

**OUR HOMES**

**OUR VOTES**

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



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**Voting While Experiencing  
Homelessness**

# Agenda

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- **Introduction and Key Resources for Voting While Experiencing Homelessness**
  - Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer, NLIHC
- **Tenant Talk: Housing is Built with Ballots**
  - Sidney Betancourt, housing advocacy organizer, NLIHC
- **Overcoming Voter Identification Barriers**
  - Kat Calvin, founder, Spread the Vote and Project ID
- **Registering Voters in Encampments**
  - Jessica Margeson, tenant organizer, Granite State Organizing Project & Sue Corby, Coordinator, Welcoming Manchester

# Welcome and Introduction and Key Resources for Voting While Experiencing Homelessness

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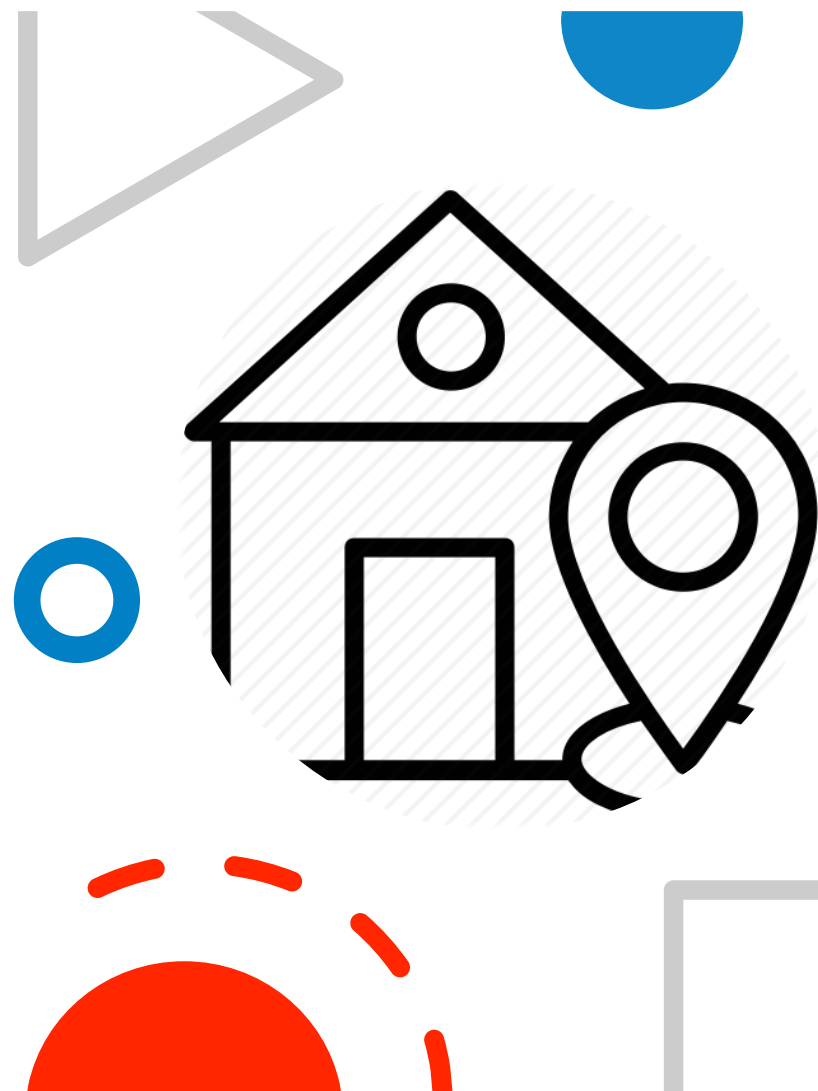
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# Voting Without a Permanent Address

- Voters CAN register and vote without a permanent residential address!
- *Pitts v. Black* (1984): court case affirming that citizens without residential addresses have the right to vote
  - The state can expand the definition of residency and register unhoused voters without compromising the integrity of the political community



**Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.**

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

<b>A</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.				<input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> III

If you were **registered before** but this is the first time you are registering from the address in **Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

<b>B</b>	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.</li> <li>Draw an X to show where you live.</li> <li>Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.</li> </ul>						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Example</td> <td rowspan="3" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Route #2</td> <td>● Grocery Store</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Woodchuck Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public School ●</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table>		Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store		Woodchuck Road
Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store					
		Woodchuck Road					
Public School ●		X					

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

<b>D</b>	
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**Mail this application to the address provided for your State.**

# Example: Oregon

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Meet the Secretary | About Us | Work with Us | Media Resources | Public Records Request | Financial Transparency | Co

Oregon  
Secretary of State  
Shemia Fagan

Home | Business | Voting & Elections | State Archives | Audits | Search for...

## Homeless Voters and Those Wishing Confidentiality

### Voting When Homeless

#### Homeless U.S. Citizens Have a Right to Vote

Voters must provide a residence address on the voter registration form, but this address may be any definable location in the county that describes their physical location. This could be a shelter, park, motor home, or other identifiable location. The mailing address of a person who is homeless or who resides where mail service is unavailable can be the [office of the county clerk](#). Voters can pick up their ballot at the county elections office.

- Current Election
- Register to Vote
- Voting in Oregon
- Special Voting Circumstances
- Military and Overseas Voters

# Example: Minnesota

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## Register before Election Day

If you **register before Election Day** using an outdoor location as your residence, your voter record will be marked 'challenged' because the county could not confirm a specific street address. You will still be able to vote, but at the polling place on Election Day you will be asked to swear under oath that you are living at that location. In order to better ensure your registration remains active through Election Day, it is best to register within two months of that date.

## Register on Election Day

You can also register on Election Day. You will need to show **proof of residence**.

If you live outside, in a shelter, or are staying at a friend's house, you may not have any documents proving you live there. If so, a registered voter from your precinct can go with you to the polling place to sign an oath confirming where you live.

If you live in a shelter, a staff person can go with you to the polling place to confirm you live at the shelter.



# USICH Step-by-Step Voting Guide for People Experiencing Homelessness

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- Contact your local election office.
- Know the rules and deadlines.
- Ask for help, if you need it.
- Register to vote and confirm your registration on your state's election website.
- Pick a voting option (in-person on Election Day, vote-by-mail, early voting).
- Check what's on your ballot (Vote411)
- Vote! Many local groups offer free transportation to the polls.

# USICH Step-by-Step Election Guide for Homeless Service Providers

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- Get informed about your clients' voting rights (resources from NAEH, You Don't Need a Home to Vote, state or local election office)
- Make a plan. Prepare to engage non-English speakers with a glossary of election terminology available in 21 languages.
- Register clients to vote.
- Educate clients about what to expect on their ballots and why the election matters for key issues like housing, health care, and homelessness.
- Get out the vote and help clients overcome obstacles to voting.

# Pro Tips (adapted from NAEH resources)

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- Engage volunteers and interns and partner providers in your area. Find out whether your local election office can send a representative to your organization to register clients.
- Discuss with your local election office the possibility of using your organization as a polling site.
- Satisfy address requirements by having your organization agree to collect mail on behalf of individual clients. Establish a policy on how to get mail to clients that have moved to another facility or provider.
- Contact your local election office to determine whether you can collect registration forms and submit them on behalf of your clients. You may assist clients with completing the paper form or registering online. Remember you may not influence your client's political preference or party registration.
- Waive any curfew or waiting in line practices on Election Day and replace with tickets or shelter reservations to eliminate stress and disincentives to vote.

