

## HR 12

Voter Empowerment Act of 2013

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jan 23, 2013

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training. (Apr 23, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/12>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** GA • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (179 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Jan 23, 2013
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Jan 23, 2013
Del. Faleomavaega, Eni F. H. [D-AS-At Large]	D · AS		Jan 23, 2013
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jan 23, 2013
Del. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large]	D · MP		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Andrews, Robert E. [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Becerra, Xavier [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Bishop, Timothy H. [D-NY-1]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Braley, Bruce L. [D-IA-1]	D · IA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
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Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]	D · SC		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
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Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Dingell, John D. [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
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Rep. Edwards, Donna F. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
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Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Farr, Sam [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Hahn, Janice [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Hanabusa, Colleen W. [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Holt, Rush [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Horsford, Steven [D-NV-4]	D · NV		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Hoyer, Steny H. [D-MD-5]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Jan 23, 2013

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Levin, Sander M. [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Loebssack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Maffei, Daniel B. [D-NY-24]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. McCarthy, Carolyn [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Michaud, Michael H. [D-ME-2]	D · ME		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Miller, George [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Moran, James P. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Murphy, Patrick [D-FL-18]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Negrete McLeod, Gloria [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Jan 23, 2013

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Schwartz, Allyson Y. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]	D · AL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Tierney, John F. [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Watt, Melvin L. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Jan 23, 2013
Resident Commissioner Pierluisi, Pedro R. [D-PR-At Large]	D · PR		Jan 23, 2013
Rep. Enyart, William L. [D-IL-12]	D · IL		Feb 6, 2013
Rep. Grayson, Alan [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Feb 6, 2013
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Feb 6, 2013

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Apr 12, 2013
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Apr 12, 2013
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		May 16, 2013
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		May 16, 2013
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Jun 6, 2013
Rep. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Jul 11, 2013
Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]	D · IL		Jul 11, 2013
Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1]	D · MA		Sep 10, 2013
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Sep 11, 2013
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2014
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Apr 9, 2014
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Jul 16, 2014

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Committee on House Administration	House	Referred To	Jan 23, 2013
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 23, 2013
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 28, 2013
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 23, 2013
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 4, 2013
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 4, 2013

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 5741	Related bill	Dec 11, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.
113 HR 5719	Related bill	Dec 9, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
113 S 2865	Related bill	Sep 18, 2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
113 S 2550	Related bill	Jun 26, 2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
113 S 123	Identical bill	Jan 23, 2013: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Voter Empowerment Act of 2013 - Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2013 - Amends the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) to require each state to make available official public websites for online voter registration.

Authorizes automated voter registration of certain individuals and establishes other initiatives to promote voter registration, such as same day registration and voter registration of individuals under 18 years of age.

Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit hindering, interfering with, or preventing voter registration.

Amends the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to establish requirements for states to promote access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities, including a single office for providing related information.

Directs the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to make grants to eligible states to conduct pilot programs enabling individuals with disabilities to register to vote and vote privately and independently at their own residences (including by telephone).

Amends HAVA to reauthorize the program of grants to state and local governments to assure voting access for individuals with disabilities.

Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit state or local election officials from preventing an individual from registering or voting in any federal election (voter caging), or from permitting a formal challenge under state law to an individual's registration status or eligibility to vote, if the basis for such decision is evidence consisting of: (1) a voter caging document or voter caging list, (2) an unverified match list, (3) an error or omission on voter application or registration documents that is not material to an individual's eligibility to vote, or (4) any other evidence so designated by the Commission.

Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit a person, including an election official, from knowingly and willfully attempting to or depriving or defrauding the residents of a state of their free and fair exercise of the right to vote by the communication of election-related information that is known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent. Increases the penalty for voter intimidation.

Declares that the right of an individual U.S. citizen to vote in any federal election shall not be denied or abridged because that individual has been convicted of a criminal offense unless he or she is serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution at the time of the election. Prescribes enforcement of this right by public or private civil action.

Requires each state to notify in writing any individual convicted of a criminal offense under state law, upon release from state custody or upon sentence to probation, that he or she has the right to vote in a federal election and so may register to vote.

Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2013 - Amends HAVA to revise requirements for the audit capacity of voting systems, particularly those for a permanent paper record.

Requires the voting system to require the use of an individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballot of the voter's vote that shall be marked and made available for inspection by the voter before the voter's vote is cast and counted, and which shall be counted by hand or read by an optical character recognition device or other counting device. Requires the voting system to provide the voter with an opportunity to correct any system-made error in the voter-verified paper ballot before it is permanently preserved.

Requires the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to make grants to eligible entities to study, test, and develop accessible ballot voting, verification, and casting mechanisms and devices and best practices to enhance the accessibility of paper ballot voting and verification mechanisms for individuals with disabilities, for voters whose primary language is not English, and for voters with difficulties in literacy.

Prescribes requirements for: (1) publication of poll tapes, (2) treatment of ballots cast at early voting sites and of absentee ballots, and (3) the counting of provisional ballots that will be treated as votes.

Prescribes laboratory conflict-of-interest requirements and prohibitions.

Requires the NSF Director to make grants to eligible entities to conduct research on the development of election-dedicated voting system software.

Requires each state, except when the winning candidate had no opponent or received 80% or more of the votes, to administer audits of federal election results, without advance notice to the precincts selected, consisting of random hand counts of the voter-verified paper ballots.

Requires the Election Auditor of a state, as soon as practicable after the completion of an audit, to submit the results to EAC for publication.

Prohibits certification of the results of any election until completion of audits.

Amends HAVA to: (1) add requirements for counting provisional ballots, (2) require each state to allow early voting and facilitate the ability of voters to vote by mail.

Amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the guarantee of voting residency to family members of absent military personnel.

Amends the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act with respect to pre-election reports on availability and transmission of absentee ballots.

Revises the 45-day absentee ballot transmission rule.

Permits use of a single absentee ballot application for subsequent elections.

Entitles to leave a federal employee who serves as a poll worker.

Directs the EAC to: (1) make a grant to each eligible state for poll-worker recruitment and training, and (2) develop materials for a model state poll worker training program.

Amends HAVA to make available to any person aggrieved by a violation of uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements the option to file a complaint with the Attorney General or pursue a private right of action to enforce such requirements.

Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to make it unlawful for a chief state election administration official, unless he or she or a family member is a candidate, to take an active part in political management or in a political campaign for federal office over which such official has supervisory authority.

Amends NVRA to treat universities as voter registration agencies.

Amends HAVA to establish minimum notification requirements on behalf of voters affected by polling place changes.

Directs the Attorney General to: (1) coordinate the establishment of a state-based response system for responding to questions and complaints from individuals voting or seeking to vote, or registering to vote or seeking to, in federal elections; (2) establish and operate a toll-free telephone service to connect directly to such response system; and (3) appoint a Voter Hotline Task Force.

Makes requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and HAVA applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Amends HAVA to: (1) reauthorize and extend the EAC, and (2) repeal its exemption from certain government contracting requirements.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 23, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.
- **Feb 28, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution And Civil Justice.
- **Feb 4, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.
- **Feb 4, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 23, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 23, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E54)
- **Jan 23, 2013:** Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Science, Space, and Technology, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.