

Despite The Chamber Of Commerce's Opposition To H.R. 1, 13 Of Its Members Have Voiced Support For Expanded Voter Access And Opposition To Efforts Stifling The Right To Vote

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The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Shown “Fierce” Opposition To The “Sweeping” Voting Rights Bill H.R. 1, The *For The People Act Of 2021*.

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, The “World’s Largest Business Organization,” Expressed “Fierce” Opposition To The For The People Act Of 2021, A “Sweeping” Anti-Voting Suppression Bill The Group Claimed Would Silence Corporations And Trade Associations.

April 2021: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Expressed “Fierce Opposition” To The For The People Act, An Anti-Voting Suppression Bill Passed In The U.S. House Of Representatives That The Chamber Called “Extremely Problematic.” “At issue is the Chamber of Commerce's fierce opposition to the Democrats' sweeping voting bill known as the For the People Act, which advocates say would counter efforts by Georgia and other states to impose new voting restrictions. The Chamber of Commerce has slammed the legislation, which last month was approved by the US House of Representatives, as ‘extremely problematic’ in part because of new curbs on political advocacy by companies and associations.” [CNN, [04/21/21](#)]

- H.R. 1, The For The People Act of 2021, Was Introduced By Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) In The 117th Congress On January 4, 2021 And Passed The House On March 3, 2021 By A Vote Of 220-210. [Congress.gov, [01/04/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Issued A Key Vote Alert Against The For The People Act's Senate Companion, S.1. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [04/13/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Claimed H.R. 1 Would “Silence” Those Who “Participate In The Political Process Through The Collective Action Of An Association Or Corporation.” “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it wants more people brought into the political process but that the bill would have “precisely the opposite effect – pushing certain voices, representing large segments of the electorate and U.S. economy, out of the political process altogether.’ The Chamber, in a letter to senators, said the legislation would ‘regulate and ultimately silence Americans who choose to petition their government or participate in the political process through the collective action of an association or corporation.” [Reuters, [04/13/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Said It Would Factor Lawmakers’ Votes On H.R. 1 In Its Annual Scorecard. “Last week, the Chamber of Commerce sent a ‘key vote alert’ to senators to detailing why it ‘strongly opposes’ the For the People Act and warning that it could include votes related to the bill in its annual scorecard.” [CNN, [04/21/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Is “One Of The Most Powerful Trade Groups In The Nation,” Spending \$81.9 Million To Influence Government In 2020 Alone, Second Only To The National Association Of Realtors. “The Chamber is one of the most powerful trade groups in the nation. In 2020 alone, the organization spent \$81.9 million trying to influence government policy, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. The only organization that spent more was the National Association of Realtors.” [CNN, [04/21/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce “Is The World’s Largest Business Organization,” With Membership That Includes “Leading Industry Associations And Large Corporations.” “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [04/23/21](#)]

In 2020, Salesforce Announced Through Its Racial Equality And Justice Taskforce That It Would Support A Range Of Policies Protecting Voting Rights, Including “Restoring The Federal Voting Rights Act To Limit States From Enacting Discriminatory Voting Laws,” Automatic Voter Registration, And No-Fault Mail In Absentee Voting.

In September 2020, Salesforce's Racial Equality And Justice Taskforce Announced It Was Working To Address Voting Access In Black Communities, Including The Support Of Voting Access Policy Reforms Such As Automatic Voter Registration And "No Fault Mail-In Absentee Voting."

September 2020: Salesforce's Racial Equality And Justice Taskforce Claimed It Was "Addressing The Importance Of How Access To The Ballot Continues To Impact The Black Community" By Supporting A Range Of Election Policy Reforms. "Building on this long-standing focus on civic engagement, the Racial Equality & Justice Task Force is addressing the importance of how access to the ballot continues to impact the Black community. By increasing non-partisan opportunities to the right to vote, Salesforce will support the following policies in Congress and our top employment states:" [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]

- **Salesforce Claimed It Supported "Restoring The Federal Voting Rights Act To Limit States From Enacting Discriminatory Voting Laws."** [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]

