



# Voter Suppression Bill Now in Governor's Lap

Presented by

Pam Mackey Taylor, Director and Lobbyist

Jessica Mazour, Conservation Program Coordinator

Feb. 26, 2021



## What is voter suppression?

From the Encyclopædia Britannica:

Voter suppression, in U.S. history and politics, any legal or extralegal measure or strategy whose purpose or practical effect is to reduce voting, or registering to vote, by members of a targeted racial group, political party, or religious community.

A red square containing the word "vote" in white lowercase letters, with a white checkmark above the letter 'v'.

## History of voter suppression legislation

- Two bills, SF413 and HF590 were introduced, initially they were identical
- Senate modified the bill with even more voter suppression measures
- The House passed the Senate version - bill number SF413
- We ask that Governor Reynolds veto the bill SF413
  - Which means that the governor does not approve the bill and
  - By vetoing it, the Governor will not allow it to become law



## Features of the voter suppression bill

### **SF413**

- Cuts early voting from 29 days to 20 days. It had been 40 days as recently as four years ago.
- Voters will be required to send in a written request for an absentee ballot; auditors will not be allowed to mail all voters with absentee ballot request forms – which is less convenient to voters.
- Reduces the window a person can request and absentee ballot from 120 to 70 days.
- Members of the military may not be able to meet the shortened time-frames mandated by this bill.
- Limits who can deliver an absentee ballot to someone in the same household or a family member – but not friends or colleagues – which is less convenient for some voters.

**ELECTION**

## More features of the bill

- The bill would prevent satellite voting stations, which some counties set up. Instead, an absentee voter could only vote at the auditor's office prior to the election for only 20 days. Although 100 voters could petition for a satellite voting station, which puts the onus on the voter instead of a service offered by the auditors. Satellite voting stations are convenient.
- The bill mandates only a single drop box for absentee ballots and mandates it to be located near the office of the county commissioner. It makes sense to have more than one drop box, at the discretion of the county auditors.
- And there are many more. . .



## Why do people want to suppress the vote?

- If they can't win at the polls, stop them from getting to the polls
- They want to keep in power
- Republicans are concerned that if more people vote, then the Democrats will win.



## We can do better than this bill

- The 2020 primary and general elections proved how convenient absentee voting is. The elections did not result in fraudulent voting. Unprecedented numbers of voters actually voted – 76% of Iowans. There is no question that the 2020 presidential race brought out large numbers of voters this year and that the aggressive promotion of absentee balloting also encouraged voters to participate.
- Instead of this bill, we should continue the policies that led to success in 2020 and expand the opportunities to vote absentee by lengthening the time voters can vote absentee, increasing satellite voting, and increasing the number of drop boxes.
- SF413 takes us in the wrong direction and should be opposed.



## Voter Supression Bill Will Soon Reach Governor Reynold's Desk

Ask that Governor Reynolds VETO the bill SF413 – which means that she does not approve it

### **Gov. Kim Reynolds**

State Capitol  
1007 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
phone 515-281-5211  
<https://governor.iowa.gov/contact>

**Note:** To electronically send a letter to the governor, you must use the governor's website.

**VETO**