

VOTING RIGHTS: THE STRUGGLE TO BE COUNTED



As we approach the critical midterm election on November 8, 2022, the future of our democracy hangs in the balance. Photographer, film producer and social justice activist, Phil Portlock is presenting his timely 25-minute film, ***"VOTING RIGHTS: THE STRUGGLE TO BE COUNTED"***. With creative use of music, powerful images and narration by his wife Pat Sloan, the film traces the long and often brutal struggle by African Americans to gain and maintain the unrestricted right to be counted at the ballot box.

This film is Phil's response to the June 25, 2013 U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in the *Shelby v Holder Voting Rights Case*. The five conservative justices declared Section 4b (the coverage clause), and Section 5 (the preclearance clause) of the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act unconstitutional.

The decision led to the enactment of hundreds of voter restrictive and suppression laws in at least 29 states. These laws have impacted millions of eligible voters.

In May of 1865, Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, orator and newspaper founder said, ***"Slavery has not been abolished until the Black Man has the right to vote"***.

A VOTELESS PEOPLE IS A VOICELESS PEOPLE, STAND UP AND BE COUNTED. VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!