OUR HOMES OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Voting While Experiencing Homelessness

July 1, 2024

Agenda



- Dr. Caitlin Krenn (New York University)
- Ashley Heidenrich (Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness)
- Ken Williamson (National Alliance to End Homelessness)







Housekeeping Items



- This webinar is being recorded.
- Recording, slides, and links will be distributed in our Friday email newsletter, "The Connection," and recording will be posted on NLIHC YouTube channel by the end of the week
- Closed captioning is enabled
- Use the Q&A feature to ask questions throughout the webinar
- Ensure respectful dialogue in the chat
- Our Homes, Our Votes is 100% nonpartisan



Dr. Caitlin Krenn

New York University

Civic Empowerment of our Unhoused Neighbors

Presented by

Dr. Caitlin Krenn, DSW, LCSW

2020 ELECTION

Rampant **misinformation** and **disinformation** about the right to vote while living in shelter



HAVE YOU FILLED OUT THE CENSUS?

Go to: https://2020census.gov/

CONTACT A CCC FOR MORE INFORMATION & ACCESS TO INTERNET:

(646) 864 - 6791

YOU MATTER, MAKE SURE
YOU COUNT!



REGISTER ONLINE TO VOTE IN THIS DISTRICT!

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

April 3, 2020

Go to: https://vote.nyc/

CONTACT A CCC FOR MORE INFORMATION
& ACCESS TO INTERNET:

(646) 864 - 6791

Proposal for Win Civic Engagement Day of Action:

Proposal submission date: 08/24/2020

Abstract: The housing insecure population is often politically forgotten and unseen. It is my belief that Win must equip clients with the necessary tools to engage with and be served by the political system. As a direct result of undercounting in the census, areas with more shelters and greater homelessness populations are under-represented and under-resourced, resulting in the needs of our Win communities being unmet. Secondly, the outcomes of any election affect the elected person's priorities and commitment to serving the population and social justice. As a direct result of low voter turnout in our population, the needs of the housing insecure community are prioritized behind that of voting constituents. Supporting the housing insecure population in engaging civically benefits the individual and community at large. Clients must be provided with information about their local and larger government and given tools to be an active participant in their political community and have agency in their own homeless experience. As the largest provider of homeless services in one of the largest cities in the world, we cannot let the voices of our clients be unheard or worse, suppressed — we must provide the tools for civic enaggement!

- I. Goal: Increase civic engagement at Win by three metrics:
 - 1. 2020 Census: Online at https://2020census.eov
 - 2. Voter registration: Online at https://voterreg.dmv.nv.gov/MotorVoter/
 - Absentee ballot requests (all New York Voters can vote by mail this fall due to risk of contracting the coronavirus): Online at nycabsentee.com

II. Strategies and objectives:

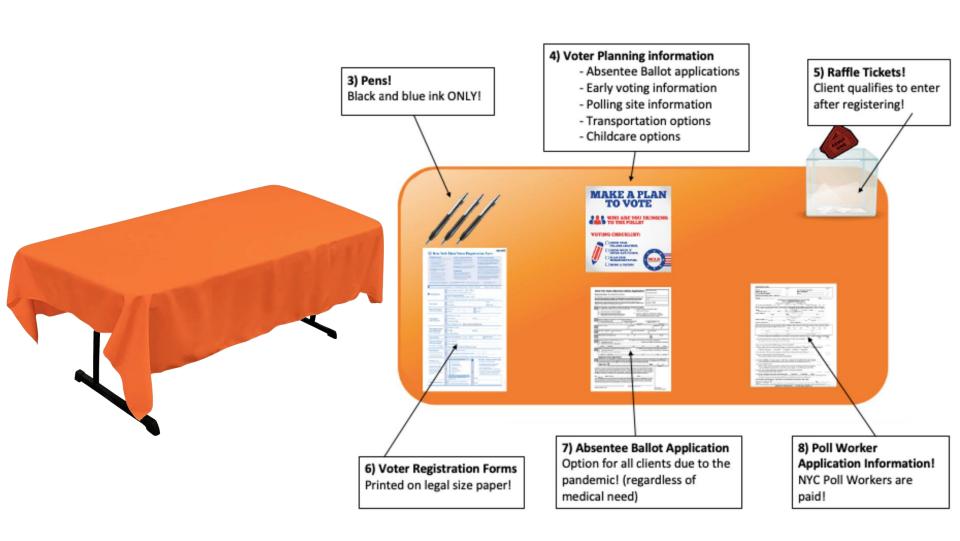
- Host a day of action that will be an interdisciplinary, agency-wide effort to ensure clients are accounted for in our democracy and provided the tools to exercise their voting rights.
- Additionally, clients will be offered support requesting an absentee ballot form; this may be a new process for some, but necessary due to the associated risk with contracting coronavirus at the polls this fall.

