



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newly formed Southern Freedom to Vote Alliance pushing legislation to protect the freedom to vote

Washington, D.C. (March 13, 2023) – Nearly 40 state legislators from across the South are proposing legislation in their respective statehouses to reverse anti-voter laws that have been enacted in each of their states. Representing Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, they form the **Southern Freedom to Vote Alliance**, a project of SiX Action – the 501c4 arm of the State Innovation Exchange.

Alliance members have been working together since last year to share ideas and challenges, leverage resources, and collectively develop strategies to get their voting rights bills passed. With more than 14 bill packages introduced in at least three of the member states, the alliance is laying the groundwork for an ongoing multi-state campaign with an end game to protect citizens' freedom to vote.

“Why have we come together? Because there’s power in numbers, especially at the state level,” said Fla. Sen. Geri Thompson. “And we in the South know all too well what happens when efforts to suppress our vote go unchallenged. For decades, anti-voter legislators in our states have passed laws that have made voting less accessible, specifically targeting Black, Brown, young, working class, and new American voters.”

“Just last week in Georgia, Republicans introduced a bill to ban ballot drop boxes,” said GA Rep. Jasmine Clark. “This attack on our freedom to vote isn’t new, but it has escalated since 2020 when Republicans across the country started losing their stronghold in leadership roles.

Our goal is to create a transparent process that we can all trust,” Clark added.

Members of the Alliance say they will continue to expand their work together to protect the freedom to vote leading into the 2024 election and beyond.

“We must stop letting history repeat itself,” said North Carolina Sen. Jay Chaudhuri. “Too many people fought and died for our freedom to vote. As elected officials, it is our duty to protect that freedom by passing laws that ensure voting is safe and accessible, and that every vote is counted so that the will of the people prevails.”

About the Southern Freedom to Vote Alliance

The Southern Freedom to Vote Alliance (SF2VA) is a cohort of pro-democracy legislators in

southern states who are building a movement to protect the freedom to have a say in the decisions that impact us by protecting the freedom to vote. SF2VA is supported by SiX Action – the 501c4 arm of the State Innovation Exchange, which promotes the advancement of progressive policy and strategy goals by state legislators who operate in dynamic political bodies. More information is at SiXaction.org.