



Ethical Action Report



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Voter Rights and Voter Registration: Contact the Department of Justice to Protect our Right to Vote

Write to Attorney General Mukasey and the Department of Justice to ensure your right to vote this November. Ask that they immediately take steps to investigate voter suppression tactics; declare unacceptable recent challenges of voter registrants whose houses have been foreclosed; investigate allegations of efforts to remove voters from the registration rolls in several states including Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, Nevada and North Carolina; and ensure that the DOJ and the FBI not engage in partisan fraud prosecutions.

Please send your letters to:
Attorney General Michael Mukasey
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

BACKGROUND

All eligible voters should have access to the voting booth, but recent concerns about voter registration and potential voter fraud may put that right in jeopardy. In the remaining days before the polls open on November 4, make sure the Department of Justice does all it can to ensure your right to vote.

To share your views with the Secular Coalition for America (SCA) contact ken@karp.com or go to www.secular.org.

GLBT Equality: Support Marriage Equality for All

Sign the Human Right Campaign's petition in support of the right of every American to marry, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender couples:

http://www.hrcactioncenter.org/campaign/millionformarriageac_video.

BACKGROUND

Several ballot initiatives this Election Day will attempt to deny marriage equality. Both Proposition 8 in California and Amendment 2 in Florida would define marriage as solely between one man and one woman, and Proposition 8 would eliminate the hard-won right of same-sex couples to marry in California.

Eliminating fundamental rights is wrong. Support efforts to make marriage equality a reality and stand up against discrimination.

Human Rights: Improve Prison Conditions at Guantanamo

Write to Joint Task Force commander at Guantanamo, Admiral David M. Thomas, and call for the improvement of conditions for detainees. Urge that supermax-like units are limited, that detainees have access to more regular phone calls and videoconferencing with family members, that detainees be allowed to recreate in group settings, and that detainees are provided with educational opportunities.

Please send your letters to:

Admiral David M. Thomas
Joint Task Force Commander
Department of Defense
Joint Task Force Guantánamo
Guantánamo Bay, Cuba
APO AE 09360

BACKGROUND

Approximately 250 detainees remain at the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and President Bush has recently decided not to close the prison any time soon, despite past declarations that he wished to do so. In the meantime, more than two-thirds of the detainees—including many cleared for release or transfer—are being held in inhumane conditions. Many spend the majority of their time in isolation, cut off from contact from their family, and given little to occupy their time. Many say they are suffering from depression and anxiety disorders, and some have reported hearing voices and having visions.

The United States must live up to its international commitments and end the mental and physical suffering of detainees, most of whom have never been charged with a crime.

Equal Justice: Stop Sentencing Discrimination (S. 1711 and H.R. 4545)

Write to your representatives and senators in Congress and ask them to co-sponsor the Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act, (S. 1711 and H.R. 4545).

BACKGROUND

Currently, crack cocaine offenders are punished more severely than any other drug offenders under federal sentencing law. For example, dealing or possession of 5 grams of crack cocaine will land someone in jail for five years under mandatory minimum sentence guidelines—the exact sentence for someone dealing or possessing 500 grams of powder cocaine.

This disparity in sentencing has resulted in a disproportionate number of African-Americans sentenced under this mandatory minimum law—historically the majority of crack cocaine offenders are black. In 2006, African-Americans made up 82 percent of all crack cocaine-related arrests.

Legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate to end the 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences: The Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act. Ask your representatives and senators to support this legislation today!

Healthy Environment: Support the Clean Water Restoration Act (H.R. 2421/S. 1870)

Write to your representatives in Congress and urge them to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act (H.R. 2421/S. 1870). Help protect our nation's lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands from pollution and destruction.

BACKGROUND

Congress first passed the Clean Water Act in 1972. However, the progress that has been made in protecting and cleaning up our nation's waters is now in jeopardy. Many argue that the law only applies to "navigable" waterways, leaving many other bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands vulnerable.

The Clean Water Restoration Act is needed to restore intended protections to these vital waters.

Contacting Elected Officials

White House

Mailing Address

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Number

Comments: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461

E-mail

President George W. Bush:
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Richard Cheney:
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Congress

Mailing Address

United States Senate
or

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Phone Number

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

E-mail

Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov
to use your representatives' e-mail
contact forms.

To share your views on national legislation with the Secular Coalition for America (SCA) go to
www.secular.org.

American Ethical Union • 2 West 64th Street • New York, NY 10023

American Humanist Association • 1777 T Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009

Editor: Karen Frantz (800) 837-3792

report@americanhumanist.org

rlkiniry@sbcglobal.net, report@aeu.org

AEU National Representative for local ethical societies: Ken Karp ken@karp.com

AHA National Representative for chapters and affiliates: Lindsay Gemberling

lgemberling@americanhumanist.org