



*Adopted September 6, 2006  
Amended July 27, 2022*

## **Resolution The Right to Vote**

**Whereas** the right to vote is fundamental to democracy; and

**Whereas** the United States, the world's oldest continuous democracy, has expanded the franchise throughout her history; and

**Whereas** voter participation in the United States is below that of other industrial democracies; and

**Whereas** older Americans often require extra assistance in voting; and

**Whereas** a record 158.4 million Americans, or 66% of those registered, voted in the 2020 Presidential election, with an unprecedented 46% of voters casting their ballots by mail due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**Whereas** there has been an increase in attempts to restrict the right to vote through unduly burdensome identification requirements such as state-issued photo identification, the elimination of drop boxes to return mail ballots, and restrictions to in-person early voting; and

**Whereas** many older Americans do not have or cannot afford to obtain birth certificates, passports, drivers licenses, or other forms of state issued identification; and

**Whereas** states are reducing the number of polling locations leading to long lines and making voting more difficult; and

**Whereas** measures to combat these anti-democratic policies have found little success; and

**Whereas** Representative John Sarbanes of Maryland introduced the For the People Act, H.R.1, which passed the House on March 3, 2021; and

**Whereas** a similar bill, S.1, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, but was unable to advance as it failed a Senate cloture vote on June 22, 2021.

**Whereas** the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4, which would restore the Voting Rights Act, passed the House of Representatives on August 24, 2021 but failed to obtain cloture in the U.S. Senate on November 3, 2021; and

**Whereas** the Alliance opposes any policy that will erect barriers or make it more difficult for all Americans, especially older Americans, to exercise their constitutional right to vote; and

**Whereas** the Alliance has been actively engaged in litigation since 2020 in 9 states to ensure seniors can cast their ballots without undue burdens and have their votes counted; and

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports:

- The expansion of early voting, vote by mail, and the use

- of no excuse absentee ballots; and
- The ability to vote without burdensome identification requirements; and
  - The availability of ballots for the disabled and visually impaired; and
  - Polling places that are accessible for Americans with disabilities; and
  - Same day voter registration; and
  - Secure ballot drop boxes be added in every state and that they be available 24 hours a day.