

Shaping the Future

KEY ISSUES FOR VOTERS IN 2024



DEMOCRACY AND VOTING RIGHTS

Every election in the United States is consequential, with much at stake for Americans nationwide. However, it has become increasingly apparent that the 2024 election cycle will set the stage for American democracy over the next decade. According to a [survey from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#), roughly 3 in 4 Americans believe the 2024 elections will “determine the fate of U.S. democracy.” This has been displayed in battles over ballot access, voting rights, and perceived government overreach.

I Voting Access

Since the 2020 election, over half of U.S. states have sought to improve election integrity by restricting voter access and implementing barriers to the ballot box. Some have [deemed these measures necessary](#) to make it “harder to cheat,” while others view the restrictions as anti-democratic (Mansfield and Beard, USA Today 2024).

- ▶ **10 states** (Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, New York, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico) have **shortened the application window for mail-in ballots**. In contrast, 5 (Iowa, Wyoming, Ohio, Arkansas, and North Carolina) have **shortened mail-in delivery windows**. 8 states (Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio) have **limited the number and availability of ballot drop boxes** (Carter et al., Brennan Center 2024).
- ▶ **12 states** (Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Ohio, New Hampshire, Indiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and Idaho) have passed **stricter in-person voter ID requirements** (Carter et al., Brennan Center 2024).
- ▶ **13 states** (Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Utah, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, and New Hampshire) have **expanded voter purges** — and risk faulty purges (Carter et al., Brennan Center 2024).

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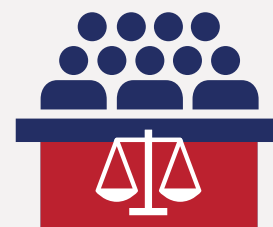


I Overreach and Threats to Democracy

Over the last several years, several high-profile uses of power by government officials have caused many Americans to [sound alarm bells regarding overreach and antidemocratic rule](#), especially by the presidential office and the Supreme Court (Swenson and Sanders, Associated Press 2024).

- ▶ As of 2023 and 2024, [favorable impressions of the Supreme Court are at historic lows](#), with only 44% of Americans viewing the court favorably as of 2024 (Copeland, Pew Research 2024). The unfavorability of the Supreme Court [is in large part due to significant decisions over the last few years](#) that have expanded the power of the president and the Court while minimizing personal rights to privacy, including providing absolute immunity to all official presidential actions, elevating SCOTUS as a primary policy arbiter, and striking down *Roe v. Wade* (Ombres, Center for American Progress 2024).
 - Demands for term limits and SCOTUS accountability [have increased](#) over the last four years (Pew Research Center 2024).

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- Many Americans have expressed concern over former President Trump's statements on presidential power, including [comments to rally crowds](#) (Camera, U.S. News 2024) that they'd "never need to vote again" once he is elected, and the consolidation of power under the presidential office [outlined in Project 2025](#).
- Since 2020, [Americans have expressed concerns](#) that the Biden-Harris Administration has also threatened democracy with overreaches of power, including attempts to cancel student loan debt without Congressional approval and perceived weaponization of the Department of Justice to prosecute Trump and other January 6 participants (Swenson and Sanders, Associated Press 2024).

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE 2024 ELECTION?

With voting access and the role of government institutions up for debate in 2024, elections this year will undoubtedly set the stage for the next decade of democracy for young voters. Concerns over protecting democracy and government corruption were significant priorities for young voters, [as seen in the Spring 2024 Harvard Youth Poll](#).

- In the [25 states](#) where voting access has been restricted since 2020, voters in 2024 must remain more vigilant over their registration status, voting locations, and any deadlines to register or submit a vote (Carter et al., Brennan Center 2024).
- [Democrats' presidential platform](#) prioritizes passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act while reforming gerrymandered voting district maps. [The Republican Party platform](#) prioritizes securing democracy through stricter voting laws and increasing presidential power.

About **NMAC**: Formerly known as the National Minority AIDS Council, NMAC is a 37-year old community organization that "leads with race" as the only sustainable way to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. We offer educational and capacity building programs, advocacy and mobilization efforts, and we host [Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit](#) and the [U.S. Conference of HIV/AIDS](#).

NMAC's **Coalition for Equality and Justice Across Movements** mobilizes against the growing vitriol against vulnerable and marginalized communities by with uniting other national movement leaders and support the collective with state-of-the-art communications and community mobilization strategies. Get Out The Vote is a Coalition initiative to register people of color to vote and be heard in the November 2024 election.