

HOW THE NYVRA FIGHTS VOTER INTIMIDATION

The NYVRA protects your rights as a New York voter

The 2022 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York sets a new standard for protecting voters of color at the state level. To learn about all its key provisions, visit www.naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act/.

What is "voter intimidation"?

- Voter intimidation occurs when someone does or says something that makes you feel unsafe about exercising your right to vote. Intimidation might pressure you into voting a certain way, or to not to vote at all.

Does this happen in New York?

- Yes! In the 1870s, factory owners told their workers it was either "your job or your vote."
- In 2020, bad actors directed 5,949 robocalls with threatening and deceptive claims about voting by mail to phone numbers with New York area codes.
- That same year, poll workers made racist remarks to an individual of Asian descent as they directed them to a voting booth.



What are examples of illegal voter intimidation?

- Phone calls claiming that bad things will happen if someone votes -- for example, that their information will be used by law enforcement, credit card companies, or ICE.
- Having police officers take down the license plate numbers of people going to voter registration meetings.
- Physically blocking a polling place.
- Pretending to be an election official, either at the polling place or by visiting you at your home, and suggesting your vote was illegal.

Voting intimidation takes many forms. It can be illegal even if there are no threats of physical violence. As long as the action, in context, would reasonably have the effect of interfering with, coercing, or threatening a person's voting rights, it may be illegal voter intimidation prohibited by the NYVRA.

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What should I do if I see or experience voter intimidation?

Call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Assistance is also available in Spanish at 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888- 839-8682), in Arabic at 844-YALLA-US (844-915-5187), and Asian languages at 888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683). A video American Sign Language line is available at 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683).

Notify your local election official.

Document what you saw or experienced.

Contact one of the organizations listed below.

Contact the New York Attorney General office's voter protection hotline through phone, at 866-390-2992; email, at election.hotline@ag.ny.gov; or by filling out their Election Complaint Form online, at www.electionhotline.ag.ny.gov. Reports and complaints are accepted in any language.

If you fear imminent physical harm, call 911.

How does the NYVRA protect against voter intimidation?

- The NYVRA empowers New Yorkers to sue a person or group engaged in intimidation, deception, or obstruction.
- The NYVRA prohibits interference with access to the polls or delays in the voting process.
- The NYVRA instructs courts to remedy acts of intimidation or obstruction with appropriate remedies, which may include more time to vote or money damages to the voter.
- The NYVRA bans voter intimidation no matter who does it -- including private individuals, campaigns, law enforcement, or officials.

YOUR NEW RIGHTS UNDER THE NYVRA EXPLAINED. FIGHT BACK AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION.

LEARN ABOUT THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE NYVRA:
naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act