

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN  
**TERRI SEWELL**  
REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Dear Friend,

This week marks the sixth anniversary of *Shelby v. Holder*, the landmark Supreme Court decision that gutted the Voting Rights Act and left millions of minority voters across the nation vulnerable to the same methods of voter suppression used from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement.

The Voting Rights Act was a pivotal turning point in the Civil Rights Movement. It came on the heels of the murders of Jimmie Lee Jackson in Marion, Alabama, the Reverend James Reeb in Selma, Alabama, and the atrocities of Bloody Sunday, also in Selma.

The VRA worked to protect African Americans' right to register and vote and mandated that states with a history of discrimination and voter suppression submit any proposed changes in voting procedures to the Department of Justice or a federal district court in D.C. before they could go into effect.

[I'm working to protect voting rights and restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Like my Facebook page to learn more.](#)



Reps. Terri Sewell, John Lewis, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others attend a press event on the state of voting rights in America on the sixth anniversary of the *Shelby* decision.

[You can watch video of the press event on Rep. Sewell's Facebook page.](#)

Six years ago, Shelby County, the richest county in Alabama, sued for the removal of Section 5, the provision requiring federal oversight to states with a proven history of voter suppression. The county won, and immediately states across the nation rolled back the clock, simultaneously [shutting down DMVs](#) in majority-minority areas where voters obtain IDs, [restricting](#) the types of IDs accepted on Election Day, [closing polling places](#) and [purging voter rolls](#).

The Court's *Shelby* decision sent a simple message: voter suppression is a problem that our nation has solved. Many states, including Alabama, sent an equally straight-forward response: no, it is not.

It is essential that we work to restore the Voting Rights Act, ensuring every single Alabamian—and American—is able to carry out their Constitutional right to register and vote. As the Congresswoman from America's Civil Rights District, I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which will work to undo the damage of *Shelby v. Holder* and empower the Justice Department to stop voter suppression tactics before they go into place.

**[Are you interested in voting rights? Follow me on Twitter to stay up-to-date on what Congress is doing to make sure every American can register and vote.](#)**

Democracy cannot function without participation and voting access should not be a partisan issue. Our country works better when we work together – when every citizen, regardless of race or gender, can take their seat at the table.

I hope that you all will join me in bringing awareness to this crucial issue and continuing to fight on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced!

I look forward to hearing from you,



Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell



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