



FORT WORTH TARRANT COUNTY
NAACP
CHARTERED 1934

1063 EVANS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76104
(817) 332-8919
FTW.NAACP.INFO@GMAIL.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Worth Tarrant County NAACP - Voter Rights Belief

FORT WORTH, TX -- We believe that the citizens of Fort Worth should have a say in their government, which is why the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has and will continue to support important legislation regarding the right to vote. The *Voting Rights Act* is central to our Nation's efforts to eradicate racial discrimination and secure equal opportunity for all Americans.

Since 1909 the NAACP has fought and advocated for every qualified U.S. citizen to have the right to vote. Since 1934 the Fort Worth Tarrant County Branch has done the same in our local community.

An elected official's support of voting rights demonstrates a strong sense of leadership and should not be contingent on an election cycle or the majority party. Just as the U.S. Constitution provides a national provision for all eligible voters, cities must acknowledge this provision and support and exercise diligence to stop actions that promote voter suppression.

The main components of the John Lewis Voting Rights Bill are:

- To make sure there is trouble free voting
- To ensure that the mechanisms our cities and counties have put in place are fair and accountable to the election process
- To restore public trust in the counting of the election process and to ensure that a legitimate vote cast is a vote counted.

These three provisions are already contained in the 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. How can a true city leader not support the Constitution?

This is a time for leadership to step up – not a moment to pass on an opportunity to join others who support voter equality. Effective voting rights is not an issue that just affects people of color, it affects all qualified American voters who seek the right to unfettered access to the ballot. Therefore, Mayor Parker, it is a matter of principle and a matter of urgency that you address and publicly acknowledge reasons for your refusal to sign in support of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Executive Board & Members
Fort Worth Tarrant County NAACP
Estella Williams, President

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