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Texas House Democrats Took Bold Action, Now The Senate Must Pass The For The People Act

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- Today, President Biden delivered a speech on protecting the freedom to vote just one day after a majority of [Texas House Democrats left the state](#) to block a vote on new voter suppression bills. To date, 48 states have introduced nearly [400 bills restricting access to the polls](#), and the For The People Act, which is awaiting a vote in the U.S. Senate, would halt many of these voter suppression bills.

Today, Texas House Republicans [voted](#) to track down and arrest the Democrats, and Texas Governor Abbott [said](#) they would be arrested upon returning to the state and detained in the Capitol. Abbott also threatened to keep calling additional special 30-day sessions to pass voter bills that will suppress the vote in Texas, even as hundreds of Texas voters held rallies in front of the Texas Capitol in protest of the anti-voting bills. Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court also further weakened section two of the Voting Rights Act. Last month, Senate Republicans [exploited](#) the filibuster to delay an initial debate on the For The People Act. The Sierra Club [called](#) for the elimination of the filibuster in May.

In response, the Sierra Club's Interim Lone Star Chapter Director Cyrus Reed and Democracy Program Director Courtney Hight issued the following statement:

“Texas Democrats are doing what’s needed to protect voting rights in Texas; it’s time Senate Democrats and President Biden follow suit to pass the For the People Act. As President Biden said himself, this is the test of our time and an imperative for our nation. Every person in this country -- no matter their skin color, their zip code, or their political affiliation -- has the right to drink clean water, to breathe clean air, and to exercise their democratic rights, full stop.

“Senate Democrats must rise to the challenge and boldly use their power to enshrine the right to vote for all who call this country home. We call on the Senate to not let procedure block progress and pass the For The People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act without delay. The future of our American democracy and the freedom for all who call this country home depends on it.”