II. Preparation and marketing:

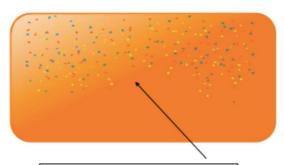
- 1. Day will be agency-wide.
- Day will be promoted via informational campaigns including flyers, Win social media, and onsite door knocking and carvassing.

IV. Day of the event:

- Each site will have access to a common area if possible, host in computer labs at sites that
 have this resource available.
- Site administration will create a schedule in advance which will place a certain amount of interdisciplinary staff in the space for 1 – 2 hour shifts.
- 3. Staff should have access to technology to support clients with goals (computers or tablets).
- 4. Incentives: As with all things, turnout is inevitably higher if clients are incentivized. Each space should have snacks, PPE, or other small incentives that clients can have once participating. This serves the dual purpose of providing clients with basic, necessary materials and again communicates that their participation is valued and invested in. *Note that and snacks or drinks should be individually packaged as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus (i.e. granola bars, water bottles, juice boxes, etc.) *



Additional table suggestions:



Modest/festive table confetti!



Appropriate/ festive music! Individually wrapped table candy NO PEANUTS!



Balloons!

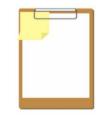
Red, Blue, and

Orange for

Win!

Off the table you will need:







9) A safe space to <u>count</u> and store all:

- Voter Registration forms
- Absentee Ballot applications
- Poll Worker applications

10) A list/tracking system of all clients/staff who have completed:

- Voter Registration forms
- Absentee Ballot applications
- Poll Worker applications

11) Win issued iPad, Laptop, or other device for:

- Client SSN# assistance
- Online Voter Registration (for clients with NY State ID)
- 2020 Census
- Online Absentee Ballot application
- Online Poll Worker application



Close Up Forms!

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NYS Voter Registration Form:

https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/dow nload/voting/voteform_enterable.pdf

lew York State Absentee Ballot A	SCHIED USE ONLY: Town City/MoreChair		
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NYS Absentee Ballot Application:

https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf

NYS Poll Worker Application:

https://vote.nyc/sites/default/files/pdf/job_applications/PollworkerApplication.pdf

problem ARTICULATION



AS OF DECEMBER 2023

653,104

PEOPLE WERE HOMELESS NATIONWIDE (A 12% JUMP SINCE 2022)

ACCORDING TO THE NATION COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

60%

OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WERE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

IN 2020, AN ESTIMATED

1/3

OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE

MINIMAL AVAILABLE RESEARCH SUGGESTS A

10%
VOTING RATE AMONG THE U.S.
HOMELESS POPULATION

defining concepts IN ACTION

As used here, **intersectional oppression** refers to the experiences of those who may be exposed to multiple forms of oppression and discrimination based on different components of their identity (David, 2013; David & Derthick, 2017).



INTERSECTIONAL OPPRESSION

BLACK AMERICANS MAKE UP

12%

OF THE US POPULATION - BUT

37%

OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION

BLACK AND LATINX VOTERS ARE

2X

AS LIKELY THAN THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT BEING DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE 1 in 16

BLACK AMERICANS CANNOT VOTE DUE TO DISENFRANCHISEMENT LAWS IN 2018, WHITES WERE

2X

MORE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK WHILE POLLS ARE OPEN

UNIQUE IMPACT on our unhoused neighbors



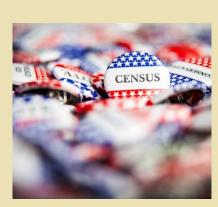
Voter Roll Purging



Redistricting



Gerrymandering



Undercounting

addressing THE PROBLEM

Voter **REGISTRATION**Interventions



Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)



Election Day Voter Registration (EDR)



