
LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

STUDENTS STRENGTHENING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Take the Pledge - Introductory Information

We are facing one of the most consequential times in American history. At stake? Democracy.

American democracy is in grave danger. For years, actions by the federal government have weakened core constitutional principles, and states have passed laws that have moved them [closer to autocratic forms of government](#) than democratic.

As imperfect a form of government as democracy may be, it is the cause of our generation to ensure that we not only protect democracy from autocratic rule, but that we seek to strengthen it at every opportunity.

It is no secret that college students are passionate about addressing social issues ranging from gun violence and mass incarceration to climate justice and wealth inequality. And yet, in 2022, the national youth voter [turnout was just 23%](#). We must do better. **Nothing can change without our active commitment going forward.**

What's going on?

We believe that many younger voters, particularly undergraduate students, are disillusioned with the state of American Democracy. This disillusionment is understandable because, all too often, Congress has been in gridlock and has failed to produce much-needed change. Moreover, as a result of systemic barriers to the right to vote, election results represent the desires of only a portion of the population.

These failures, however, are not intrinsic to democracy, but symptoms of a system where democracy has been under sustained attack and too few of our leaders have stood in its defense.

American Democracy is not perfect, but we're not asking you to fight for things to stay the same. **We're calling on you to make the reality of democracy match its fundamental ideals of freedom, equity, and justice.**

So how can we do that?

An important first step is for students to **take the Pledge**.

The Pledge is a two-part commitment. **First, signers agree that, at some point during their undergraduate experience, they will volunteer or work for an organization protecting and improving democracy in America or abroad.** We will then help connect these passionate students with opportunities to engage with pro-democracy organizations, whether it be an internship or just a few hours of volunteering at a poll station during an election.

The second part of the Pledge is a commitment to vote, the most fundamental value in our democracy and the key to producing meaningful change in government laws and policies.

Interested in Learning More?

You may reach out to us in a variety of ways. Our organizational email address is students@LDAD.org. If you have already been in touch directly with a student from Students Strengthening American Democracy, please also feel free to continue that conversation.

Additional information and resources are also available at www.LDAD.org/student-leaders.

For additional inquiries to Lawyers Defending American Democracy, please feel free to reach out at hello@LDAD.org.