Faith in Democracy

Empowering and Serving the People
WHY? The issues that bring us here today

What’s your democracy story?
WHY? The Case for Faith-Based Democracy Advocacy

OVERVIEW
The why, what, and how of faith-based advocacy for democracy

OBJECTIVES

- WHY? See why an inclusive and representative democracy is important to people of faith
- WHAT? Identify key issues, injustices, and needed reforms
- HOW? Learn advocacy and activism strategies
WHY? The Case for Faith-Based Democracy Advocacy

VALUES
What values bring community together, foster participation, and build trust?

LEADERSHIP
From the perspective of your community, tradition, or faith, what are the qualities of a good leader?
WHAT? Issues and Current Legislation

Freedom to Vote (Empowering the People)

- Voting Rights
- Election Administration

Fair Representation (Serving the People)

- Campaign Finance
- Government Ethics
WHAT? Issues and Current Legislation

For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)

- Voting & Elections: Ensures equal access to the ballot
- Campaign Finance: Reduces influence of big money on politics
- Ethics: Holds government officials accountable to the public

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

- Voting & Elections: Restores the protections of the 1965 VRA against discriminatory election laws
As people of faith, we hold shared values of inclusivity, equality, and justice. Protecting the right to vote affirms the dignity of every community member.

- What did you learn about voting growing up?
- Have you ever faced barriers or seen others struggle to vote?
- What would you want to see changed?
WHAT? Freedom to Vote: Empowering the People

BARRIERS & INJUSTICES

● Restrictive voting rules
● Purges of voter roles
● Long lines at polling places
● Antiquated election administration systems
● Disenfranchisement of Americans with prior convictions
The **For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)** protects the **right to vote** by:

- Making voting options equally accessible across all 50 states
- Removing barriers to voting registration
- Modernizing our election systems and election administration

The **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** would protect against discriminatory rules in the future.
Faith traditions across the world have warned us against the corrupting influence of wealth and power.

- How does your faith, tradition, or community distinguish between the proper and improper use of wealth?
- What are some examples of ethical (or unethical) behavior by leaders?
- What would you want to see changed?
WHAT? Fair Representation: Serving the People

BARRIERS & INJUSTICES

- Expensive, privately funded campaigns exclude candidates from diverse racial, gender, and socioeconomic groups
- Dark money groups and large donors drown out the voices of ordinary Americans in political campaigns
- Gerrymandering allows politicians to lock-in their power
- Wealthy special interests overshadow the public interest
- Weak ethics rules allow elected leaders to abuse power to enrich themselves or their inner-circles
The **For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)** combats abuse of **money and power in politics** by:

- Limiting and/or disclosing secret spending in elections
- Creating a system for popular candidates and candidates from underrepresented groups to run for office without support from big money donors
- Ensuring that voters pick their politicians through independent and fair districts
The **For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)** holds government officials accountable for *corruption and conflict of interests* by:

- Requiring presidents and vice presidents to disclose their tax returns
- Ensuring stronger government ethics enforcement
- Slowing the revolving door between government office and lobbying
HOW? Take Action

CONNECT
● Call your senators 1-888-885-1748 to pass S.1

SHARE
● Talk about democracy and why you care

LEARN
● Visit our website for resources: www.faithfuldemocracy.us/resources

AMPLIFY
● Invite and give this workshop to people in your circles
Q&A

REFLECT
What calls you to take action?

VISIT
www.faithfuldemocracy.us
THANK YOU!

Faith In Democracy Workshop
For More Info: alannah@faithfuldemocracy.us
KEY TERMS

- **Amendment**: An official or proposed change to the text of a bill
- **Bill**: Legislation used to propose a law
- **Filibuster**: A tactic used in the Senate to delay a bill from going to a vote
- **Gerrymandering**: A practice of manipulating boundaries of electoral constituencies to gain an advantage
- **Hearing**: A meeting to develop legislation
- **Markup**: A meeting where members debate and vote on amendments to a bill
- **Sponsor**: A member or multiple members (co-sponsors) who introduce a bill
- **Redistricting**: The process of drawing electoral district boundaries