

Several Local Allies Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce In Texas, Georgia, And Michigan Condemned Voter Suppression Efforts In Their States As The U.S. Chamber Remained Silent And Fought Federal Voting Rights Protections.

SUMMARY: Voting restrictions have swept across America in the past year, with [14 states enacting new legislation since May 2020](#). Meanwhile, the U.S. Chamber Of Commerce has shown “[fierce](#)” opposition to urgently-needed voting rights reforms in the For the People Act even as its major corporate members which have pledged support for voting rights—such as Ford, Target, and Google—had faced calls to “[dump the chamber](#).”

As the U.S. Chamber fought the For the People Act and did not speak out against prominent voter suppression efforts in Texas, Georgia, And Michigan, numerous local chambers that are members of or affiliated with the U.S. Chamber publicly opposed voter restrictions in their states.

An Accountable.US review has found that six local U.S. Chamber allies across Texas, Georgia, and Michigan have stood up and pushed back against voting restrictions pushed by their state governments, following in a trend of the [business community writ large](#). As even their own affiliates move to the right side of history, the U.S. Chamber firmly stands in opposition.

- **Texas:** The North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce, A [Member](#) Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Which Is [Corporate Partners](#) With Major Companies Like American Airlines And Toyota, Came Out [Against](#) The Texas Voter Suppression Bill. Also In Texas, Three [Other Local Black](#) Chambers Of Commerce Listed In The U.S. Chamber’s [Directory](#) Have All Opposed The State’s Voter Restriction Laws.
- **Georgia:** The Metro Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce, A U.S. Chamber [Member](#) That Boasts A Membership Including [Major Companies](#) Like Delta Airlines And Coca-Cola, Came Out [Against](#) Voter Suppression Bills In Georgia.
- **Michigan:** The Detroit Regional Chamber, A U.S. Chamber [Member](#) Whose Own Membership Includes [Major Companies](#) Like General Motors And Dow Chemical, Said It Would [Oppose](#) Legislation That Would “Unduly [Burden] Michiganders’ Ability To Participate In Elections” Following 39 Election [Restrictions](#) Under Consideration In The State At The Time.

Numerous Local U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Allies In Texas Condemned A Major Voter Suppression Bill In The State As The U.S. Chamber Remained Silent.

The U.S. Chamber Remained Silent As Texas Republicans Nearly Passed “Expansive” Voter Suppression Bill SB 7.

Texas Republicans’ “Expansive” Voting Restriction Bill Sb 7 Was Nearly Passed Into Law, Only Blocked By A “Surprise” Last-Minute Move, But Its Governor Vowed To Revive The Bill In A Special Session Later This Year.

Texas’ Senate Bill (SB) 7—A “Priority” Of Republican State Lawmakers—Was An “Expansive Bill That Would Touch Nearly The Entire Voting Process.” “Senate Bill 7, the GOP’s priority voting bill, emerged

Saturday from a conference committee as an expansive bill that would touch nearly the entire voting process, including provisions to limit early voting hours, curtail local voting options and further tighten voting by mail, among several other provisions.” [The Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

SB 7 Was “One Of The Most Stringent” Voting Restriction Bills In The Country. “The surprise move by roughly 60 Democratic lawmakers headed off the expected passage of S.B. 7, a voting measure that would have been one of the most stringent in the nation, by denying Republicans a required quorum and forcing them to abruptly adjourn without taking a vote.” [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

- **Among Its Many Provisions, SB 7 Would Have Limited Early Voting Hours, Limited Local Voting Options, And Increased Restrictions On Mail-In Voting.** “Senate Bill 7, the GOP’s priority voting bill, emerged Saturday from a conference committee as an expansive bill that would touch nearly the entire voting process, including provisions to limit early voting hours, curtail local voting options and further tighten voting by mail, among several other provisions.” [The Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

