in your community;
- submit [Letters to the Editor \(LTEs\)](#) to local newspapers, stressing the need to ease access to the ballot box by allowing early voting and online registration;
- make phone calls to the Governor, once bills have been passed, to urge their prompt signing into law; and

- take other actions to promote these reforms and voting rights more broadly, as determined by their People Power teams.

Take action TODAY!

Sign up to attend an upcoming event [here](#). Sign up to host your own event [here](#).

Background

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right that underpins all our civil liberties. That's why it is so important to advance reforms to ensure that all Americans who want to cast a ballot and participate in our democracy are able to do so. States and localities can take various measures to promote access to the ballot box such as *expanded early voting, election-day voter registration, vote-by-mail programs, online voter registration, automatic voter registration, and other programs designed to remove obstacles that may make it difficult to vote.*

Despite voting rollbacks in some states, at least [26 states](#) and DC have moved forward since 2012 with laws and policies to expand access to the ballot box – a promising sign of potential for more progress with People Power activism.

Key Reasons to Support Election Reforms

Democracy: We should make it easier to vote, not harder, so that more Americans can participate in our democracy. These common-sense reforms boost turnout, and make our election results more representative of what the people actually want.

Flexibility: Our voting system should be set up so that every eligible citizen has a fair chance to vote, including busy working parents, rural voters, frequent movers, and other Americans who face similar challenges. Flexibility to register online or vote early helps to ensure that people can exercise the fundamental right to vote.

Reduced Election Day Lines: Early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, and vote-by-mail options shorten Election Day wait times at the polls, and make the voting process easier for everyone, including election officials.

For questions, feel free to contact us at info@peoplepower.org.

www.peoplepower.org