

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Over 90 Criminal Justice Leaders Condemn State Voter Suppression Efforts

*Elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders say voter suppression undermines public safety and call on state and federal policymakers to protect voting rights*

Today, 95 elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders – including Attorneys General, District Attorneys, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs – issued a [joint statement](#) that condemns efforts by state legislatures across the country to limit and criminalize voting and calls on local and federal policymakers to protect and expand voting rights, including by passing the For the People Act and the John Lewis Act. The joint statement notes that despite the lack of any evidence of widespread voter fraud, these voter suppression laws are being introduced and passed on a scale unseen since the Jim Crow era. [Nearly every](#) state legislature has seen voting restrictions introduced in 2021 and at least [14 states](#) have passed laws making voting more difficult. These respected criminal justice and law enforcement leaders have come together to urge action to “protect a fundamental right of our democracy,” noting that “doing nothing is simply not an option.”

“At a time when our country faces so many challenges, including the ongoing recovery from a global pandemic, it is unconscionable that legislators would waste time and resources making it harder for Americans – and particularly people of color – to exercise their right to vote,” said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution**, the organizer of the statement. “Creating even more unnecessary barriers to voting undermines faith in our government and criminal legal system, thereby jeopardizing public safety. An attack on the vote is an attack on our democracy, and leaders of good conscience cannot stand by while these rights are eroded.”

Signatories to the statement include the **National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives** and the **Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)**; **Attorneys General Hector Balderas** (New Mexico), **Rob Bonta** (California), **Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.** (Vermont), **Keith Ellison** (Minnesota), **Aaron Ford** (Nevada), **Maura Healey** (Massachusetts), **Mark Herring** (Virginia), **Letitia James** (New York), **Kathleen Jennings** (Delaware), **Karl Racine** (District of Columbia), **Kwame Raoul** (Illinois), **Ellen Rosenblum** (Oregon) and **Josh Shapiro** (Pennsylvania); **Police Chief RaShall M. Brackney** (Charlottesville, Va.); **Sheriffs Jerry L. Clayton** (Washtenaw County, Mich.), **Garry McFadden** (Mecklenburg County, N.C.), **Javier Salazar** (Bexar County, Texas) and **Steven Tompkins** (Suffolk County, Mass.); former

Executive Director of the **Major Cities Chiefs Association Darrel Stephens**; former Executive Director of the **National Black Police Association Ron Hampton**; and **District Attorneys, State Attorneys** and other elected local prosecutors from around the nation.

The signatories highlight the disproportionate impact these voter suppression laws have on communities of color and people in poverty, who have a more difficult time meeting ID requirements and who are more likely to take advantage of mechanisms like early voting and same day voter registration. They note that these restrictions “evoke one of the darkest chapters in American history, when law enforcement officials in the Jim Crow era blocked Black citizens from accessing the polls.”

“Efforts to suppress people’s fundamental right to vote threatens the trust that I work every day to build with the community that I serve,” said **Mecklenburg County, N.C. Sheriff Garry McFadden**, one of the signatories on the statement. “As so many of us in law enforcement strive to move towards a more just democracy and criminal legal system, restrictions on voting only take us backwards.”

The signatories also emphasize that laws restricting voting are “a solution in search of a problem.” They point out that attempts to criminalize aspects of the voting process – like Georgia’s criminalization of giving food and water to voters waiting in line at the polls – are wasteful and divert limited law enforcement and prosecution resources away from addressing serious crimes.

“My community put me in office to pursue and promote justice. Imposing criminal penalties and fines that not only have zero public safety benefit but that appear to be calculated to suppress Black Americans’ ability to vote is not only unjust, but also makes us all less safe,” said **Georgia’s Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney Deborah Gonzalez**, a signatory on the statement and a former Georgia State Representative.

“We need to make voting easier and more accessible, not add more obstacles to exercising this fundamental right. Our vote is sacred. Every elected official must fight to protect it,” added **District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine**, another signatory on the joint statement.

Read the joint statement [here](#) and see the full list of signatories below.

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*Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*

### **List of Signatories**

**Hector Balderas**

Attorney General, New Mexico

**Diana Becton**

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

**Wesley Bell**

Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

**Buta Biberaj**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Loudoun County, Virginia

**Rob Bonta**

Attorney General, California

**Sherry Boston**

District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

**Chesa Boudin**

District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California

**RaShall M. Brackney, Ph.D.**

Chief, Charlottesville Police Department, Virginia

**Aisha Braveboy**

State's Attorney, Prince George's County, Maryland

**Jim Bueermann**

President (Ret.), National Police Foundation  
Chief (Ret.), Redlands Police Department, California