Texas State Senators Passed SB 7 On A Party Line Vote Before Its Failure In The State House. “Texas Republican lawmakers moved closer Sunday to imposing a slew of new restrictions on voting, as state Senate members voted along party lines to adopt legislation that would make mail-in voting more difficult and prohibit the after-hours and drive-through options that voting rights advocates said helped Black and Latino voters in the Houston area cast their ballots in the 2020 election. After nearly seven hours of debate, the lawmakers adopted the conference committee report for Senate Bill 7. The vote took place minutes after 6:00 a.m. CT. [...] The Texas House has not yet voted on SB7, though it is eligible for a vote late Sunday afternoon. It must do so before the deadline of midnight Sunday.” [CNN, [05/30/21](#)]

Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott “Vowed” To Revive SB 7’s Provisions In A Special Legislative Session Later In 2021 And Threatened To Defund The State Legislature As Retaliation For Democrats’ Walkout. “Republicans control every branch of Texas government and hold firm majorities in both the House and Senate. While Gov. Greg Abbott (R) vowed late Sunday to bring the voting measure back at a special legislative session for redistricting later this year — and threatened to defund the legislature in a tweet on Monday — the walkout represented an unmistakable and shocking defeat for Republican leaders who had assumed the bill would pass ahead of the House’s midnight deadline to finish its 2021 business.” [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

As Texas Lawmakers “Hurtled” To Pass SB 7 The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Didn’t Issue Any Press Releases On Election Laws And Only Used Its “Chamber On The Record” Outlet To Repeatedly Defend Its Opposition To Federal Voting Rights Legislation.

The U.S. Chamber Did Not Issue Any Press Releases About Election Laws Since The November 2020 Election, As Of June 10, 2021. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber’s Only “Chamber On The Record” Articles About Election Laws Since The 2020 Election Were About Why It Opposed The For The People Act, A Federal Voting Rights Act, As Of June 10, 2021.

ARTICLE APR 27, 2021 - 2:30PM



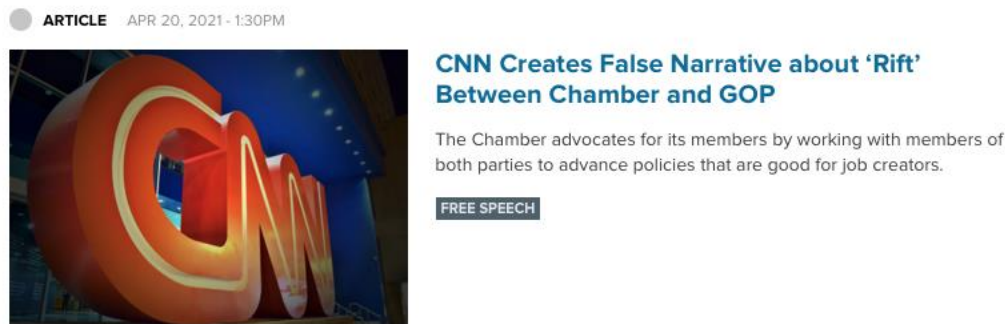
Partisan Group Distorts Chamber Position on Election Law Changes

The ability of Americans to exercise their right to vote and to be able to trust in elections is fundamental to who we are as a nation.

FREE SPEECH

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- **The Article Explained Why The U.S. Chamber Opposed What It Called “‘The Disingenuously Named The 'For The People Act.'”** “As a long-time defender of free speech, the Chamber has opposed bills like H.R.1/S.1, the disingenuously named the 'For The People Act,' that would limit fundamental First Amendment rights. In a letter to Senators earlier this month, we explained: [...]” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [04/27/21](#)]



[U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

- **The For The People Act Is An Anti-Voting Suppression Bill Passed In The U.S. House Of Representatives.** “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](#)]

The North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce, A Member Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Which Is Corporate Partners With Major Companies Like American Airlines And Toyota, Came Out Against The Texas Voter Suppression Bill.