- **Salesforce Claimed It Supported "Restoring Voting Rights For Post-Incarcerated Citizens."** "Restoring voting rights for post-incarcerated citizens, who are disproportionately Black and other marginalized communities, giving them the ability to fully participate in the electoral processes shaping their communities." [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]
- **Salesforce Claimed It Supported "Independent Redistricting Processes."** "Supporting independent redistricting processes that should establish, with public input, clear and prioritized criteria for map drawing, ensuring that underrepresented minority voices are not diluted or diminished with their elected leaders." [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]
- **Salesforce Claimed It Supported "Implementing Automatic Voter Registration."** "Implementing automatic voter registration to streamline the opportunity for eligible citizens to become registered voters." [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]
- **Salesforce Claimed It Supported "Enabling No Fault Mail-In Absentee Voting."** "Enabling no fault mail-in absentee voting to protect and increase safe access to voting for all voters." [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]
- **Salesforce Claimed It Supported "Increasing Funding For Modern Election Operations."** "Increasing funding for modern election operations to enhance and update equipment, secure more polling locations and fund staff to safely operate elections." [Salesforce, [09/18/20](#)]

Microsoft's President Criticized Georgia's Election Integrity Act For Restricting Voters From Voting "Legally, Securely, And Safely" And Specifically Noted Its Restrictions On Voting Drop Boxes, Absentee Ballots, And Provisional Ballots As Hurting Voter Access.

In Late March 2021, Microsoft President Brad Smith Heavily Criticized Georgia's "Election Integrity Act" As Containing Provisions That "Unfairly Restrict The Rights Of People To Vote Legally, Securely, And Safely.

March 31, 2021: Microsoft President Brad Smith Authored A Blog Post Criticizing Georgia's "Election Integrity Act" As Containing "Important Provisions That Unfairly Restrict The Rights Of People To Vote Legally, Securely, And Safely." "We are creating thousands of new jobs, and we are proud to become a rapidly growing member of Atlanta's important business community. That's why we are concerned about many aspects of Georgia's new 'Election Integrity Act.' Two things are clear to us. First, the right to vote is the most cherished aspect of democracy. And second, this new law has important provisions that unfairly restrict the rights of people to vote legally, securely, and safely. That's why we voiced concern about this legislation even before it was passed." [Microsoft, [03/31/21](#)]

"Smith Joined Microsoft In 1993, First Spending Three Years In Paris Leading The Legal And Corporate Affairs Team In Europe." [Microsoft, accessed [05/10/21](#)]

Smith Specifically Criticized The Georgia Law's Restrictions On Voting Drop Boxes, Absentee Ballots, And Provisional Ballots.

Smith Specifically Cited The Law's "Restrictions On Voting Drop Boxes" As Particularly Troublesome, Noting That Fulton County – "Where Most Of Microsoft's Employees Live" – Would See An "80 Percent Reduction In Drop Boxes." "Restrictions on Voting Drop Boxes. Georgia's new law requires that every county have a secure drop box for absentee ballots (which is good) but limits them to only one per 100,000 registered voters (which is terrible). This means that Fulton County, where most of Microsoft's employees live, likely will

see an 80 percent reduction in drop boxes, from 40 during the 2020 election to only about eight moving forward." [Microsoft, [03/31/21](#)]

Smith Also Criticized The Law's "Restrictions On Absentee Ballots" Such As Significantly Narrowing The Period To Request An Absentee Ballot. "Other Restrictions on Absentee Ballots. While the new law preserves absentee ballots, it imposes new and unnecessary restrictions. For example, the window to request an absentee ballot is narrower, starting 11 weeks before the election and ending 11 days before. This is less than half the 180 day window that existed before." [Microsoft, [03/31/21](#)]

Lastly, Smith Criticized The Law's As Making It More Difficult For Voters To Have Provisional Ballots Reviewed And Counted. "Restrictions on Provisional Ballots. It's also a fact of life that busy people sometimes arrive at the wrong location to vote. That's why states across the country create provisional ballots so they can be reviewed and then counted if the vote is legal and proper. But the new law makes this more difficult. For example, voters who come to the wrong precinct will not have provisional ballots counted unless they arrive after 5 p.m. and they sign a statement stating they could not make it to the correct poll." [Microsoft, [03/31/21](#)]

Target "Believes Each Eligible Voter Should Make Their Voice Heard" And Ensured Team Members Have "Paid Time Off To Vote And/Or Serve As An Election Judge."

In July 2020, Target Released An Article Highlighting Its Partnership With The League Of Women Voters Education Fund To Provide Voter Resources As It "Believes Each Eligible Voter Should Make Their Voice Heard" – Target Also Noted It Provides Team Members With "Paid Time Off To Vote And/Or Serve As An Election Judge."