Nonpartisan Efforts by Shelters



Extended Polling Hours



Expansion/Codification of Mail-in Voting

addressing THE PROBLEM

Voter **PARTICIPATION**Interventions







STAKEHOLDER INVESTMENT & COLLABORATION



CONCRETE LOGISTICS
OF ACCESS

ELECTION CYCLE

- · Chats, meals, Q&A with voting advocates with lived experience
- Share information about how to best use one's voting capital to meet the needs of the housing insecure community
- · Cultivate community spaces for discussion around upcoming elections
- Encourage candidates for office to host town hall onsite and answer resident questions
- Encourage shelter endorsement of chosen candidate

BUILD COMMUNITY POWER

YEAR ROUND

Normalize discussion of voting rights while in shelter

STAKEHOLDER

INVESTMENT &

COLLABORATION

- Cultivate community spaces for discussion around the importance of voting
- Promote local civic engagement opportunities (e.g. community board meetings, city council meetings, DOE meetings, etc.)
 - Encourage formation or empowerment of existing shelter community board

ELECTION CYCLE

- Transportation to polling sites provided
- Residents be excused from ILP meetings
- Childcare be provided to residents while voting
- Metrocards or other compensation provided for transit to polls

CONCRETE RESOURCES

YEAR ROUND

- · Information shared about absentee balloting
- Provide residents with metrocard or other compensation for transit to registration (as needed)
- Planning for accessibility accommodations for voting/poll access

YEAR ROUND

- · VR information available during intake
- · VR information available and shared during weekly ILP meetings
- VR information shared in all languages
- · Information available about mail-in balloting
- Information made available about open election posts in district
- Inform residents of updates to offices, elected positions, electorate standing,

CIVIC EMPOWERMENT OF THE SHELTERED HOMELESS



- Encourage candidates for office to host town hall onsite and answer resident questions
 - Encourage campaign material be made available in shelters
 - Encourage organization administration and board to invest in empowerment events and strategies

YEAR ROUND

Coordinate visits/talks with elected officials, organization administration, local community boards, etc.

Invite and encourage stakeholders to join shelter community meetings





- ""shelter host traditional voter registration groups to register residents
- Provide staff training on VR to support clients directly
- · Provide residents with information about each candidate/elected office
- Provide residents with information about the importance of their voting capital in the specific election
- Provide information about logistics of polling locations, the voting process, and the concrete resources available to them on voting day and during early voting



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Ashley Heidenrich

Project Coordinator

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

Voting While Unhoused

July 1, 2024

Ashley Heidenrich, Project Coordinator

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness *Empowering Communities, Ending Homelessness*





Meet MCAH

We serve as an inclusive statewide voice to improve systems and support communities to prevent and end homelessness in a way that leaves no one behind.

#ThePowerofOne

About MCAH

MCAH is a statewide membership organization that empowers over 600 Michigan homeless service agencies. We aim to advance housing justice and make ending homelessness a shared priority.

Advocacy in Action

- * State and federal legislative advocacy
- Public awareness
- Education and training
- * HMIS data
- AmeriCorps and volunteering
- * Authentic engagement



Our Homes our Votes

We are proud partners of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's **Our Homes Our Votes Campaign**

Our Work Includes

- Voter Education
- * Voter Registration
- * Candidate Surveys
- * Communications
- Training for housing and homeless service providers



Identify State Rules



Identify Your State Rules

- * Key dates and deadlines
- ***** Registration eligibility
- ***** ID requirements
- ***** Address requirements
- * Accessibility
- * Voting with a criminal record



Registration Eligibility

- To vote in Michigan, one must be a United States citizen and a resident of Michigan (in the last 30 days).
- A voter must be at least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Individuals with criminal convictions including felonies, or on probation or parole, are eligible to vote in Michigan
- Same-day and 9 days of early registration is available.

