

## HR 2978

Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jun 21, 2017

**Current Status:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E999-1000)

**Latest Action:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E999-1000) (Jul 17, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2978>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]

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

## Cosponsors (193 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 21, 2017
Del. Plaskett, Stacey E. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]	D · SC		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]	D · PA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Hanabusa, Colleen [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Heck, Denny [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Hoyer, Steny H. [D-MD-5]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kihuen, Ruben J. [D-NV-4]	D · NV		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Levin, Sander M. [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. McEachin, A. Donald [D-VA-4]	D · VA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jun 21, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Pelosi, Nancy [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV-3]	D · NV		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]	D · MD		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]	D · IL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]	D · OR		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jun 21, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Jun 22, 2017
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Jun 22, 2017
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Jun 22, 2017
Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1]	D · MA		Jul 25, 2017
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Aug 11, 2017
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Aug 25, 2017
Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-18]	D · PA		Jul 24, 2018
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Sep 20, 2018
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Sep 20, 2018
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Sep 20, 2018
Rep. Morelle, Joseph D. [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Dec 20, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 10, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1419	Identical bill	Jun 22, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3733-3734)

## **Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017**

This bill amends the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to allow a representative official of an Indian tribe, with authorization from the governing body of the tribe, to request one or more polling places to be located on tribal lands. The state or political subdivision shall provide each requested polling place at no expense to the Indian tribe if certain criteria are met.

A federal court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce constitutional voting guarantees, but also certain violations of the Act as well as of any federal prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, for an appropriate period to prevent commencement of new devices to deny or abridge the right to vote.

Any state (and all of its political subdivisions) shall be subject to certain requirements for a 10-year period if:

- 15 or more voting rights violations occurred there during the previous 25 years; or
- 10 or more violations occurred during the previous 25 years, at least one of which was committed by the state itself (as opposed to a political subdivision within it).

A state or political subdivision that obtains a declaratory judgment that it has not used a device to deny or abridge the right to vote shall be exempt from such requirements unless specified.

This bill prescribes transparency requirements regarding any changes to specified matters.

Department of Justice authority to assign observers receives new extensions.

Courts shall grant preliminary injunctive relief if a complainant raises a serious question whether the challenged covered practice violates the Act or the Constitution and, on balance, the hardship imposed upon the defendant by the relief will be less than the hardship on the plaintiff if the relief were not granted.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 17, 2017:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E999-1000)
- **Jul 10, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jun 21, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 21, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.