July 16, 2020: Target Released An Article Highlighting Its Voting Access Efforts Including, "Providing All Eligible [Sic] Team Members Paid Time Off To Vote And/Or Serve As An Election Judge." "Target believes each eligible voter should make their voice heard, and we have a long history of encouraging guests and team members to vote—from partnering with organizations like Time to Vote and Civic Alliance to providing all eligible [sic] team members paid time off to vote and/or serve as an election judge." [Target, [07/16/20](#)]

- **"Target Believes Each Eligible Voter Should Make Their Voice Heard."** "Target believes each eligible voter should make their voice heard, and we have a long history of encouraging guests and team members to vote—from partnering with organizations like Time to Vote and Civic Alliance to providing all eligible [sic] team members paid time off to vote and/or serve as an election judge." [Target, [07/16/20](#)]

During The 2020 Election Cycle, Target Partnered With The League Of Women Voters Education Fund To Provide Information On How To Register To Vote, Check Voter Registration, And "Find Out What's On Your Ballot." "Looking for an easy voting resource? Check out [Vote411.org/Target](#), brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and Target. It has everything you need to know to get started, including information on how to: [...] Register to vote [...] Check on your registration status [...] Find out what's on your ballot" [Target, [07/16/20](#)]

Facebook, Which Launched Its "Voter Information Center" To Educate And Register Voters In 2020, Has Professed A Strong Commitment To Voting Access And Participation, With CEO Mark Zuckerberg Offering Paid Time Off To Employees Who Volunteer As Poll Workers And Proclaiming That Facebook Has A "Responsibility" To Encourage Voting And "Prevent Voter Suppression."

In 2020, Upon Launching Its Online Voter Registration Resource Known As The "Voting Information Center," Facebook Claimed That It Was "Built To Empower People By Giving Them A Voice And Voting Is One Of The Most Powerful Ways To Make Their Voice Heard."

In 2020, Facebook Announced The Launch Of Its "Voting Information Center" To Register Voters And "Make Their Voices Heard At The Ballot Box." "With the US elections less than five months away, today Facebook is launching the largest voting information campaign in American history. We're building a new Voting Information Center that will give millions of people accurate information about voting, while also giving them the tools they need to register and make their voices heard at the ballot box. Our goal is to help register 4 million voters this year using Facebook, Instagram and Messenger, and help them get to the polls so they can hold our leaders accountable. This goal is double the estimated 2 million people we helped register in both 2018 and 2016." [Facebook, [06/16/20](#)]

In Launching Its Voting Information Center, Facebook Claimed It Was "Built To Empower People By Giving Them A Voice And Voting Is One Of The Most Powerful Ways To Make Their Voice Heard."

"Facebook was built to empower people by giving them a voice and voting is one of the most powerful ways to make their voice heard. With the US elections less than five months away, today Facebook is launching the largest voting information campaign in American history. We're building a new Voting Information Center that will give millions of people accurate information about voting, while also giving them the tools they need to register and make their voices heard at the ballot box." [Facebook, [06/16/20](#)]

In A June 2020 Op-Ed, Mark Zuckerberg Claimed That Facebook's "Civic Responsibilities" Included Encouraging People To Vote And Proclaimed That "Facebook Has A Responsibility Not Just To Prevent Voter Suppression [...] But To Actively Support Well-Informed Voter Engagement, Registration, And Turnout."

In A June 2020 Op-Ed Published In USA Today, Mark Zuckerberg Outlined Facebook's "Civic Responsibilities," Including "Encouraging People To Vote." "We're announcing on Wednesday the largest voting information campaign in American history. Our goal is to help 4 million people register to vote. As we take on this effort, I want to outline our civic responsibilities: First, we're encouraging people to vote." [USA Today, [06/16/20](#)]

- **Zuckerberg: "I Believe Facebook Has A Responsibility Not Just To Prevent Voter Suppression [...] But To Actively Support Well-Informed Voter Engagement, Registration, And Turnout."**
"Voting is voice. It's the single most powerful expression of democracy, the best way to hold our leaders accountable and how we address many of the issues our country is grappling with. I believe Facebook has a responsibility not just to prevent voter suppression — which disproportionately targets people of color — but also to actively support well-informed voter engagement, registration and turnout." [USA Today, [06/16/20](#)]

Zuckerberg Claimed, "We Remain Committed To Giving Everyone A Voice," Especially "Those Who Haven't Historically Had The Ability To Make Their Voices Heard." "Finally, we remain committed to giving everyone a voice. This is especially true for those who haven't historically had the ability to make their voices heard. Every election is a conversation about what we care about as a country — and every day millions of Americans participate in that conversation on Facebook. Free expression is part of the messy process of democracy, and we take our responsibility to protect it incredibly seriously." [USA Today, [06/16/20](#)]

In 2020, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg Announced That As Part Of Facebook's Larger Voting Information Campaign, The Company Would Offer Paid Time Off To Employees Volunteering At Polling Locations, Claiming Specifically That Poll Worker Shortages "Can Lead To Hours-Long Waits At The Polls, Which Makes It Harder For People To Participate In The Democratic Process."

