

Proposed Resolution No. 2

Submitted by: Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director

Voting Rights for All

WHEREAS, in a democracy, the right to vote is inalienable and fundamental; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote in America has come under attack, based upon false allegations of voter fraud; and

WHEREAS, prior to the 2012 elections, 180 bills were introduced in 41 states to challenge the fundamental right of all Americans to vote, and before that, 27 voter suppression laws were passed in 19 states, requiring voters to supply proof of citizenship in order to register and photo identification in order to vote; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, 17 states have passed even more voter suppression laws that may take effect in time for the 2016 federal elections; and

WHEREAS, such voter ID laws are tantamount to voter suppression, as are other attempts to disenfranchise large numbers of American voters, such as the reduction of early voting dates, the use of out-of-date voting machines, the biased purging of voter rolls, and the establishment of superficial obstacles to voter registration; and

WHEREAS, studies show that these practices, many of which are being proposed by far-right groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and are funded by the billionaire Koch brothers, have a disproportionately adverse impact on minority groups and operate in the interest of a few wealthy individuals rather than the country as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the action of the Supreme Court in its 2013 decision in Shelby County v. Holder, which invalidated a key provision of the 1965 Voting Rights

Act, has facilitated the disenfranchisement practices in many of the problem states;
and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts at voter suppression, the movement to get out the vote is as strong as ever;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPMHU should join with allied organizations at the local, state, and national level to secure legislation and enforce constitutional provisions to ensure an untarnished right to vote for all Americans;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NPMHU goes on record to oppose each of the aforementioned attempts to disenfranchise the American people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NPMHU urges Congress to adopt the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act, co-sponsored by Representatives Jim Sensenbrenner from Wisconsin and John Conyers from Michigan, to restore the full protections adopted by Congress in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and to restore, under that legislation, the authority of the federal courts to stop the discriminatory practices of voter suppression and disenfranchisement.