

AGS Statement in Support of Voting Rights

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) believes in a just society, one where all people are full members of our communities and entitled to equal protection and treatment. A just society is key to our mission—improving the health, independence, and quality of life of all older people and persons with disabilities—and our vision for a world where we are all able to contribute to our communities and maintain our health, safety, and independence as we age. That world is one where older people have access to high-quality, person-centered care informed by geriatrics principles and free of all ageism.

That world is also one where older people, many of whom have functional impairments, are able to freely exercise their right to vote. The AGS is increasingly concerned about the reduction in polling places and changes to states' election laws, including strict voter identification requirements, cutbacks in early and absentee voting, restrictions on providing food and water to people waiting in long lines, and restrictions on how and where ballots can be dropped off. We are concerned that these laws are eroding the protections afforded to all older adults with functional impairments by the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and that they will negatively impact access to the ballot for older Americans.

The AGS supports fair and equitable access to the ballot box for all Americans. We urge Congress to take swift action on the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4).

About the American Geriatrics Society

Founded in 1942, the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) is a nationwide, not-for-profit society of geriatrics healthcare professionals that has—for more than 75 years—worked to improve the health, independence, and quality of life of older people. Its nearly 6,000 members include geriatricians, geriatric nurses, social workers, family practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and internists. The Society provides leadership to healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public by implementing and advocating for programs in patient care, research, professional and public education, and public policy. For more information, visit AmericanGeriatrics.org.