In September 2020, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg Announced That Facebook Would Provide Paid Time Off For Employees To Volunteer At Polling Location As Part of Its "Larger Voting Information Campaign." "Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Friday the company will offer employees paid time off to vote and to staff polling stations for the November presidential election [...] 'This recruitment drive is part of Facebook's larger voting information campaign, with the goal to help 4 million people register and vote,' Zuckerberg said. 'Priscilla and I have also personally donated \$300 million to non-partisan organizations supporting states and local counties in strengthening our voting infrastructure.'" [CNBC, [09/11/20](#)]

Zuckerberg: Poll Worker Shortages "Can Lead To Hours-Long Waits At The Polls, Which Makes It Harder For People To Participate In The Democratic Process." "'We're less than two months away from the US elections, and we are seeing a massive shortage of poll workers to staff voting stations. Shortages can lead to hours-long waits at the polls, which makes it harder for people to participate in the democratic process,' CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a post Friday." [CNBC, [09/11/20](#)]

CITI's Chief Financial Officer Was "Appalled" By Georgia's Recent Voter Suppression Laws And Said They And Other Efforts To Disenfranchise Voters Cannot Go "Unchallenged."

In April 2021, Mark Mason, CFO Of CITI, Stated He Was "Appalled By The Recent Voter Suppression Laws Passed In The State Of Georgia" And That "We Cannot Let This Type Of Disenfranchisement Go Unchallenged."

April 2021: Mark Mason, Chief Financial Officer Of CITI, Released A LinkedIn Post In Which He Stated He Was "Appalled By The Recent Voter Suppression Laws Passed In The State Of Georgia" And Saw It As A "Disgrace." "As an American, I am appalled by the recent voter suppression laws passed in the state of Georgia. I see it as a disgrace that our country's efforts to keep Black Americans from engaging fully in our Constitutional right to vote continue to this day." [LinkedIn, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- **Mark Mason Has Served As CITI CFO Since February 2019 And Has Held "Several Senior Operational, Strategic, And Financial Executive Positions" At The Company Since Joining In 2001.** "Mark Mason was named Chief Financial Officer of Citi in February 2019. [...] Mr. Mason joined Citi in 2001 and has held several senior operational, strategic, and financial executive positions, including CEO of Citi Private Bank, CEO of Citi Holdings and CFO and Head of Strategy and M&A for Citi's Global Wealth Management Division." [Citi Group, accessed [05/10/21](#)]

Mason Goes On To State He Would Join Efforts To "Ensure Other States Don't Follow This Horrible Example" As "We Cannot Let This Type Of Disenfranchisement Go Unchallenged." "I will join the efforts of many of my fellow Americans in working to ensure other states don't follow this horrible example. Many

heroes have dedicated their lives to fighting for our rights, and we cannot let this type of disenfranchisement go unchallenged." [LinkedIn, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

BlackRock's Chairman And CEO Believes "Equal Access To Voting Is The Very Foundation Of American Democracy."

In April 2021, Larry Fink, Chairman and CEO of BlackRock, Stated That "Equal Access To Voting Is The Very Foundation Of American Democracy" And A "Vital Component Of Civil Activity."

April 2021: Larry Fink, Chairman And CEO Of Blackrock Released A LinkedIn Post In Which He Stated, "Equal Access To Voting Is The Very Foundation Of American Democracy." "Equal access to voting is the very foundation of American democracy. While BlackRock appreciates the importance of maintaining election integrity and transparency, these should not be used to restrict equal access to the polls." [LinkedIn, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

Fink Goes On To State Blackrock Was "Concerned About Efforts That Could Limit Access To The Ballot For Anyone" As "Voting Should Be Easy And Accessible For ALL Eligible Voters" And Is A "Vital Component Of Civil Activity." "BlackRock is concerned about efforts that could limit access to the ballot for anyone. Voting should be easy and accessible for ALL eligible voters. Voting is not just a right, but a vital component of civil activity. We should encourage all eligible voters to play this essential role in our democracy." [LinkedIn, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

American Airlines Railed Against Texas' Anti-Voter Legislation SB 7 And Stated A Belief That "We Should Break Down Barriers To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion In Our Society – Not Create Them."