The North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce Signed A Letter Opposing Voter Suppression Bills In Texas. “Dallas-area companies and chambers signing the statement include former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk, Fort Worth-based American Airlines, Frisco-based video game developer Gearbox, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce. ‘We stand together, as a nonpartisan coalition, calling on all elected leaders in Texas to support reforms that make democracy more accessible and oppose any changes that would restrict eligible voters’ access to the ballot,’ the businesses wrote in their letter. ‘We urge business and civic leaders to join us as we call upon lawmakers to uphold our ever elusive core democratic principle: equality. By supporting a stronger trustworthy democracy, we will elevate our economy.’” [Dallas Morning News, [5/04/21](#)]

- **The North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce Is A Member Of The U.S. Chamber.** [Texas Chamber Of Commerce Directory, [accessed 6/08/21](#)]



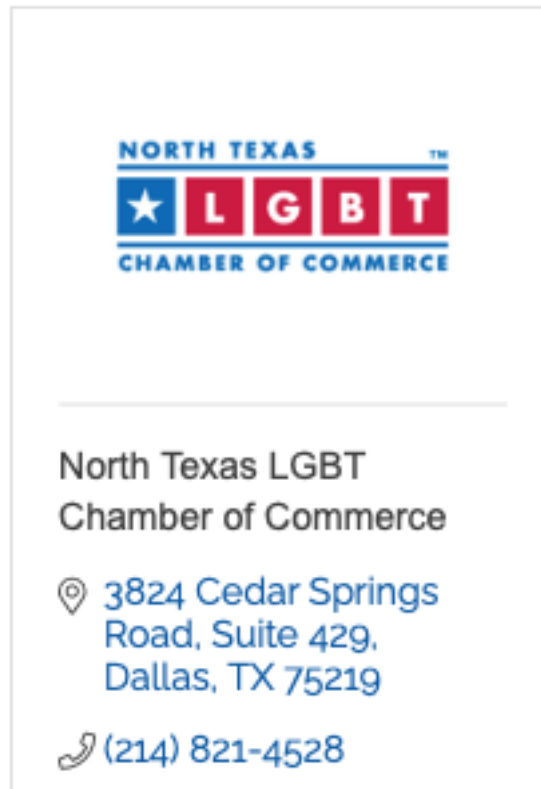
[Texas Chamber Of Commerce Directory, [accessed 6/08/21](#)]

- Although The U.S. Chamber’s Directory Lists The North Texas “GLBT” Chamber Of Commerce, The Address It Specifies Is The Same As An Address Associated With The North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce:

Address—

3824 Cedar Springs Rd Ste 429
Dallas, TX 75219-4136

[Texas Chamber Of Commerce Directory, [accessed 6/08/21](#)]



[North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

The North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce Has An Exhaustive List Of Prominent Corporate Partners Including, But Not Limited To: American Airlines, Toyota, Pepsico, Raytheon, JPMorgan Chase, Southwest Airlines, And Texas Instruments. [North Texas LGBT Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, Which Is Listed In A U.S. Chamber Directory And Whose Membership Includes Atmos Energy And The Dallas Fort Worth Airport, Came Out Against The Texas Voter Suppression Bill.

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democratic principle: equality. By supporting a stronger trustworthy democracy, we will elevate our economy.’” [Dallas Morning News, [5/04/21](#)]

- **The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce Is Listed In A U.S. Chamber Directory.** [Texas Chamber Of Commerce Directory, [accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Dallas Fort Worth International Airport Is A Member Of The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce. [Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

Oil Company Atmos Energy Is A Member Of The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce. [Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

Cable And Internet Provider Spectrum Is A Member Of The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce. [Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Dallas Area Office Of Fidelity Investments Is A Member Of The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce. [Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Dallas Area Office Of CHASE Is A Member Of The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce. [Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Dallas Area Office Of Wells Fargo Is A Member Of The Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce. [Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Greater Houston Black Chamber Of Commerce, Which Is Listed In A U.S. Chamber Directory And Which Is Corporate Partners With Major Companies Like Verizon And Chevron, Came Out Against The Texas Voter Suppression Bills.

