

# Countering democratic backsliding: **The Role of Unions**

## *Hardy Merriman*

U.S. democracy is rapidly backsliding, with growing impacts on people in cities and towns nationwide. Programs and institutions that once seemed stable are changing quickly, and it is challenging to figure out where, when and how best to respond. Yet democratic backsliding is not a new phenomenon. It has occurred in countries around the world, received significant attention, and a growing body of knowledge can help us identify effective options to meet this moment. In particular, labor unions can play a powerful role in pushing back against rising authoritarianism. This session will share key research findings and practitioner insights that can help people develop effective strategies for this critical moment.

**Hardy Merriman is an independent consultant supporting movements that advance human rights, freedom and justice around the world.**



 **Monday, July 14**

 **4 - 5 p.m.**

 **Virtual by Zoom**

**SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO  
REGISTER.**

[massteacher.org/  
mtaforums](https://massteacher.org/mtaforums)

