



## Electoral System Reform

### Call To Action Goal (Washington)

The call to action is *to secure passage of the Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA), which will ensure all communities have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice in local elections.* Through this call to action, we will educate people on the importance of electoral system reform in local elections and seek passage of the WVRA by the Washington Legislature in 2018. The legislation would enable local governments to reform electoral systems that unfairly dilute the voting strength of some communities and provide for legal action under state law where local government fails to enact reforms.

### Call To Action Plan (Washington)

To get acquainted with the Let People Vote call to action for Washington, 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 Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA), and the importance of its passage.

In the period between now and the November 2017 elections, People Power activists/volunteers will be able to work independently with their teams and other teams to:

- urge candidates competing in the November 2017 elections to declare their public support for the WVRA, [speaking out at public meetings](#) and [town halls](#) where they are present and [sending letters/postcards](#);
- submit [Letters to the Editor \(LTEs\)](#) to local newspapers, stressing the need to enact the WVRA;
- organize and participate in [rallies/demonstrations](#), issue forums, and other [community education and outreach events](#) to generate earned media in support of the WVRA;

In the period between November 2017 and the end of the legislative session in March, People Power activists/volunteers will be able to work independently with their teams and other teams to:

- urge their state lawmakers to pass the WVRA – [attending in-district meetings with elected officials and their staff](#), making phone calls and [sending letters](#) (*note: legislators are typically in district during November and December*);
- make phone calls to the Governor, once the bill has been passed, to urge the prompt signing into law of the WVRA; and
- take other actions to promote the WVRA 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

In a healthy democracy, all voices need to be heard. But in some jurisdictions, outdated election systems prevent all neighborhoods and communities from being represented. Currently, nearly all local elections in Washington use at-large voting systems. Where bloc voting occurs, some communities are excluded from a fair chance at electing candidates of their choice. All communities must have an equal opportunity to elect officials who represent their needs and interests.

## Key Reasons to Support Electoral System Reform

**Fairness:** Voting systems should enable all communities to have a fair chance at having their voices heard in government.

**Inclusion:** The voting strength of minority communities should not be diluted due to bloc voting by majority communities.

**Democracy:** For democracy to work, all communities should have a meaningful vote in elections.

*For questions, feel free to contact us at [info@peoplepower.org](mailto:info@peoplepower.org).*

[www.peoplepower.org](http://www.peoplepower.org)