# Tenant Talk: Housing is Built with Ballots

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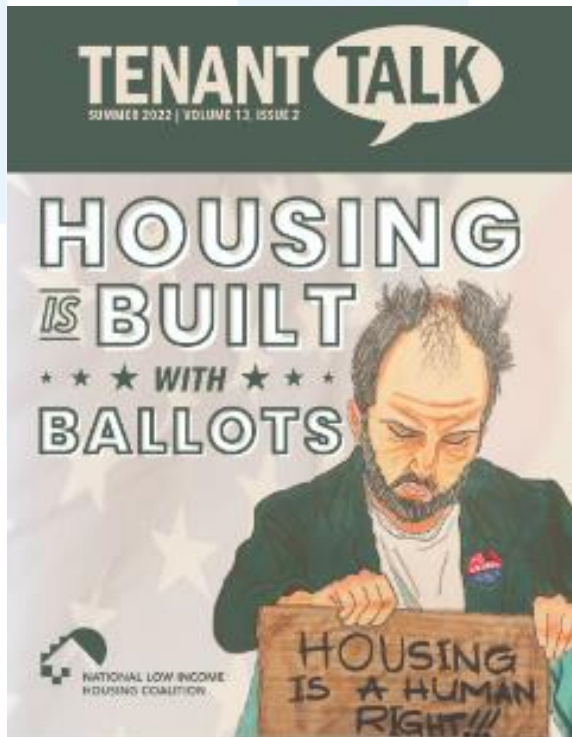


NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION

# **Tenant Talk: *Housing is Built with Ballots***

Volume 13, Issue 2

# Tenant Talk: *Housing is Built with Ballots*



The new summer issue, *Tenant Talk: Housing Is Built With Ballots*, focuses on nonpartisan election engagement and the important role renters and affordable housing advocates can play.

Cover art is by tenant Jessica Roldan from Sylmar, California.

# Resources and Information



## THE STATE OF VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS

Be aware of voter suppression laws in your state!

## HOW TO ENGAGE CANDIDATES AS A TENANT OR RESIDENT

Using your voice is power. Learn how to engage candidates!

## HOW STATES ARE VOTING

STATE OR TERRITORY	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE	VOTE BY MAIL: EXCUSE NEEDED?	MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION DEADLINE	MAIL BALLOT DEADLINE	EARLY VOTING?	POLLS OPEN
Alabama	Oct. 24	Yes	Nov. 3 in person Nov. 1 by mail	Nov. 8, 12 pm (received)	No	7am-7pm
Alaska	Oct. 9	No	Oct. 29	Nov. 8 (postmarked)	Yes	7am-8pm

Not sure when to register to vote in your state? or when the polls will be open? Check out “How States are Voting?”

# Renter and Resident Perspectives

## RENTER PERSPECTIVE WITH SAMATHA ANDERSON

**R**enters' stories can show the important intersections between housing justice and voter engagement. Advocacy informed by renters' lived experiences points directly to the needs of community members and can mobilize people to participate in the push for equity and affordable homes across the country.

Samatha, a renter in Washington State, demonstrates this commitment in her neighborhood. A graduate of Washington State Low Income Housing Alliance's (WLIHA) Emerging Advocates program, Samatha is active in voter education on voting rights in her community. Samatha speaks passionately about her desire to see more residents register to vote and participate in the upcoming election. Samatha is also a district lead for WLIHA and the Washington State Domestic Violence Coalition, as well as a member of King County Housing Authority's Residents Committee, a lived experience expert for Residents Action Project (RAP), a supporter of the National Network for Youth, and a survivor of intimate partner violence.



Samatha Anderson

## RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE: ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!

BY HEATHER HOGAN (FROM MIDDLEBORO, MA)





## Q&A

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Sid Betancourt



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202-662-1530, x200

# Overcoming Voter Identification Barriers

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# Registering Voters in Encampments

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# Our Homes, Our Votes Announcements & Opportunities

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# Follow the Campaign!

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**Twitter: @OurHomesVotes**

**Facebook @OHOV2022**

**Email: [ourhomes@nlihc.org](mailto:ourhomes@nlihc.org)**

**Website: [ourhomes-ourvotes.org](http://ourhomes-ourvotes.org)**

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**OURHOMES-OURVOTES.ORG**