Texas-Based American Airlines—The Largest Carrier In The U.S.—Stated "Unequivocal" Opposition To Voting Restrictions In SB 7 And Argued, "We Believe We Should Break Down Barriers To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion In Our Society – Not Create Them."

American Airlines, Based In Fort Worth, Texas, Is The Country's "Largest Carrier Both By Passengers Carried And Fleet Size." "American Airlines is the United States' largest carrier both by passengers carried and fleet size. The company is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, adjacent to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport." [Forbes, [04/01/21](#)]

American Airlines Stated "Unequivocal" Opposition To Voting Restrictions In Texas' SB 7. "One day after Delta Air Lines issued a statement opposing a new election law in Georgia that makes it harder for people to vote, American Airlines has now publicly opposed similar legislation in Texas that, if passed, would restrict voting access in a state that saw the highest turnout in decades in the 2020 election. In an overnight vote, the Republican-led Texas Senate advanced Senate Bill 7, which would limit early voting hours, prohibit drive-through voting and ban local election officials from proactively sending absentee ballots to eligible voters." [Forbes, [04/01/21](#)]

- **American Airlines' Statement Said, "To Make American's Stance Clear: We Are Strongly Opposed To This Bill And Others Like It."** "American's opposition to the passage of Senate Bill 7 is unequivocal. 'Earlier this morning, the Texas State Senate passed legislation with provisions that limit voting access. To make American's stance clear: We are strongly opposed to this bill and others like it,' said the airline in a short statement." [Forbes, [04/01/21](#)]

American Airlines' Statement Concluded, "At American, We Believe We Should Break Down Barriers To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion In Our Society – Not Create Them." "Any legislation dealing with how elections are conducted must ensure ballot integrity and security while making it easier to vote, not harder. At American, we believe we should break down barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion in our society – not create them," ends the statement." [Forbes, [04/01/21](#)]

Unlike Delta Air Lines, Which Only Opposed Georgia Voter Restrictions After They Became Law, American Airlines Issues Its Statement Against SB 7 Before Its Passage. "American Airlines learned from Delta Air Lines' misstep and issued a statement expressing opposition to a voting bill in Texas before it has been passed into law." [Forbes, [04/01/21](#)]

Accenture's CEO Criticized Georgia's Anti-Voting Legislation As "Strik[ing] At The Heart Of Representative Government."

Accenture CEO Julie Sweet Issued A Statement In Support Of 72 Black Business Leaders Who Spoke Out Against Georgia's Voting Restrictions And The Business Roundtable's Statement Arguing That Restrictions "Strike At The Heart Of Representative Government."

March 31, 2021: Accenture CEO Julie Sweet Tweeted, "We Join The 72 Black Business Leaders Who Signed The Memo To Corporate America: The Fierce Urgency Is Now In Taking A Nonpartisan Stand For Equality And Democracy, And We Support The Business Roundtable's Statement On Voting Rights."



Julie Sweet ✓
@JulieSweet

...

At [@Accenture](#) we join the 72 Black business leaders who signed the Memo to Corporate America: The Fierce Urgency Is Now in taking a nonpartisan stand for equality and democracy, and we support the Business Roundtable's Statement on Voting Rights. [#votingrights](#)

10:45 PM · Mar 31, 2021 · Twitter Web App

[Tweet by Julie Sweet, 03/31/21, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- **Julie Sweet Has Been Accenture's CEO Since 2019 And Served In Several Other Senior Roles At The Company Since 2010.** "Julie Sweet is chief executive officer of Accenture and serves on the company's board of directors. Prior to becoming CEO in September 2019, Julie served as chief executive officer of Accenture's business in North America, the company's largest geographic market. Previously, she was Accenture's general counsel, secretary and chief compliance officer for five years. Before joining Accenture in 2010, Julie was a partner for 10 years in the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP." [Accenture, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

The Memo To Which Sweet Referred Was In Opposition To Georgia's Recently Enacted Voting Restrictions. "A group of 72 Black current and former business executives is taking a stand against a controversial new voting rights law in Georgia. As Republicans in dozens of states are seeking new limits on how people vote, the New York Times is running a full-page advertisement Wednesday signed by the business leaders, headlined 'Memo to Corporate America: The Fierce Urgency is Now.'" [CBS News, [03/31/21](#)]

The Business Roundtable Statement To Which Sweet Referred Said, "Unnecessary Restrictions On The Right To Vote Strike At The Heart Of Representative Government." "The right to vote is the essence of a democratic society, and the voice of every voter should be heard in fair elections that are conducted with integrity. Unnecessary restrictions on the right to vote strike at the heart of representative government. Business Roundtable members believe state laws must safeguard and guarantee the right to vote." [Business Roundtable, [03/31/21](#)]

American Express Has Expressed Support For Voting Access By Offering Paid Time Off For Employees In Order To “Help Ensure Our Colleagues Have The Time Needed To Vote” And By Circulating A Memo From The Company’s CEO Claiming, “As A Company And Leadership Team, We [...] Stand Against Any Efforts To Suppress Voting.”

