

# MINNESOTANS HAVE PROTECTIONS AGAINST RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY VOTER SUPPRESSION AND VOTER INTIMIDATION, DECEPTION, AND INTERFERENCE

## Heading into the November 2024 election, learn how to use new tools to protect your right to vote.

The Minnesota Voting Rights Act, adopted this year, provides additional protections against voter suppression under state laws.

### What is voter deception, and what are some examples?

Voter deception occurs when someone intentionally uses knowingly false information to trick or confuse you about the voting process.

#### ■ Examples include:

- Falsely telling voters they can vote on Wednesday when the election is on Tuesday
- Falsely telling voters they are not eligible because of an arrest or misdemeanor conviction
- Falsely telling voters that only members of a particular political party can vote at a certain location
- Generally spreading lies about election details or misinformation about who is eligible, when polls are open, or where to vote

### What is voter suppression, and what are some examples?

Discriminatory voter suppression refers to laws and practices that make it harder for voters of color to cast ballots, compared to other voters.

#### ■ Examples of voter suppression include:

- Polling place closures in communities of color
- Longer lines in areas highly populated by tribal members
- Removing voters from the rolls in a racially discriminatory fashion

### What is voter intimidation and interference, and what are some examples?

Voter intimidation occurs when someone intentionally does or says something that makes you feel unsafe about exercising your right to vote. Voter interference occurs when someone intentionally prevents or physically makes it more difficult for you to vote.

#### ■ Examples include:

- Using threats or harassment to pressure you into voting a certain way or not voting at all
- Physically blocking roads or pathways to access polling places
- Phone calls threatening serious negative but false consequences for voting, like having your information accessed by law enforcement, credit card companies, or immigration authorities

## How does the MNVRA protect against voter suppression?

- The MNVRA bans voter suppression from government officials.
- The MNVRA empowers voters, organizations that represent voters, and the Attorney General to sue local governments or officials engaged in discriminatory voter suppression and instructs courts to take action to fix the problem.

## How do other new Minnesota statutes protect against voter intimidation, deception, or interference?

- Minnesota law prohibits directly or indirectly using threats to compel a voter to vote for or against a candidate or ballot question. Minn. Stat. § 211B.075(subd. 1(a)(1)).
- Minnesota law prohibits impeding someone from assisting a voter with casting their ballot, registering to vote, travelling to a polling place, or otherwise participating in the voting process. Minn. Stat. § 211B.075(subd. 1(a)(2)).
- Minnesota law prohibits engaging in deceptive practices by transmitting information someone knows to be false to impede or prevent someone from voting. Minn. Stat. § 211B.075(subd. 2).
- Minnesota law prohibits intentionally hindering, interfering with, or preventing someone from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in casting a ballot or registering to vote. Minn. Stat. § 211B.075(subd. 3).
- Minnesota law empowers voters or state or local officials to bring lawsuits to enforce these provisions. Minn. Stat. § 211B.075(subd. 4).

## TO LEARN ABOUT ALL ITS KEY PROVISIONS

[naacpldf.org/case-issue/minnesota-voting-rights-act-mnvra/](https://naacpldf.org/case-issue/minnesota-voting-rights-act-mnvra/)

## FIGHT BACK AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION, DECEPTION, OBSTRUCTION, AND SUPPRESSION DURING THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

What should I do if I see or experience voter intimidation, deception, obstruction, or suppression in 2024?

- **Document what you saw** or experienced in as much detail as possible—write down dates and times, take pictures, etc.
- **Contact one of the organizations listed below.** To request legal assistance from the ACLU of Minnesota, visit [www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance](https://www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance).
- **Call a voter protection hotline.**
  - Election Protection at **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683).
  - Assistance available in Spanish at **888-VE-Y-VOTA** (888- 839-8682).
  - Assistance available in Arabic at **844-YALLA-US** (844-915-5187).
  - Assistance available in Asian languages at **888-API-VOTE** (1-888-274-8683).
  - American Sign Language video line is available at **301-818-VOTE** (301-818-8683).
- **Notify your local election officials.**
  - Find your county election board at [bit.ly/MNFindElectionOffice](https://bit.ly/MNFindElectionOffice)
- Call the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office by calling **1-877-600-VOTE**. If you believe that election misconduct, discrimination, voter intimidation, or other irregularities have occurred, you can submit a complaint form through [bit.ly/MNElectionComplaintForm](https://bit.ly/MNElectionComplaintForm).
- **If you fear imminent physical harm and feel safe doing so, call 911.** Otherwise reach out to one or more of the resources above.