The Greater Houston Black Chamber Of Commerce Signed A Letter Opposing Voter Suppression Bills In Texas. “We stand together, as a nonpartisan coalition, calling on all elected leaders in Texas to support reforms that make democracy more accessible and oppose any changes that would restrict eligible voters’ access to the ballot. [...] Greater Houston Black Chamber Of Commerce” [Fair Election Texas Letter, [5/04/21](#)]

- **The Greater Houston Black Chamber Of Commerce Is Listed In A U.S. Chamber Directory.** [Texas Chamber Of Commerce Directory, [accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Greater Houston Black Of Commerce Has An Exhaustive List Of Prominent Corporate Partners Including, But Not Limited To: Verizon, JPMorgan Chase, Shell, Chevron, Wells Fargo, United Airlines, BP, Capital One, And BB&T Bank. [Greater Houston Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Greater Austin Black Chamber Of Commerce, Which Is Listed In A U.S. Chamber Directory And Which Is Corporate Partners With Major Companies Like VISA, Wells Fargo, And Facebook, Came Out Against The Texas Voter Suppression Bills.

The Greater Austin Black Chamber Of Commerce Signed A Letter Opposing Voter Suppression Bills In Texas. “We stand together, as a nonpartisan coalition, calling on all elected leaders in Texas to support reforms that make democracy more accessible and oppose any changes that would restrict eligible voters’ access to the ballot. [...] Greater Austin Black Chamber Of Commerce” [Fair Election Texas Letter, [5/04/21](#)]

- **The Greater Austin Black Chamber Of Commerce Is Listed In A U.S. Chamber Directory.** [Texas Chamber Of Commerce Directory, [accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The Greater Austin Black Chamber Of Commerce Has An Exhaustive List Of Prominent Corporate Partners Including, But Not Limited To: VISA, Atmos Energy, AAA, Wells Fargo, And Facebook. [Greater Houston Black Chamber Of Commerce, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Remained Silent As Local Member Metro Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce Came Out Against Georgia's Voter Suppression Bills.

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Remained Silent As Georgia's Republican Government Passed A Voter Suppression Bill That Was Called "A Breathtaking Assertion Of Partisan Power In Elections" Despite The Chamber's Stated Opposition To "Partisan" Voting Bills

Georgia's Republican Government Passed A Stringent Voter Suppression Bill That Was Called "A Breathtaking Assertion Of Partisan Power In Elections."

March 25, 2021: Georgia's Republican Legislature And Governor Passed A Voter Suppression Law That The New York Times Called "A Breathtaking Assertion Of Partisan Power In Elections." "Go page by page through Georgia's new voting law, and one takeaway stands above all others: The Republican legislature and governor have made a breathtaking assertion of partisan power in elections, making absentee voting harder and creating restrictions and complications in the wake of narrow losses to Democrats." [New York Times, [5/13/21](#)]

- **Georgia's Voter Suppression Bill Was Passed March 25, 2021.** "Legislation, passed today, historically broadens access to the ballot box for all communities, provides for additional poll worker training, allows for poll workers to work across county lines, while also modernizing and addressing issues of security and transparency. Through codifying full access to weekend voting as well as drop boxes for all counties in our state, this legislation moves Georgia forward in expanding access to the ballot box while ensuring we remain a secure state in which to cast a ballot." [Georgia Chamber Of Commerce, [3/25/21](#)]

In Addition To Its Partisan Takeover Of The State's Election, The Bill Restricts Absentee Voting, Increases Voter ID Requirements, And Criminalizes Offering Voters Waiting In Line Food And Water, Among Other Restrictions. "Voters will now have less time to request absentee ballots. There are strict new ID requirements for absentee ballots. It's now illegal for election officials to mail out absentee ballot applications to all voters. Drop boxes still exist ... but barely. Mobile voting centers (think an R.V. where you can vote) are essentially banned. Early voting is expanded in a lot of small counties, but probably not in more populous ones. Offering food or water to voters waiting in line now risks misdemeanor charges." [New York Times, [5/13/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Has Claimed That Federal And State Voting Laws Shouldn't Be "Partisan."

