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# Journalist Ari Berman examines resurgence of voter suppression for Oakland lecture series

By [Oakland North](#) on October 2, 2019 at 4:37 PM



Journalist Ari Berman warns of a resurgence of voter suppression since the election of former President Barack Obama.

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On Saturday night, around 200 Bay Area residents streamed into the banquet hall at the Marriott City Center in downtown Oakland to hear award-winning *Mother Jones* journalist Ari Berman talk about the state of U.S. democracy in light of what he sees as a resurgence of voter suppression since the election of former President Barack Obama.

“What kind of democracy are we going to have?” Berman asked, eliciting pensive nods from the crowd.

His speech was the 21<sup>st</sup> lecture in the Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series, a program that promotes the vision of the congresswoman and former Oakland mayor and responds to a question posed by Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Where do we go from here: chaos or community?” The Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center, a civic engagement organization founded by Lee, Harris and other Oakland organizers, along with the Peralta Community College District produced the event.

Berman ascended to the podium and delivered his speech in a measured tone peppered by the occasional quip. “My come-to-Jesus moment, even though I’m Jewish,” he said at one point, breaking into a smile and prompting appreciative chuckles throughout the crowd, “was after the 2010 election.”

**[Read the rest of the story by Amalya Dubrovsky at Oakland North.](#)**