



Source: U.S. House of Representatives

“... your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union.”

**John R. Lewis**, civil rights leader and Georgia congressman, quote from speech given during the Democratic

National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. in September 2012

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During his speech at the convention, Congressman Lewis drew parallels between the civil rights movement of the 1960s, in which he played a prominent role, and the contemporary struggles for equality, urging Americans to stand up for justice and participate actively in the democratic process.

Lewis highlighted the importance of protecting voting rights and ensuring that all citizens have equal access to the ballot box and warned against efforts to disenfranchise voters. Throughout his speech, he invoked themes of hope, perseverance, and unity, asking Americans to come together to build a better future for all.

Lewis and others fought for change to obtain equal rights, including equal access to vote.

Can you find examples of people today speaking up and out about the importance of voting and/or about hope, perseverance, and unity to help build a better future for all?

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