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Claimed, "Changes To Voting Laws Shouldn't Be Partisan [...] Whether At The State Or Federal Level." "Changes to voting laws shouldn't be partisan. The Chamber does not support partisan changes to voting laws – whether at the state or federal level." [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [05/20/21](#)]

As Georgia Moved To Pass Its Voter Suppression Bills The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Didn't Issue Any Press Releases On Election Laws And Only Used Its "Chamber On The Record" Outlet To Repeatedly Defend Its Opposition To Federal Voting Rights Legislation.

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CNN Creates False Narrative about 'Rift' Between Chamber and GOP

The Chamber advocates for its members by working with members of both parties to advance policies that are good for job creators.

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[U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [06/01/21](#)]

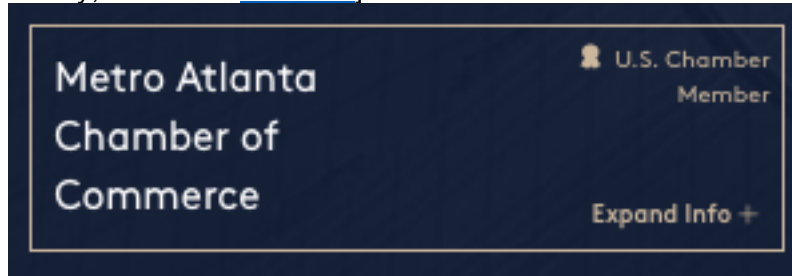
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The Metro Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce, A U.S. Chamber Member That Boasts A Membership Including Major Companies Like Delta Airlines And Coca-Cola, Came Out Against Voter Suppression Bills In Georgia.

March 19, 2021: The Metro Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce Came Out Against Voter Suppression Bills In Georgia. "The Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce on Friday came out against the spate of voter suppression bills GOP state legislators have introduced in Georgia, saying in a statement that the group supports making it easier to vote rather than putting up obstacles to the ballot box. 'Like many in our community, our interest in these issues began long ago and reflects our collective belief that every eligible Georgia voter — regardless of background or political views — should engage in the voting process,' Metro

Atlanta Chamber President and CEO Katie Kirkpatrick wrote in a statement.” [American Independent, [03/19/21](#)]

- **The Metro Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce Is A Member Of The U.S. Chamber.** [Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce Directory, accessed [05/24/21](#)]



[Atlanta Chamber Of Commerce Directory, accessed [05/24/21](#)]

The Metro Atlanta Chamber’s Membership Includes The CEO Of Delta Air Lines, The President And CEO Of The Atlanta Falcons, And The Senior Vice President Of Coca-Cola. “The Metro Atlanta Chamber's membership includes the heads of some of the biggest companies in Atlanta, including the CEO of Delta Air Lines, the president and CEO of the Atlanta Falcons football team, a senior vice president of Coca-Cola, and the president of Emory University, among many others.” [American Independent, [03/19/21](#)]

The Detroit Regional Chamber, A U.S. Chamber Member, Condemned Proposed Voter Suppression Laws While The U.S. Chamber Remained Silent.

The U.S. Chamber Remained Silent As Michigan Republicans In 39 Voter Election Law Proposals, Many Of Which Would Lead To Increased Voter Suppression.

Michigan Republican Elected Officials Introduced 39 Election Law Proposals, Many Of Which Critics Have Claimed Would Lead To Increased Voter Suppression.

