



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT FROM MARC ELIAS:

Another Voting Rights Victory in Minnesota

Today, less than 24 hours since our win in federal court, we achieved another major victory for voting rights in Minnesota!

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Ahead of the August primary, the state [settled both claims in our Four Pillars case](#) and agreed to abandon two significant vote by mail restrictions.

Last month, sponsored by the **National Redistricting Foundation**, we challenged the state's **requirement that every mail-in ballot be witnessed by a registered Minnesota voter or notary, as well as the requirement that all mail ballots be received by 8:00 PM on Election Day in order to be counted.** While both of these restrictions would have hindered vote by mail on their own, the unprecedented public health crisis caused by COVID-19 would have only intensified the disenfranchising impact of these laws on Minnesotans: if left intact, voters would have been forced to choose between their fundamental right to vote and their physical safety.

In today's consent decree, Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon, agreed to a partial settlement that **stopped the enforcement of both the Witness Requirement and the Election Day Receipt Deadline for mail-in ballots.** However, these changes will only be enforced for the August primary. We will continue our litigation for the November general election.

If you take a look at [our cases map](#), you might be surprised to see that we are suing a number of Democratic-controlled states. The truth about voter suppression is that bad laws are *everywhere*: **if we don't look closely at old voting laws, hundreds of thousands of voters will still be disenfranchised in November.** Minnesota is one of those states. While this settlement will certainly protect voters from disenfranchisement in August, we must continue this litigation ahead of November.

As we saw in the [Washington Post](#), Trump's attacks on vote by mail have "**fueled an unprecedented effort by conservatives to limit expansion...with tens of millions of dollars planned for lawsuits and advertising aimed at restricting who receives ballots and who remains on the voter rolls.**" We will continue the fight against voter suppression – in both Republican and Democrat-controlled states – to ensure a democratic election in November.

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