

How do these ALEC bills limit democratic participation?

These bills limit the democratic influence of average Americans in favor of corporations by:



- [Disenfranchising disabled, low-income, elderly, people-of-color, and student voters](#) who move more frequently or do not drive, by requiring all voters show a state ID at the polls -- even though counties have traditionally accepted other proofs of residence without any significant problems.
- [Opposing public financing of elections](#) designed to reduce the influence of moneyed interests, and justifying their position with the plainly untrue assertion that "campaign contributions have no effect upon legislative behavior."
- [Anticipating unlimited secret spending in the 2010 midterm elections](#) and releasing a resolution opposing the disclosure of donors, before many others recognized how corporations, CEOs, and corporate front groups would hide behind non-disclosure rules and funnel hundreds of millions of dollars into the 2010 elections, with more to come in 2012.
- [Opposing the use of statistical sampling](#) to get an accurate count of urban people of color and immigrants in the U.S. Census, although many modern countries use such cost-effective and accurate tools to conduct their census. Some politicians have expressed concern that this would increase the number of electoral votes and districts to favor Democrats.
- [Opposing "false statement" laws passed by states](#) designed to ensure that campaign ads do not mislead voters with false statements.

To see a full list of these bills, [click here](#)

Some of this Corporate Agenda Has Already Become Law



Taking a page from the ALEC corporate playbook, in May 2011 Wisconsin Governor and ALEC alumni Scott Walker signed into law one of the most restrictive Voter ID restrictions in the country. Wisconsin's bill would allow a narrow list of IDs for voting, including driver's licenses and state-issued ID cards. According to a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee study, about 177,000 Wisconsinites aged 65 and older do not have state-issued IDs. Statewide, only 45 percent of African American males and 51 percent of females have a valid drivers license. The bill makes it particularly burdensome for college students to vote, a group who overwhelmingly supported Obama in 2008. The Wisconsin bill is a more detailed version of ALEC's [Voter ID Act](#) of 2009. To pay for the Voter ID bill, the Wisconsin Joint Finance committee raided the money set aside for the public financing of campaigns, ending a 34-year tradition of public financing for elections in Wisconsin -- in conformity with ALEC's [Resolution Opposing Taxpayer Financing of Political Campaigns](#). Learn more [here](#).