Michigan Republican Elected Officials Introduced 39 Election Law Proposals, Many Of Which Critics Have Claimed Would Lead To Increased Voter Suppression In The State. “Now, as Michigan prepares to debate 39 Republican election law proposals that critics charge could disenfranchise voters, the business sector is under pressure to use its influence to oppose some of them, as corporate leaders mobilized to do in Georgia after recent laws enacted there.” Bridge Michigan, [4/09/21](#)]

The Republican Proposals Included Strict Voter ID Restrictions And Provisions That Would Severely Limit Absentee Voting. “Among the GOP proposals, the new regulations would: Require voters to show photo ID when voting in person and when requesting an absentee ballot. People without ID could still cast a ballot, but those ballots would be considered ‘provisional’ and would not be counted on Election Day or unless verified at a later date. Prohibit local governments from providing prepaid postage on any absentee ballot return envelope. Prohibit the Secretary of State from mailing unsolicited absentee ballot applications to voters, as the office did in 2020, or posting an application online. Impose a new deadline of 5 p.m. on the day before an election for voters using an absentee drop box instead of allowing voters to return it up until the time polls close.” [Bridge Michigan, [4/09/21](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Not Issued Any Press Releases On Election Laws, Including Those Proposed In Michigan, And Only Used Its “Chamber On The Record” Outlet To Repeatedly Defend Its Opposition To Federal Voting Rights Legislation.

The U.S. Chamber Did Not Issue Any Press Releases About Election Laws Since The November 2020 Election, As Of June 10, 2021. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

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The Detroit Regional Chamber, A U.S. Chamber Member Whose Own Membership Includes Major Companies Like General Motors And Dow Chemical, Said It Would Oppose Legislation That Would "Unduly [Burdens] Michiganders' Ability To Participate In Elections" Following The Release Of The 39 Election Law Proposals.

In The Wake Of The 39 Election Law Proposals, The Detroit Regional Chamber Released A Statement Saying They Would Support Legislation That Would Expand Voting Access And Would Oppose Legislation That Would "Unduly [Burdens] Michiganders' Ability To Participate In Elections". "Of the 39

bills introduced in the Michigan legislature focused on voting processes and access, some are common sense improvements that make an already strong process stronger, including extending early voting opportunities. Others, however, have the impact of unreasonably restricting Michiganders' ability to exercise their right to vote. Other provisions place undue burdens on already stressed election workers and risk the confidentiality of an individual's vote. [...] The Detroit Regional Chamber will continue to monitor this package of bills and will support those that make an already strong system better, advance customer-centric processes, and will oppose legislation that unduly burdens Michiganders' ability to participate in elections." [Detroit Regional Chamber, [4/12/21](#)]

- **The Detroit Regional Chamber Is A Member Of The U.S. Chamber.** [Michigan Chamber Of Commerce Directory, accessed [06/08/21](#)]



[Michigan Chamber Of Commerce Directory, accessed [06/08/21](#)]

- **The Statement Also Affirmed The Detroit Regional Chamber's Commitment To Honoring And Defending The Results Of The 2020 Election.** "The Detroit Regional Chamber has advocated for smart voting reforms, such as supporting no-excuse absentee voting and same-day voter registration, and has taken a stand in defense of the validity of the 2020 election." [Detroit Regional Chamber, [4/12/21](#)]

The Detroit Regional Chambers Lists Numerous Major Companies As Elite Members Including, But Not Limited To: General Motors, Dow Chemical, Toyota, Chase, Bank Of America, Delta Airlines, Blue Cross Blue Shield, PNC Bank, AT&T, Deloitte, Ford, And Verizon. [Detroit Regional Chamber, [Accessed 6/08/21](#)]

The CEO Of The Detroit Regional Chamber Signed A Letter Condemning Efforts To Enact Voter Suppression Legislation In Michigan.

The CEO Of The Detroit Regional Chamber Signed A Letter Condemning Efforts To Enact Voter Suppression Legislation In Michigan. "Business leaders from some of Michigan's largest employers on Tuesday urged the state's Republican-led Legislature to avoid approving any new election laws that would reduce participation or disenfranchise voters. [...] Among the people signing the business group statement was Sandy Baruah, president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, the only business advocacy group represented among the 37 signatures." [Bridge Michigan, [4/13/21](#)]