American Express Instituted Additional Paid Time Off For Employees To Vote In 2020, With The Company’s CEO Stating, “We Want To Do Our Part To Help Ensure Our Colleagues Have The Time Needed To Vote.”

In September 2020, American Express Announced Additional Paid Time Off For Employees Voting In The 2020 Election.



[Twitter, American Express, [09/13/20](#)]

In March 2021, American Express CEO And Chairman Stephen Squeri Sent A Memo To All Of American Express Employees Stating That “The Right To Vote Is

The Cornerstone Of Our Democracy” And “As A Company And Leadership Team, We [...] Stand Against Any Efforts To Suppress Voting.”

March 2021: American Express Chairman And CEO Stephen Squeri Sent A Memo To All American Express Colleagues Claiming, “The Right To Vote Is The Cornerstone Of Our Democracy.” “The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. Ensuring equal and easy access to vote, for all those who are eligible to participate in each state, is critical to upholding the principles our country was founded upon. Unfairly limiting that right is wrong. Earlier today, an open letter, entitled *Memo to Corporate America: The Fierce Urgency is Now*, was issued by 72 prominent Black business leaders in an effort co-led by our former Chairman and CEO, Ken Chenault, and supported by five current and former members of our Board of Directors – Tom Baltimore, Ursula Burns, Charles Phillips, Ron Williams and Chris Young. The letter calls on corporate leaders everywhere to speak out against efforts intended to make it harder for Americans to vote.” [American Express, [03/31/21](#)]

- **Squeri Claimed “As A Company And Leadership Team, We [...] Stand Against Any Efforts To Suppress Voting.”** “At American Express, we have a legacy of standing up for what is right and providing fair and equal treatment for all. As a company and leadership team, we support this message and stand against any efforts to suppress voting which is a fundamental right that belongs to all Americans.” [American Express, [03/31/21](#)]

IBM Chairman And CEO Arvind Krishna Stated That "IBM Believes That Fair And Equal Access To Voting Is Critical To Our Democracy."

IBM's Chairman And CEO: "IBM Believes That Fair And Equal Access To Voting Is Critical To Our Democracy."

IBM Chairman And CEO Arvind Krishna Issued A Statement Claiming That "IBM Believes That Fair And Equal Access To Voting Is Critical To Our Democracy." "IBM believes that fair and equal access to voting is critical to our democracy. We urge elected officials nationwide to pursue policies that promote voter participation and build confidence in our voting infrastructure through processes that are fair, reliable and secure.' – Arvind Krishna, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer" [IBM, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

January 2021: IBM's Head Of Government And Regulatory Affairs Recognized A "Sea Change" In How Employees, Shareholders, And Others Expect The Company To Get Involved As He Discussed Why IBM Has Decided To Take A Stand On Good Government Issues."

January 2021: IBM's Head Of Government And Regulatory Affairs Discussed "Why IBM Has Decided To Take A Stand On Good Government Issues"—The Executive Said He Recognized A "Sea Change" In How Employees, Shareholders, And Communities Expect The Company To Get Involved In Issues. "IBM's head of government and regulatory affairs, Christopher Padilla, talked with CNBC to share why IBM has decided to take a stand on good government issues and how it has made its voice heard in Washington without PAC contributions. [...] Over the past summer during mass protests for racial justice and police reform, employees, consumers and shareholders looked to brands to take a stance on those issues. Many companies issued statements, pledged money to nonprofits and some, like IBM, backed policies like the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. Padilla said he has noticed 'a sea change' in terms of how employees, shareholders and local communities expect the company to get involved in issues outside of its direct business during his nearly 12 years at IBM. 'What we're seeing more and more is companies are having to get involved in issues that maybe go a little bit outside their narrow lanes because their employees and their shareholders are expecting them to do so,' Padilla said. 'This is what companies do now.'" [CNBC, [01/15/21](#)]

Ford Motor Company Joined A Coalition Of Michigan Corporations In Denouncing The State's Anti-Voting Legislation As The Right To Vote Is A "Sacred, Inviolable Right Of American Citizens."

