FRESN® COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Happy New Year! 2022 is an important year for us, and we need your help! We need all hands on deck! We are having events every week for volunteers to get involved! Check out these events and sign up now!



Last month, we teamed up with Brian Bobbitt and MoveOn to organize a vigil for democracy. Jan. 6, 2021, was a violent and deadly attack against our country and our freedom to vote. On Jan. 6, 2022, we held a peaceful vigil outside of Fresno City Hall to say that voters decide the

outcome of elections. Multiple speakers joined us to share poetry, songs and speeches.

Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter to join us for our next event!



PRECINCT CAPTAINS

Want to help us win in 2022? Become a precinct captain! Scan the QR code to become a part of our team!

MELTING POT ROUND TABLE

According to *U.S News and World Report*, Fresno ranks No. 9 among the most racially diverse areas in America. Join us for a night of celebration and learning about the cultures that make our nation a melting pot.

TRIVIA NIGHT THURSDAY

Join us for a fun night of trivia! Bring your competitive spirit, and let's see who the Trivia Night Winner is!



Scan the QR codes to sign up for our hybrid volunteer opportunities!

What's at Stake in the 2022 Election Cycle?

In 2016, as Poland imposed even stricter abortion regulations than it already had, Polish women took to the streets in protest. One protester stood out: a gray-haired woman, perhaps a veteran of protests past, holding a sign that read "I CAN'T BELIEVE I STILL HAVE TO PROTEST THIS F----- S---." The photo flashed across the world like lightning.

The woman's sentiment is applicable to just about any issue Democrats feel is worth fighting for today. Arguably, the most urgent issue now is ensuring the right to vote in free and fair elections.

The margins that Democrats have in both chambers of Congress are precarious. Republicans across the nation, at all levels of government, having no legitimate policy proposals, are on the rampage to highly gerrymander House districts to favor White voters, reduce or eliminate the oversight of county-level elections officials and determine who counts your vote, or if your vote even gets counted at all.

All this activity is coupled to Republican mobilization based on Trump's "Big Lie," that the 2020 Presidential election win of Democrat Joe Biden was fraudulent. Of course, incumbent Republicans reelected in November 2020 do not make the same claims about their victories in the same election.

According to the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, the tidal wave of Republican state house passage of voter suppression laws is in full swing, with at least 152 restrictive voting bills carrying over from last year in 18 states and 13 new bills to restrict voting filed for this year's legislative sessions.

Ballotpedia shows that 23 states have trifecta Republican governance: Republicans control the governorship and both legislative chambers. Those states constitute 42% of the U.S. population. Of those 23 states, only two have independent commissions to draw new U.S. House boundaries: Arizona and Idaho.

Thus, Republican state governments got to determine House district boundaries for 128 million Americans this year, which is 39% of the total U.S. population. It's safe to assume the new House boundaries in those 21 states are highly gerrymandered.

In fact, the *Texas Tribune* reports that the U.S. Justice Department is suing Texas—a state without an independent commission—for "drawing new political districts that give White voters more political power despite [the] rapid growth of Hispanic and Black populations."

Another Martin Luther King Jr. holiday has come and gone. President Biden and Vice President Harris delivered speeches last month in Atlanta urging the Senate to change filibuster rules in that chamber to allow two voting rights bills, already passed by the House, to move forward: the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

Any movement on the issues Democrats hold near and dear is essentially stalled without changes to the filibuster in the Senate—an arcane rule that has its roots in slavery. Passage of the two voting rights bills is the key to everything else Democrats wish to accomplish in the 117th Congress, and beyond.

We know that Republicans don't care. Sadly, two Democratic senators are also blocking progress for our nation. History demonstrates that nothing transformative and necessary gets done in this country unless voters pressure their House and Senate members.

Will we allow complacency to be our enemy? Will complacency mean we will take for granted the people who have given their lives for the right to vote in a free and fair election? That is why Democrats "still have to protest this f----- s---."

DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS

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