Address

Permanent Address

- Establishes where you will vote + who you will vote for
- Can be
 - Somewhere you typically stay
 - Park or campground
 - Shelter
 - Cross streets



Mailing Address

- Somewhere you can reliably receive mail
- Election info and mail in ballots will be sent to this address
- Can be
 - Shelter
 - Service agency
 - PO Box
 - Friend or family's residence

ID - Registration

Paper registration without an ID is possible in MI

Mail or deliver to your city/township clerk. Agencies and nonprofits can mail applications.

instructions State of Michigan Voter Registration Application Already registered in Michigan? Update your address quickly and easily at ExpressSOS.com. Complete this form to register to vote or update your registration information¹. Please print all information clearly using black or blue Sign the form. Mail or deliver this form to

your city/township clerk.

and Michigan Driver License/Personal Identification Card Address Change For qualifications Are you a citizen of the United States of America? no no no no Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before election day? If you are not a US citizen, do NOT complete this form Michigan driver license/state personal ID # If you do not have a Michigan driver license or personal ID card, provide the last four digits of your Social Security number: $x \times x - x \times -$ ☐ I do not have a valid Michigan issued driver license, a Michigan personal ID card, or a Social Security number. personal information *required information

ID - Voting

You will be asked to show ID when you check in to vote.

If you don't have one, you can still vote.

A poll worker to ask you to sign a form before you vote that explains you didn't have an ID. Your ballot will be included with all others and counted on Election Day.

ID types you can use to check in are:

- Michigan driver's license or state ID
- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification

- U.S. passport
- Military ID with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or accredited institution of higher learning
- Tribal identification card with photo



Accessibility

- Voters who are blind, disabled, unable to read or write, or need translation support may be assisted by a person of their choosing at the polls as long as that person is not their employer.
- Each polling place should have at least one voting terminal where voters can remain seated.
- Secretary of State website has translated voter registration applications

Where to find information?

- Vote411
- Secretary of State websites
- Local election office and clerk
- TurboVote
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Absentee Ballot Process Campaign Finance Information Candidate and Ballot Measure Information **Drop Boxes** Early Voting **Election Dates Eligibility Requirements** ID Needed for Voter Registration ID Needed for Voting

Vote411 website

Planning Events



What to Bring

- * Online and paper registration
- * Educational materials
- Accessibility and seating
- Information on local candidates and ballot initiatives
- * Sample ballots
- * Snacks, drinks, candy, and fun swag!



Tips for Successful Events

- * Meet people where they're at
- Find settings where people feel comfortable
- * Make time for meaningful conversations!
- * Problem solve
- * Stay nonpartisan!



Partnerships!

- Homeless service agencies
- * CoCs
- * Health centers
- * Food banks
- * Supportive housing
- * Tenant groups

- * County/city clerks
- Volunteers (students, League of Women Voters)
- * Rideshare groups
- * Advocates



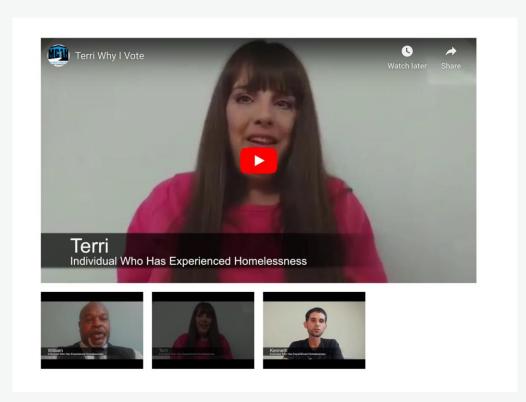


Educate and Amplify



Spreading Awareness

- * Lived experience
- * Training
- Unhoused voters Q&A
- * Communications
- National voter registration day



Candidate Position Surveys

We send housing and homelessness position surveys to state and federal congressional candidates and publicize the results!

"I understand firsthand the stigma of housing instability and homelessness. There were times where I slept in my car, or in public places to make ends meet. I plan to support legislation that guarantees Housing Choice Vouchers, implements national rent control standards, provides assistance for first time homeowners, and creates pathways to home ownership for people who do not qualify for traditional mortgages" - MI Congressman Shri Thanedar





Ken Williamson

Program and Policy Analyst

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VOTES
Our Homes, Our Votes
Webinar
July 1, 2024





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Every One Votes

• Every One Votes is a non-partisan initiative started by the National Alliance to End Homelessness to ensure that people who are at risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness have the opportunity to have their voices heard at the ballot box.



The Why

- 1. The right to vote is fundamental
- 2. Voting is a racial justice issue
- 3. A vote is a vote





This is not just about federal elections.



Homeless Service Providers CAN Help Clients Vote!

- Helping to ensure your clients vote is not a partisan activity.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) have both issued guidance on how homeless service providers can assist their clients with voting.



Barriers to Voting

- Lack of residence and permanent address.
- Systemic disenfranchisement.
- Limited access to candidates and issues.
- Unfamiliarity of when and where to vote.
- Lack of transportation to the polls.



Every One Votes Toolkit

- Easy to use resource for organizations that are working directly with people experiencing homelessness.
- Provides easy to use tips for how to create a plan to support people experiencing homelessness through all parts of the voting process.



Every One Votes Tookit

- Step 1: Make sure you have the information you need and develop a plan.
- Step 2: Register your client to vote.
- Step 3: Get out the vote by engaging with your clients early and often.



The Toolkit Covers:

- Best practices for organizations to educate themselves on voter registration.
- Assisting clients with registering to vote.
- Organizing GOTV efforts.
- Help clients comply with ID requirements.
- Educating and preparing clients on what to expect either with early voting or at the polls.



Pro Tips from the Toolkit

- Use volunteers and interns to help manage your voter engagement to relieve staff.
- Engage with partner providers in your area.
- Discuss with your local election office the possibility of using your organization as a polling site.
- 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.



EOV One Pagers

- Developing a Plan with Staff and Volunteers
- Tips for Reducing Your Staff's Workload
- Gathering the Information Your Clients Will Need
- Do's and Don'ts of Registering Your Clients to Vote
- Encouraging Your Clients to Vote
- Two Ways to Educate Clients on Candidates and Issues





Closing Remarks

Website

https://endhomelessness.org/every-onevotes-you-have-a-stake-in-elections/

Don't forget National Voter Registration Day on September 17th, 2024!!!



Questions?



Affiliates Network

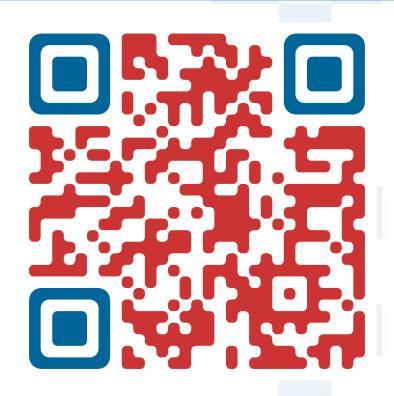


- Open to all nonpartisan organizations that share campaign's goals
- Regular office hours, email listserv, and post-election virtual gathering
 - No office hours this week; next ones are Friday, July 19
- Enhanced access to Our Homes, Our Votes tools and resources
- Sign up: <u>www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/affiliates</u>

OurHomes.TurboVote.Org



Register to vote and update your voter registration, check your voter registration status, find election information for your community, and sign up for election reminders!



Our Homes, Our Votes Educational Resources



- Comprehensive online resource library
 - Visit: https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/resources



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National Voter Registration Day: Community Partner Grants



- Save the date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
- Sign up to become a community partner
 - https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/2024partner-sign-up/?partner=nlihc24&source24=pp
- Mini-grant applications now available!
- Benefits of community partnership
 - Posters, stickers, and other swag
 - Digital assets including posters and toolkits, stateby-state guides, and webinars
- Expectations
 - Stay nonpartisan
 - Host voter registration activities in your community



Next Webinar: Transportation to the Polls (Monday, July 15)



Transportation barriers are one of the most common reasons why people do not turn out to vote, and lack of accessible transportation to the polls disproportionately disenfranchises low-income renters. This webinar will spotlight the impact of voter transportation programs, share opportunities for your organization to partner with existing nonpartisan voter transportation initiatives, and offer inspiration for those seeking to launch their own transportation to the polls.

Panelists

- Sarah Kovich, Rideshare 2 Vote Aware
- Hillary Poudeu Tchokothe, Our Homes, Our Votes/Turn Up Turnout

Preview: Full Webinar Series



- Monday, July 15 Transportation to the Polls
- Monday, July 29 Housing Providers and Voter Engagement
- Monday, August 19 Getting Candidates on the Record About Housing and Homelessness
- Tuesday, September 3 Celebrating the Civic Holidays
- Monday, September 16 Voter Education: The Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How
- Monday, September 30 Voter Education: Combating Misinformation and Disinformation
- Monday, October 7 Overcoming Voter Suppression
- Monday, October 21 Countdown to Election Day: Getting Out the Vote!
- Monday, November 4 Knowing Your Rights: Voter Protection on Election Day
- Monday, November 18 A Look Ahead: Next Steps for Civic Engagement and the Housing Justice Movement