



Voting is a Sacred Act

As people of faith, we deeply value the American principle of one person, one vote. Although we come from many faith traditions and have different political views, we all agree: voting is a sacred act and should not be infringed.

We are deeply troubled by reports that the Secretary of State's Office has erected barriers to voting. The immediate cause for concern is the news that 53,000 people who attempted to register to vote were blocked from doing so due to the Secretary of State's "exact match" software which rejects any application that doesn't perfectly match other databases. A missing hyphen or an entry error can lead to someone's right to vote being denied.

According to analysis of records obtained by the Associated Press, this software disproportionately impacts African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans.

Even more troubling are the reports that the Secretary of State purged the voting rolls of over 670,000 registered voters in 2017.

Many of our congregations are working daily to heal the racial and economic divides that have troubled America since our founding. Reflecting on our country's long struggle for full voting rights for African-Americans, we are alarmed by any voting system that disenfranchises people of color.

Many of our faith traditions emphasize the need for hope. Especially around election time, we have to believe that our voices matter. We are raising our voices together to denounce this silencing of the voices that need to be heard the most.

In this moment, we cannot be silent.

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