

## RESOURCE MATERIALS – UNIT MEETINGS, OCTOBER 2020

### Voter Suppression

While celebrating the Centennial of the passage of women's suffrage (initially white women's suffrage), and in the shadow of the gutting of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that protected the right of all citizens to vote, we have witnessed the erosion of voting rights and threats to fair elections in multiple US states and uncertainty about election transition at the national level.

With the pandemic very much still with us, alternatives to in-person voting could reduce the need for citizens to choose between risking their lives or exercising their basic right to choose those who will represent them. The fact that any state seeks to limit such alternatives has deep implications for a fair election. Here are a few recommended resources to explore as you think through these important issues.

**All In: The fight for Democracy** (3 min. trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4sQBQpVD\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4sQBQpVD_A))  
(Full movie 1 hour 42 min Available on Amazon Prime)

Also see an NPR interview with Stacey Abrams about the documentary at <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/05/909969046/stacey-abrams-discusses-voter-suppression-and-her-new-documentary-appearance>.

A discussion by filmmakers and others at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u482xvZvTxE> (35 min moderated by *Film Independent*) is recommended. It is an excellent reflection on the importance of equal participation in democracy.

Note: The **All In** filmmakers invited Dr. Carol Anderson to participate in the documentary to provide both historical insights and trenchant analysis. Dr. Anderson is a professor of history at Emory University and author of the award winning 2017 book titled **White Rage: the unspoken truth of our racial divide**, as well as the 2018 book titled **One Person No Vote**. **White Rage** documents the repeated backlash against successful efforts to gain fundamental civil rights for African Americans from the Civil war through the Obama presidency. **One Person No Vote** analyzes a variety of successful voter suppression efforts limiting the exercise of the franchise for members of marginalized communities, especially since the Supreme Court (2013) invalidated key protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and will be considering a challenge to other protections of the act in November of 2020.

### Documentaries by Brave New Films with Robert Greenwald:

**Suppressed: The Fight To Vote** (Sept, 2019 free access 38 min—covering 2018 midterm election and Georgia Governor race) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03DGjnlkTdl>

**Suppressed 2020: The Fight to Vote**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rynnRBQwrU> (39 min August, 2020). Builds on 2019 film with coverage of current issues.

Consider watching a premier version of **Suppressed 2020** (1 hour and 7 minutes-- free access) Covers issues from 2018 to present with commentary before and after the film.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rynnRBQwrU>

***Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook***

American Issues Initiative (August, 2020, 1 hour 12 min, free access)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xn7MXFGI9Hs> Clearly presented coverage of the tactics used by particular political interest groups to make voting more difficult for marginalized groups—including the 2010 Project Redmap (to change state legislatures to Republican control), which increased the likelihood for redrawing gerrymandered legislative districts (through cracking or packing) based on the 2010 census, followed by enacting restrictive voter ID laws, gutting the Voting Rights Act, claiming nearly non-existent voter fraud to be a widespread phenomenon, carrying out voter roll purges, promoting voter intimidation (before and during elections), increasing strict voter ID laws in multiple states after 2008 election of Obama, and seeking friendlier federal court judges after courts struck down many strict and targeted voter ID laws. As the North Carolina court said, “the states voter ID laws appeared to target African American communities with almost surgical precision.”