# ACLU Let People Vote

Webinar 1/7/17

Questions? Email mailto:info@peoplepower.org / See <https://vote.peoplepower.org/>

**About the WVRA**

**Hearings Tuesday & Wednesday**

Please note that the first \*\* hearings in Olympia on the Washington Voting Rights Act will be at 8am on [Tuesday, 9/1](https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action/11946?akid=42242.81321.LVJxSH&rd=1&source=ppem_42242&t=3) and [Wednesday 10/1](https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action/11947?akid=42242.81321.LVJxSH&rd=1&source=ppem_42242&t=4).

\*\* The Democrats set the agenda this year because Sen. Dhingra defeated a Republican in CD 45 (east of Redmond), which gave Democrats a majority of one. This allows them to control all of the committees and agenda in the Senate.

**The Senate and House Bills**

In the Senate: SB1800 is now [SB6002](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6002&Year=2017) this session.

There is a hearing in committee on [Weds](https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action/11947?akid=42242.81321.LVJxSH&rd=1&source=ppem_42242&t=4). See it online: [State Govt, Tribal Relations & Elections Committee](https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2018011082)

In the House: HB1800 ?

There is a hearing in committee on [Tues](https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action/11946?akid=42242.81321.LVJxSH&rd=1&source=ppem_42242&t=3). Unable to see link to video. May be at [App.Leg.WA.gov](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1800&Year=2017)

**What is in the Act?**

It combats problematic at-large voting in districts by enabling people to sue a city to change from at-large to district-based voting in local elections. An example: if latinos are 40% of the population in a district, the district can be broken into smaller legislative pieces to give latinos a voice. It worked in CA: [NBCNews](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/democrats-dominate-again-washington-state-first-voting-rights-n822551).

[The bill](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/6002.pdf) [An overview](http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Overview.aspx) of the bill process.

**The Hearings Process**

At the hearings, the rooms are small.

1/ If there are enough of us there, we go to overflow rooms and hear the hearings.

2/ We get a photo of all of us for social media

3/ When we get home, we call our member of Congress – and other members to support the act

**Put Pressure On!**

The phone numbers, script and call log: [PeoplePower.org](https://go.peoplepower.org/call/washington-call-voting-rights-act/?source=ppem_42403&t=1&akid=42403%2E81321%2E3QVDhG)

We need a constant drumbeat for a few weeks.

Call and write.

Write [letters to the editor](http://sadfor.us/lttes/).

Have a card writing party and write to your Senators and Reps.

**Backstory**

“In 2012, the Washington State American Civil Liberties Union sued the city of Yakima under the federal Voting Rights Act, claiming the voting system discriminated against Latinos. No Latinos held elected office, despite making up [roughly 40 percent](https://www.yakima.org/yakima/demo.html) of the city's population.

In 2014, a federal judge agreed, saying the majority "routinely suffocates" Latino voting preferences. The Washington ACLU was again successful in a similar lawsuit against the city of Pasco.” [NBCNews](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/democrats-dominate-again-washington-state-first-voting-rights-n822551)