If you’re not at the table you’re on the menu...

VOTER REGISTRATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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**A QUICK HISTORY**

- **1776** - DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
- **1788** - THE CONSTITUTION
  - 15th Amendment (1870) - African-Americans
  - 19th Amendment (1920) - Women
  - 24th Amendment (1964) - Poll Taxes
  - 26th Amendment (1971) - Voting Age 18
- **1965** - VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- **2013** - SHELBY V. HOLDER

*“This is Selma, Alabama. There are more negroes in jail with me than there are on the voting rolls”*
- Martin Luther King Jr. (1965)
TODAY…

- Banning of people convicted of a felony
- Requiring photo ID
- Requiring proof of citizenship
- Reducing early and absentee days
- Misinformation campaigns
- US Territories
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT VOTER SUPPRESSION?

- **National level advocacy** - Support legislation that restores the power in the Voting Rights Act.
- **State level advocacy** - Support efforts in your state that expand access to voting and oppose those that do otherwise.
- **Community level advocacy** - Participate in Voter Registration and Engagement!

I NEED YOU TO REGISTER PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO VOTE!
VOTING IS IMPORTANT

• We are all impacted by the decisions of who we vote (or don’t vote) for.
• People experiencing homelessness are underrepresented
• It is empowering
• It is our mission
• The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 encourages nonprofits to register historically underrepresented groups.

• The Act also requires outstationed Medicaid eligibility workers to do voter registration.

• Court cases have repeatedly ruled that you do not need a home to vote.
A WORD OF CAUTION

• NEVER MAKE A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION OF A CANDIDATE OR PARTY

• ADHERE TO ALL STATE AND LOCAL LAWS
OPTIONS FOR INTEGRATING VOTER REGISTRATION

- Materials in lobby
- Registering during intake
- Include in case management
- Voter registration drives
- CAB sponsorship
- Find community partners
PLAN FOR COMMON BARRIERS

• No Time
• No ID
• No Home
• Criminal Record
CHECK LOCAL LAWS FOR REQUIREMENTS

- Mailing Address
- Photo Identification
- Citizenship
- Criminal Background
VOTER REGISTRATION AT HOUSTON HCH

• Consumer Driven
• Every Monday year-round
• Extensive work with local election board
• Get out the vote campaign
KNOW YOUR TIMELINE & PLAN ACCORDINGLY

KNOW THE REGISTRATION DEADLINES*

In Person → Election Day
By Mail → Received 21 days before Election
Online → 21 day before election

KNOW THE ELECTION DATES*

• Primary- August 14th
• General Election- November 5th

* Dates provided are for Minnesota 2018 Elections
REGISTRATION DOS AND DON’TS

**DO**
- Assist with forms
- Educate about voting process
- Offer the HCH project as a mailing address
- Discuss importance of policy
- Offer to mail in forms
- Check state/county law

**DON’T**
- Refuse anyone the opportunity to register
- Attach information to the registration forms
- Discuss the candidates’ positions on issues
- Have any materials endorsing candidates or parties
**OTHER ELECTION ACTIVITIES**

- **Leading up to the election**
  - Early voting
  - Absentee ballots
  - Locating polling places
  - Sample ballots, voting machines
  - Non-partisan issue education

- **On election day**
  - Transportation to the polls
  - Go the polls together
  - Get out the vote rally
  - Volunteers at polling places
RESOURCES

• Registration deadlines ⇒ https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/voter-registration-deadlines/
• Election dates ⇒ https://www.usvotefoundation.org/vote/state-elections/state-election-dates-deadlines.htm
• Nonprofit guide to nonpartisan activities ⇒ https://www.nonprofitvote.org/nonprofits-voting-elections-online/voter-registration/
• General info on registration and voting process ⇒ https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote
• Comprehensive voter registration guides ⇒ http://www.projectvote.org/issues/civic-engagement/state-vr-guides/
• More trainings and research ⇒ https://www.nonprofitvote.org/
QUESTIONS?

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The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have.

-John Lewis