



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Your vote matters. Seize the opportunity.

Election day in the United States represents a pivotal opportunity to advocate for yourself and your opportunities. As we prepare for election day, we as NBLSA find it necessary to point out some key considerations about voting.

Historically, changes in the voting process have adversely affected Black communities. For example, in 2013, the Supreme Court invalidated parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 reducing voter protections particularly in states formerly overwhelmed by overt voting discrimination based on race.<sup>1</sup> As a result, it has been reported that Black people are now almost [seven times](#) more likely to experience extended wait periods before they can vote. These extended wait times compound burdens on individuals who must take time off from work or make other arrangements to vote. Further contributing to voting time delays, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced polling places to limit the number of voters who can enter a precinct at one time to vote.

Further, recent changes in state voting legislation across the country are poised to impact marginalized communities during this election. In [Texas](#), the Fifth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals sided with the state allowing for only one drop-off box per county. This means that in larger counties, such as Harris County, one location will be responsible for managing nearly 4.8 million ballots. In [Pennsylvania](#), there were recent attempts to limit post-election day counting of mail-in ballots. These efforts were thwarted by the United States Supreme Court. Finally, in states such as [Arkansas](#), voters' absentee ballots have been rejected without voter review due to signature mistakes. At a time when absentee ballots are being submitted at record volumes, it is essential to remain informed and engaged with the happenings in your home state.

Despite these challenges, we urge you to vote. Do not let systemic obstacles strip you of your will to be heard this election. We recognize that voting alone cannot bring about the change we seek, but it is a critical first step. After election day, continue to hold our elected officials accountable, build with community members, address systemic issues, and most importantly, stay safe.

In NBLSA Service,

Marion Humphrey, Jr.  
National Attorney General

Rachel E. Barnes  
National Chair

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<sup>1</sup> *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013).