



WE RESOLVE TO...

In 2022 WE RESOLVE TO ...protect the privilege and power of our vote .

The New Year is typically a time to take stock and make resolutions. Let us take stock of this pivotal moment in the future of our democracy, and let us resolve to do everything we can to maintain the sanctity of the vote: our vote, your vote, everyone's vote! In state after state laws are currently being passed to curtail voting rights and pave the way to question the validity of those votes freely and fairly cast. In New Jersey, we have yet to see some of the infringements on voting rights being imposed on citizens of other states around the nation. Should we be concerned about what is happening elsewhere? Yes, a resounding yes! History has taught us to be concerned. It is often said that if we don't learn from the mistakes of the past, we are bound to repeat them. We resolve not to repeat the mistakes of the past, or the result to our democracy will be too dire to imagine.

There is a very well known piece of poetic prose entitled "First They Came", adapted from a confession in a speech given by German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller in 1946. GNBA League member, Stephen Lax, offers this current day analogy:

FIRST THEY CAME - 2021 U.S.A.

First they came for the water bottles given to people waiting on long lines to vote,
AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT - because my polling place never had long lines.

Then they shortened the window to apply for a mail-in-ballot,
AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT - because I voted in person.

Then they reduced the polling place availability,
AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT - because my polling place was still there.

Then they imposed harsher voter ID requirements for in-person voting,
AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT - because I had the preferred ID

Then they significantly reduced polling hours,
AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT - because I am retired and I had plenty of time to vote.

Then they suspended voting altogether - because many people did not seem to care to make the effort to register or to vote ... **AND IT WAS TOO LATE TO SPEAK OUT!**

*Today, laws are being passed with malicious intent in many states around the nation. These laws are coming for our right to vote and are coming for our established and accurate vote counting procedures. **We cannot wait to speak out. We must speak out vigorously, NOW!***

Call your elected officials in Congress and urge them to speak out, and to vote for the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