In April 2021, Ford Motor Company Joined A Coalition Of Michigan Corporations In Denouncing Anti-Voter Bills Introduced By The Michigan Senate That They Described As "An Attempt To Curb Voting By 'Historically Disenfranchised Communities.'"

April 13, 2021: Ford Motor Company Joined Over 30 Michigan Corporations In Denouncing Voting Bills Introduced By The Michigan Senate That They Called "An Attempt To Curb Voting By 'Historically Disenfranchised Communities.'" "Ford and General Motors joined more than 30 Michigan corporations to denounce voting bills introduced by the Michigan Senate, calling them an attempt to curb voting by 'historically disenfranchised communities.' The corporations released a joint statement Tuesday, April 13 criticizing the 39-bill package introduced by Michigan Senate Republicans last month, as well as a potential ballot petition." [Michigan Live, [04/13/21](#)]

In Their Joint Statement, Ford And The Other Michigan Corporations Stated Their Belief That "Our Nation Is Strongest When We Stand Together." "Ford and General Motors were joined by Blue Cross Blue Shield, Quicken Loans, Henry Ford Health Systems and other major corporations to address voting changes proposed in Michigan and elsewhere. 'Our nation is strongest when we stand together,' the corporations said in the joint statement. 'We call on our elected officials to adopt these principles as they proceed in the spirit of inclusion and equality.'" [Michigan Live, [04/13/21](#)]

In Their Release, Ford And The Other Michigan Corporations Stated Their Belief In The Right To Vote As A "Sacred, Inviolable Right Of American Citizens," And That Government Must Ensure "Equitable Access To The Ballot," While "Avoid[ing] Actions That Reduce Participation In Elections."

In Their Release, The Michigan Corporations Outlined Several Voting Principles They Stood For Including A Belief That "The Right To Vote Is A 'Sacred, Inviolable Right Of American Citizens.'" "The release also includes a set of voting principles to corporations will stand by, including: [...] The right to vote is 'a sacred, inviolable right of American citizens,' and the nation's democracy requires the 'greatest level of participation by our citizens.'" [Michigan Live, [04/13/21](#)]

The Michigan Corporations Also Stated That They Believe "Voter Participation Requires 'Safe And Secure Options,' And Government Must Ensure 'Equitable Access To The Ballot.'" "The release also includes a set of voting principles to corporations will stand by, including: [...] Voter participation requires 'safe and secure options,' and government must ensure 'equitable access to the ballot.'" [Michigan Live, [04/13/21](#)]

The Michigan Corporations Believe The "Government Must 'Avoid Actions That Reduce Participation In Elections.'" "The release also includes a set of voting principles to corporations will stand by, including: [...] Government must 'avoid actions that reduce participation in elections,' especially for racial minorities, low-income voters, disabled people and senior residents." [Michigan Live, [04/13/21](#)]

In 2020, Synchrony Financial Allowed Its Employees To Take Paid Time Off To Vote As "Our Democracy's Foundation Is Built On The Right To Vote" – Synchrony's Executive Chair Later Praised The Voting Rights Act And Promised To "Continue To Do Our Part To Ensure Each And Every Member Of Our Team Is Empowered To Make Their Voice Heard."

In 2020, Synchrony Announced That It Would Allow Employees To Take Paid Time Off To Vote And Institute Programming To Encourage Voting, With The CEO Claiming, "Our Democracy's Foundation Is Built On The Right To Vote."

In July 2020, Synchrony Financial Announced It Was "Providing Our Colleagues With Information, Tools And Resources Needed To Participate In Our Democratic Process," By Providing Paid Time Off For Voting, A Voting Speaker Series, And An Online Voter Registration Platform. "Synchrony is proud to support the Business Roundtable and its members who are working to ensure that every citizen who qualifies is able to vote. That's why we have continued to support, honor, and celebrate this right by providing our colleagues with information, tools and resources needed to participate in our democratic process. Our efforts include: [...] Providing flexible, paid time off for employees to get to their local polling location on election day this November and flexible scheduling options for other elections and primaries. [...] Encouraging our employees to exercise their right to vote through an on-going speaker series, featuring voting rights thought leaders, and sharing insights and education on the history of voting in the U.S. and the importance of democratic elections. [...] Launching a non-partisan online platform to make it easier for our employees to register and make a plan to vote – whether that is voting by mail, early voting or voting on Election Day. [...] Joining the "Time to Vote" campaign to help increase voter turnout." [Synchrony, [07/21/20](#)]

