

# AIUSA LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDE

## PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

FALL 2026

**\*THANK YOU\*** for your interest in submitting a Letter to the Editor (LTE) to your local newspaper. The Trump administration is attacking the right to vote, seeking to restrict who can vote, and intimidating voters away from the polls. This is an opportunity to advocate for our human right to vote in genuine elections and raise awareness of the rising threats to this right. In submitting an LTE, you can amplify our advocacy and help ensure that citizens can participate in elections this fall without intimidation, discrimination or violence. ***Your voice and perspective can make a difference!***

### WHAT IS AN LTE AND HOW CAN IT HELP?

- An LTE is a short letter responding to a published piece or news story.
- You can use LTEs to amplify your core message to a broad range of audiences. LTEs help build the credibility, visibility, and reach of our work.
- LTEs can raise public awareness of an issue and help shape public perception. They can energize readers, influence policymakers, and bring more supporters to the movement.
- Your LTE could remind local officials of their responsibility to protect the right to vote, raise the alarm on President Trump's threats to voting rights, and inspire readers to join movements that safeguard elections.

### BEFORE YOU START: KEY THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN WRITING AN LTE

**BE TIMELY.** Media outlets are more likely to select LTEs that respond to a recently published article. Check your local outlet for articles that are relevant to our campaign on voting rights. These articles could be about the upcoming elections, voter intimidation, the [SAVE Act](#) (a Bill in Congress), or President Trump's allegations of voter fraud. Once you find a relevant article, you can draft an LTE using our messaging on the right to vote. Be sure to refer to the article in your letter. And the media cycle moves fast, so try to submit your LTE as promptly as possible.

**KEEP IT STRAIGHTFORWARD AND AVOID JARGON.** Since LTEs are brief, it is important to get straight to the point. Letters should be straightforward and easy to understand. Avoid using jargon, rhetoric, or confusing terms that your readers may not comprehend. *Your letter should be accessible to a general audience.*

**KNOW YOUR FACTS.** Focus on making one key point, and use a few key facts/statistics, or a very brief story, to support your argument.

**TAKE TIME AND THOUGHT.** Organize your letter logically. Address the issue, make your statement, present solid evidence, and include your call to action.

**STAND OUT.** Keep in mind that newspapers receive hundreds of letters every day; yours has to stand out in order to get published. Don't forget to present your experience, add a personal touch, and work the local angle. *Adding a personal touch will help your LTE stand out.*

**REMEMBER AIUSA'S POLICIES.** Amnesty International takes no position for or against any political ideology, candidate, party, or official. Your LTE should advocate for the right to vote - and steer clear of promoting or supporting any political party or candidate. We cannot say anyone should vote for or against certain parties or candidates, but we *can* point out attacks on the right to vote by those in power and call people to action to defend our voting rights.

**RE-READ, LOOK AT WORD COUNT, AND SUBMIT!** Many outlets now have an online form that makes submission easy, so look for that. If you have any questions or would like AIUSA to review your letter, please contact the Press Team at [media@aiusa.org](mailto:media@aiusa.org) or Shanzeh Haque (Press Officer) at [shaque@aiusa.org](mailto:shaque@aiusa.org). We're more than happy to help you review and submit your LTE!