

LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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Voter Suppression a Top Concern Among Attorneys Concerned for the Rule of Law

Over 115 attorneys, including former Judges, State and Federal Officials Publish Open Letter to Protect Against Efforts to Suppress the Vote

BOSTON - The Georgia State Primary held this week was widely reported as a “[catastrophe](#),” with voters - largely in minority neighborhoods - confronted with discouragingly long lines, insufficient and broken voting machines. The experience mirrors what was seen in Texas, California and elsewhere during Super Tuesday last March and is a plausible scenario writ large, says **Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD)**.

[In an Open Letter published today](#) and signed by over 115 attorneys from around the country, including prominent law professors and former federal and state officials, the group warned: “For decades, the Republican party has intentionally implemented a strategy of suppressing voter participation – particularly among minority, low-income and young voters – to win elections.”

Voter suppression efforts that must be protected against include: “closing polling places to create long waiting times, giving false information to prospective voters to discourage or prevent them from voting, imposing unnecessary registration requirements, intimidating voters at the polls, and imposing financial obligations as a prerequisite to voting.”

“Seen in light of the President’s very public and partisan statements that [mail-in ballots](#) and [high levels of voting hurt Republicans](#), it’s clear there is a risk that widespread voter suppression efforts could impair the results of the 2020 elections. Active vigilance by lawyers across the nation is necessary to prevent that result,” states former Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court and LDAD Steering Committee member **James F. McHugh**.

Among the signatories of the letter are Harvard Law School Professor **Elizabeth Bartholet**, **former Congressman Henry Waxman**, **Eric Hirschhorn**, former Under Secretary for Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce (2010-2017), and **Cheryl Niro**, Past President of the Illinois State Bar Association.

ABOUT LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Founded in 2019 under the leadership of **former Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger**, LDAD is a 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to fostering adherence to the rule of law. LDAD has issued a variety of Open Letters and statements calling for adherence by public officials to the rule of law and encouraging fellow lawyers, the leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to it.

LDAD's letters have been signed by over 1,500 lawyers around the country, including former federal and state judges, United States Attorneys, law deans, professors, and managing partners of law firms. In late May, the group filed *amicus* briefs in the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals – both for the District of Columbia – in the case of Michael Flynn.

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