Synchrony's CEO Released A Statement In July 2020 Claiming, "Our Democracy's Foundation Is Built On The Right To Vote." "Our democracy's foundation is built on the right to vote and it's thanks to the hard-fought efforts of those who came before us that we are all permitted to exercise this fundamental privilege." [Synchrony, [07/21/20](#)]

Synchrony's CEO Claimed Voting Was "Especially Noteworthy" In 2020 "As We Celebrate The 100th Anniversary Of The 19th Amendment. "It is especially noteworthy this year as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution." [Synchrony, [07/21/20](#)]

Synchrony's CEO In July 2020: "These Last Few Months Have Shown It Is More Important Than Ever To Ensure Americans Are Empowered To Safely Exercise Their Right To Vote In All Elections." "These last few months have shown it is more important than ever to ensure Americans are empowered to safely exercise their right to vote in all elections– including at the local, state and national levels." [Synchrony, [07/21/20](#)]

In August 2020, The Executive Chair Of Synchrony's Board Margaret Keane Posted On LinkedIn In Celebration Of The Anniversaries Of The 19th Amendment And The Voting Rights Act, Claiming That Synchrony Would "Continue To Do Our Part To Ensure Each And Every Member Of Our Team Is Empowered To Make Their Voice Heard."

In August 2020, In Honor Of The Ratification Of The 19th Amendment, The Executive Chair Of The Board Of Directors Of Synchrony Margaret Keane Penned A Post Celebrating Voting Rights. "Today marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment - guaranteeing women the right to vote in the United States. As we celebrate this important milestone and this month's equally important 55th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act, we should all be reminded that the ability to lift our voices,

to advocate directly for the change we want to see in our world, is a right that has not always been enjoyed by all. That's why, even today, each of us must do our part and work to protect, honor and use this all-important privilege." [LinkedIn, [08/18/20](#)]

- **Margaret Keane Added That The 55th Anniversary Of The Signing Of The Voting Rights Act Was "Equally Important" To The 19th Amendment.** "Today marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment - guaranteeing women the right to vote in the United States. As we celebrate this important milestone and this month's equally important 55th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act, we should all be reminded that the ability to lift our voices, to advocate directly for the change we want to see in our world, is a right that has not always been enjoyed by all. That's why, even today, each of us must do our part and work to protect, honor and use this all-important privilege." [LinkedIn, [08/18/20](#)]
- **Margaret Kean Is Executive Chair Of Synchrony's Board Of Directors.** "Executive Chair of the Board of Directors of Synchrony, one of the nation's premier consumer financial services companies." [LinkedIn, [08/18/20](#)]

Margaret Keane: "We Will Continue To Do Our Part To Ensure Each And Every Member Of Our Team Is Empowered To Make Their Voice Heard." "At [Synchrony](#), we are proud to stand with the many partners supporting [Make Time to Vote](#) and with the membership of the [Business Roundtable](#) who are working to ensure that every citizen who qualifies is [able to vote](#). Whether it is supporting flexible, paid time off for voting, helping our employees register and make a plan to vote, or sharing resources and information through our ongoing speaker series featuring voting rights thought leaders, we will continue to [do our part](#) to ensure each and every member of our team is empowered to make their voice heard. [LinkedIn, [08/18/20](#)]

Margaret Keane: "Today And Every Day, Let's Celebrate" The 19th Amendment And Voting Rights Act. "As someone, directly enfranchised by the 19th Amendment, I will never take for granted the importance of the voice and power it gave me and every other woman in our country. Today and every day, let's continue celebrate these two critical and landmark pieces of legislation by ensuring the voice of each American is heard and by exercising our right vote." [LinkedIn, [08/18/20](#)]

Bank Of America's CEO Believes "The Right To Vote Should Be Distributed In The Broadest Sense And Anything That Goes Against That Shouldn't Be Tolerated."

In April 2021, Bank Of America CEO Brian Moynihan Stated, "The Right To Vote Should Be Distributed In The Broadest Sense And Anything That Goes Against That Shouldn't Be Tolerated."

Bank Of America CEO Brian Moynihan In April 2021: "The Right To Vote Should Be Distributed In The Broadest Sense And Anything That Goes Against That Shouldn't Be Tolerated." "Bank of America's chief executive is the latest business leader to speak out about restrictive voting legislation in states such as Georgia and Texas, calling for a federal bipartisan commission to investigate the measures. 'The right to vote should be distributed in the broadest sense and anything that goes against that shouldn't be tolerated,' said CEO Brian Moynihan in an interview with CNN's Poppy Harlow on Friday." [CNN, [04/16/21](#)]