

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2013

Statement by the President on the Supreme Court Ruling on Shelby County v. Holder

I am deeply disappointed with the Supreme Court's decision today. For nearly 50 years, the Voting Rights Act - enacted and repeatedly renewed by wide bipartisan majorities in Congress - has helped secure the right to vote for millions of Americans. Today's decision invalidating one of its core provisions upsets decades of well-established practices that help make sure voting is fair, especially in places where voting discrimination has been historically prevalent.

As a nation, we've made a great deal of progress towards guaranteeing every American the right to vote. But, as the Supreme Court recognized, voting discrimination still exists. And while today's decision is a setback, it doesn't represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination. I am calling on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls. My Administration will continue to do everything in its power to ensure a fair and equal voting process.

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DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on the Supreme Court Striking Down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act

Washington, D.C. - DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the Supreme Court's decision invalidating section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

"The Voting Rights Act has helped secure the right to vote for millions of Americans and our Democracy is stronger for it. The Supreme Court struck down part of a law that was enacted and consistently renewed with wide bipartisan majorities, most recently in 2006. Today's decision is a setback for voting rights and all Americans who believe protecting the right to vote is essential to our Democracy.

"While I am disappointed in the Supreme Court's decision, the Democratic Party will never stop fighting to expand and defend access to the ballot for all eligible Americans. While Democrats are fighting to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot, Republicans have made it a legislative priority to make voting harder. Just this year on the state level, Republicans have introduced legislation to limit voting access in 30 states -- more than 55 different measures in total.

"Our country has made enormous progress towards the promise of full equality set forth by the Declaration of Independence. African-Americans and Women overcame many obstacles to obtain the right to vote and the Democratic Party will continue to oppose legislative and political efforts that erode that most precious right. In light of this decision, President Obama has called on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls and I call on my Republican colleagues to answer the President's call and pass this important legislation to ensure that no voter in America has their right to vote infringed."

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