



New York City Comptroller
John C. Liu

STATEMENT

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Contact: Matthew Sweeney, (212) 669-3747

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LIU STATEMENT ON VOTER SUPPRESSION

New York, NY - Comptroller John C. Liu stated the following in response to questions about the “Stand for Freedom” march and rally on Saturday, December 10, UN Human Rights Day:

“At a time when our nation faces profound issues, we should be enhancing voting rights and participation. Instead, it is simply shocking how voter suppression measures have only intensified. Worse yet, this coordinated attack on voting rights seems well-oiled by New York's wealthiest.

“The political landscape across the country has been altered dramatically in recent years, threatening to bring back the specters of government-sanctioned discrimination and second-class citizenship. Stand for Freedom on Saturday, December 10, UN Human Rights Day, to protect the American Dream and the unalienable right to vote.”

Background

On December 10 — UN Human Rights Day — Comptroller Liu will join a coalition of civil rights leaders to protest the attacks on voting rights by state legislatures across the country. The “Stand for Freedom” march and rally will begin at 61st Street and Madison Avenue at the headquarters of leading voter suppression funders, The Koch brothers, and will conclude across the street from the United Nations at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th Street and Second Avenue.

In dozens of states, new rules will create a modern-day poll tax by requiring voters to obtain and present official photo ID in order to cast a ballot. While voters in some states can request free photo IDs from state motor vehicles departments, they must still pay to obtain underlying documents, such as birth certificates, necessary to get the photo ID, possibly discouraging them from voting as a result.

In many of these same states, new laws significantly cut early voting and Sunday voting opportunities and strip the right of reformed criminal offenders to vote. Reports show these laws disproportionately impact African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, seniors, students, working women and immigrants.

More information about the December 10 Voting Rights March and rally and the issues can be found at www.stand4freedom.org.

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