**John T. Chisholm**

District Attorney, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

**John Choi**

County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota

**Jerry L. Clayton**

Sheriff, Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor), Michigan

**Dave Clegg**

District Attorney, Ulster County, New York

**Scott Colom**

District Attorney, 16th Judicial District, Mississippi

**John Creuzot**

District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas

**Satana Deberry**

District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina

**Parisa Dehghani-Tafti**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Virginia

**Steve Descano**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Fairfax County, Virginia

**Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.**

Attorney General, Vermont

**Michael Dougherty**

District Attorney, 20th Judicial District, Colorado

**Mark Dupree**

District Attorney, Wyandotte County (Kansas City), Kansas

**Matt Ellis**

District Attorney, Wasco County, Oregon

**Keith Ellison**

Attorney General, Minnesota

**Aaron Ford**

Attorney General, Nevada

**Kim Foxx**

State's Attorney, Cook County (Chicago), Illinois

**Neill Franklin**

Former Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership  
Maj. (Ret.), Baltimore and Maryland State Police Departments

**Kimberly Gardner**

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

**George Gascón**

District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California  
Former District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California  
Former Chief, San Francisco Police Department, California  
Former Chief, Mesa Police Department, Arizona

**Sarah F. George**

State's Attorney, Chittenden County (Burlington), Vermont

**Sim Gill**

District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

**Diane Goldstein**

Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership  
Lieutenant (Ret.), Redondo Beach Police Department, California

**Joe Gonzales**

District Attorney, Bexar County (San Antonio), Texas

**Deborah Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Western Judicial Circuit (Athens), Georgia

**Mark Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Texas

**Eric Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Kings County (Brooklyn), New York

**Ron Hampton**

Former Executive Director, National Black Police Association  
Community Relations Officer (Ret.), D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

**Andrea Harrington**

District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

**Maura Healey**

Attorney General, Massachusetts

**Mark Herring**

Attorney General, Virginia

**Jim Hingeley**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Albemarle County, Virginia

**John Hummel**

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

**Natasha Irving**

District Attorney, 6th Prosecutorial District, Maine

**Michael Jackson**

District Attorney, Dallas County, Alabama

**Letitia James**

Attorney General, New York

**Kathleen Jennings**

Attorney General, Delaware

**Melinda Katz**

District Attorney, Queens County, New York

**Zach Klein**

City Attorney, Columbus, Ohio

**Justin F. Kollar**

Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i, Hawaii

**Lawrence S. Krasner**

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Miriam Aroni Krinsky**

Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Former Chair, Solicitor General's Criminal Appellate Advisory Group, U.S. Department of Justice

**Brian S. Mason**

District Attorney, 17th Judicial District, Colorado

**Beth McCann**

District Attorney, 2nd Judicial District (Denver), Colorado

**Karen McDonald**

Prosecuting Attorney, Oakland County, Michigan

**Garry McFadden**

Sheriff, Mecklenburg County (Charlotte), North Carolina

**Ryan Mears**

Prosecuting Attorney, Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana

**Spencer Merriweather**

District Attorney, Mecklenburg County (Charlotte), North Carolina

**Brian Middleton**

District Attorney, Fort Bend County, Texas

**Stephanie Morales**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia

**Michael W. Morrissey**

District Attorney, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

**Marilyn Mosby**

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

**Jody Owens**

District Attorney, Hinds County, Mississippi

**Alonzo Payne**

District Attorney, 12th Judicial District, Colorado

**Melba Pearson**

President, National Black Prosecutors Association Foundation

Former Assistant State Attorney, Miami-Dade County

**Joseph Platania**

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Charlottesville, Virginia

**Bryan Porter**

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Alexandria, Virginia

**Harold F. Pryor**

State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit (Fort Lauderdale), Florida

**Karl A. Racine**

Attorney General, District of Columbia

**Kwame Raoul**

Attorney General, State of Illinois

**Mimi Rocah**

District Attorney, Westchester County, New York

**Rachael Rollins**

District Attorney, Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts

**Ellen Rosenblum**

Attorney General, Oregon

**Marian Ryan**

District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

**Javier Salazar**

Sheriff, Bexar County (San Antonio), Texas

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Prosecuting Attorney, King County (Seattle), Washington

**Eli Savit**

Prosecuting Attorney, Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor), Michigan

**Mike Schmidt**

District Attorney, Multnomah (Portland), Oregon

**Josh Shapiro**

Attorney General, Pennsylvania

**Daniella Shorter**

District Attorney, 22nd Judicial District, Mississippi

**Carol Siemon**

Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County (Lansing), Michigan

**Darrel Stephens**

Former Executive Director, Major City Chiefs Association  
Chief (Ret.), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

**Jack Stollsteimer**

District Attorney, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

**David Sullivan**

District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

**Shannon Taylor**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Henrico County, Virginia

**Steven Tompkins**

Sheriff, Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts

**Raúl Torrez**

District Attorney, Bernalillo County (Albuquerque), New Mexico

**Gregory Underwood**

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Norfolk, Virginia



**Matthew Van Houten**

District Attorney, Tompkins County, New York

**Cyrus R. Vance**

District Attorney, New York County (Manhattan), New York

**Andrew Warren**

State Attorney, 13th Judicial Circuit (Tampa), Florida

**Lynneice Washington**

District Attorney, Jefferson County, Bessemer District, Alabama

**Todd Williams**

District Attorney, Buncombe County (Asheville), North Carolina

**Jared Williams**

District Attorney, Augusta, Georgia

**Organizations**

**Law Enforcement Action Partnership**

**National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives**