

Michigan Lawmakers Repeal Voter Restriction Law

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<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/disability-old-s444.jpg>



Repeal of the Voter Transportation Ban, which made it a criminal offense to hire paid transportation to take voters to the polls, came quickly on the heels of a lawsuit filed by a group of voting rights advocacy organizations.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Recently Michigan lawmakers repealed the state’s century-old voter transportation ban, which made it a criminal offense to hire paid transportation to take voters to the polls. The voter transportation ban, which was a product of 19th-century attempts to suppress the votes of the poor, had only a single, narrow exception for voters who are “physically unable to walk.”

With the ban repealed, Michigan voters will be able to take advantage of free rides to the polls funded by churches, civic and grassroots organizations, and ridesharing companies. Michigan was the last state in the United States with such a ban.

The repeal of the ban came quickly on the heels of a lawsuit filed earlier this summer by a group of voting rights advocacy organizations—**Detroit Disability Power, Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans, Michigan Clergy Connects, and Priorities USA**—and an individual voter. The lawsuit was funded and supported by Priorities USA.

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