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The Truth Behind the Midterms: Voter Suppression

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To the readers of The Wall Street Journal,

On November 6, 2018, over 47 percent of eligible voters headed to the polls to cast their votes in the midterm elections for the candidates who best represented their beliefs. This is the highest percentage of voters doing their civic duty since 1966, when 49 percent of eligible voters participated in the midterms elections.

It is absolutely amazing that a whopping 110 million+ people showed up to their local polls. Unfortunately though, even more people showed up to the polls, and not all of them were able to cast their ballots, due to voter suppression.

In Georgia, Congressional candidate and past Georgia Secretary of State, Brian Kemp, put 53,000 voter registrations on hold, by using an error-prone "exact match" system, which stops voter registration from occurring if there are any small errors on their voter registration forms. Almost 70 percent of these voters are black and/or low-income. Georgia isn't the only state that is being suspected of voter suppression. Nevada, Indiana, and Florida, also recently rid hundreds of civilians from their right to vote.

In North Dakota, republicans passed a new requirement that voters must have a residential address to vote, which stopped hundreds of Native Americans from doing their civic duty, due to their reservations not having technical residential addresses. Many believe that this choice was made to get Democratic Congresswoman Heidi Heitkamp out of her seat, after receiving strong support from the Native American community in 2012.

If you, too, believe that voter suppression is an unfair tampering of poll results, visit brennancenter.org, a non-partisan public policy and law institute that focuses on the fundamental issues of democracy and justice.