

To All Affiliates:

CODE U: Defend Democracy

Our fundamental right-to-vote is under attack all across America. Ordinary men and women have fought and died to gain voting rights free from fear, intimidation or obstruction. Yet states across our country continue to pass voter suppression laws designed to restrict access to the ballot. That's why we encourage you to vote for candidates who will defend our freedoms and the right to vote.

These laws lead to significant burdens for eligible voters trying to exercise their most fundamental constitutional right. States have passed measures to make it harder for Americans—particularly black people, the elderly, students, and people with disabilities—to exercise their right to cast a ballot. These measures include cuts to early voting, discriminatory voter ID laws, and purges of voter rolls and even making it illegal to provide water to voters waiting to vote.

All American citizens should have equal access to the ballot and an equal opportunity to vote. That's why it is important for Congress to pass the John J. Lewis Voting Rights Act to restore equal access to the ballot for all citizens. In New Jersey, we have expanded access and voter registration and added convenient options allowing better access to the ballot while maintaining fair and secure elections. We can play a decisive role in this year's election by electing leaders to congress who will uphold voting rights.

Attached please find sample CODE-U messaging for your use. Your union brothers and sisters have the power to make this go viral. We encourage you, under your signature and union banner, to broadly share, send, text, tweet and post on your union's social media pages through this planned and coordinated initiative. Please contact John Shea, COPE Director, at cope@njafclcio.org or (609) 989-8730 with any questions.

Working together, we will elect candidates who are committed to defending freedom and our democracy.

In Unity,



Charles Wowkanech
President



Laurel Brennan
Secretary-Treasurer

Sample Text & Tweet:

Protect our freedoms. Democracy is on the ballot. Vote! To register, apply to vote-by-mail, learn about new ways to vote, or to find list of labor's endorsed candidates visit www.njunionstrong.org

Sample Facebook / website post

Caption: Protect our freedoms. Democracy is on the ballot. Vote! To register, apply to vote-by-mail, learn about new ways to vote, or to find list of labor's endorsed candidates visit www.njunionstrong.org



Sample Blast email:

Subject: Protect Our Freedom! Defend Democracy! Register and Vote!

Our fundamental right-to-vote is under attack all across America. Many states continue to pass voter suppression laws designed to restrict access to the ballot. That's why we encourage you to vote for candidates who will defend our freedoms and the right to vote.

Our union endorsed candidates will make sure that all citizens have equal access to the vote rolls and the ballot. Visit www.njunionstrong.org

There's still time to register. October 18 is the deadline. An applicant must be at least 17 years old (18 to vote), be a U.S. citizen and resident of the state and county for at least 30 days before the election.

Voters can vote-by-mail, vote early in-person at a designated center within their county, or vote at their assigned polling location on Election Day. To register to vote, find a vote-by-mail application, learn more about early voting, find their election day polling location, or a list of Labor's endorsed candidates, visit www.njunionstrong.org.

Working together, we will elect candidates who will defend freedoms and our democracy.