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Voter Registration Training February 23, 2016 Agenda

Opening & Faith Reflection- Beulah Osueke

Why & How Voter Registration in 2016- Cecily Harwitt

Review of PA Rules: Q & A- Amy Busefink

Voter Registration: How To- Amy Busefink

Ideas for Your Congregation & Suggested Roles- Cecily Harwitt

Congregational Caucus & Next Steps

Closing Prayer

“Some day there will be a king who rules with integrity, and national leaders who govern with justice. **2** Each of them will be like a shelter from the wind and a place to hide from storms. They will be like streams flowing in a desert, like the shadow of a giant rock in a barren land.**3** Their eyes and ears will be open to the needs of the people.” - Isaiah 32:1-3 [Good News Translation]



2016 Voter Registration: Primary Season

The deadline for voters to register for the 2016 Pennsylvania Primary is March 28. For congregations who choose to participate in this election season, POWER staff recommend a goal of collecting 50 complete registrations or a number equivalent to 10% of your congregation, whichever is greater. We suggest doing this by a) dedicating time during 2 services/weekends to the importance of voter registration and b) planning at least one outing to register people at a community institution, such as your local school. Voter registration is new to POWER, so we plan to learn and improve on our work for the general election in the fall.

Team Roles

Team Co-Chair(s)

Each congregation should already have at least one and ideally two team co-chairs. These do not need to change for our voter registration effort. These people lead their team with support and coaching from their organizer. For voter registration, they will be responsible for making sure the congregation makes a plan and holding the members of the team, especially those filling the roles below, accountable to their goals.

Congregation Registration Lead(s)

This person will take the lead role in making sure every member of your congregation is registered. Though many POWER congregations believe that “everyone” is registered in their congregation, it is more likely that the rate is 75-90% registration, which leaves power on the table.

For congregations who are interested in a list match (where POWER matches your member list to identify who has and has not registered to vote) , this person will work with POWER staff to make that happen. This person should also meet with their congregation’s clergy person and whoever else is appropriate to make a plan for some or all

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of the following to occur to build a congregational identity as a 100% voting community:

- A sermon about the importance of voting, including, if possible, a pause for people to fill out registration cards right then;
- An announcement to direct people to a registration table after service or identifying a time in the weekly schedule to do so;
- Regular bulletin announcements by email or on paper.

Community Registration Lead(s)

This person will reach out to the congregation's local school, or another community institution of your choice, to arrange at least one visit to "table" and register community members there. He or she is responsible for setting up the logistics and recruiting volunteers to attend and do the registering.

Data Lead(s)

Great news for Data Leads during this election cycle: they will not need to use the VAN! Instead, they will have two jobs: 1) to check out and track registration forms and 2) to enter information from completed forms into the form found at this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/powerregistration2016> and 3) to get completed forms back to the POWER office within one week of receiving them

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the primary?

The Pennsylvania primary is April 26. The deadline to register before the primary election is March 28.

What does voter registration have to do with POWER's campaigns?

The most basic and fundamental way in which we show our power as individuals and communities is to vote. When we don't vote we leave our power on the table and allow others to make decisions that

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impact our lives. Research¹ suggests that voting especially matters in policy making. Specifically when poor people vote the state's policies reflect the needs of poor people - higher wages, greater investment in public education, etc.

In 2015 we campaigned for a Full, Fair Funding Formula and learned that many of our locally elected officials were not willing to be champions for our children. In our work to fight for a living wage we know that Philadelphia's higher cost of living means that workers need more than the state minimum wage. In our work to dismantle the system of mass incarceration, we've seen local officials attempt to roll back the recommendations from the Department of Justice report. We've seen the ways in which our system has reflected our vision and values.

In 2016, voting will matter at every level - locally, statewide, and nationally as we vote in the next president, members of Congress, attorney general, and members of the PA General Assembly. This is a critical year for justice and could mark much needed change in the way our city, commonwealth, and nation serve the poor, the orphaned, and the widow. Furthermore, juries that do not represent the communities they serve are often a result of low voter registration among low income people and people of color. Historically, both we in PA and across this nation have made the massive social change happen through our vote [women securing the right to vote led to increased public spending on health and education for example].

Can returned citizens vote in Pennsylvania?

Yes! Pennsylvania is one of a dozen states that automatically restores voting rights [with the exception of people residing in halfway houses and those convicted of violating election laws].

If someone does not have a permanent address can they register to vote?

¹ Please visit <http://www.demos.org/blog/3/27/15/effects-voting-look-policy-not-elections> for more information.

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Yes. According to the ACLU², shelters or other community institutions can be used as an address if they accept mail on your behalf.

Getting Past the First Objection

Even if you have the best rap out there, people are still going to say “No.” The best thing you can do is be prepared and understand why people are saying no. If you can work past the first objective they give, that can be the difference in a successful day or a disappointing day.

<u>Common Reasons that People Say No</u>	<u>And Answers to Combat It</u>
• <u>I am already registered to vote</u>	• <u>Have you moved or changed your name since the last time you voted? What is the last election you voted in?</u>
• <u>I do not have time</u>	• <u>That is ok – it only takes 2 minutes and I can walk with you!</u>
• <u>I do not care about politics</u>	• <u>Even if you do not care about politics, do you care about _____? Well, the only way we can change that is by registering to vote!</u>
• <u>Why should I?</u>	• <u>You are right!</u>

² Please visit <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-voting-rights-pennsylvania-text-only> for more information.

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<p><u>Politicians do not listen anyway</u></p> <p>• <u>I do not want to have jury duty</u></p> <p>• <u>I cannot – I have a felony</u></p> <p>• <u>I cannot – I am only</u> <u>17</u></p>	<p><u>Politicians do not listen! But the only way to change that is to vote them in and out office. If we stop voting, then they've won!</u></p> <p>• <u>Do not worry, this will not put you in the pool for jury duty; they stopped using voter registration a long time ago. Now anyone with a social security number is in the pool for jury duty.</u></p> <p>• <u>In this state</u> _____.</p> <p>• <u>If you will be 18 on or before the next Election Day, you can register to vote now.</u></p>
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Congregational Plan

Your Congregation: _____

Current Team Co-Chairs: _____

Congregation Registration Lead(s): _____

Community Registration Lead(s): _____

Data Lead(s): _____

Other: _____

WORK PLAN –

Who do you need to speak with to make a plan for registering congregants?

What community institution does the congregation already have ties with or wish to connect to where registration would make sense?

How many people do you plan to register?

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POLICY AFFIRMATIONS

Each Volunteer/Canvasser must sign various affirmations before collecting applications. The following are the categories of the affirmations and samples that the organization can use. If the organization uses language that differs from the sample for a category, that language should be submitted to Project Vote for review.

Voter Registration Laws

It is illegal to in any way to alter or forge a voter registration card.

The following are examples of fraudulent activities:

- Filling in missing information from a card after you collect it from the registrant unless authorized to do so by the registrant.
- Signing a card on behalf of another person unless the person is incapable of doing so.
- Completing a card on behalf of a friend or relative.
- Making up information including names and addresses.
- Offering someone something of value to complete a voter registration application.

POWER is not responsible for these or any other fraudulent activities. It is POWER policy to seek legal redress against all workers who are found to have submitted fraudulent cards. If convicted, this offense can be punishable with jail time.

Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of all relationships with POWER. POWER will cooperate with law enforcement officials in investigations and prosecutions of fraud.

Confidentiality



I also understand that all voter registration applications provided to me as part of my activity must be returned to POWER at the end of each shift, whether completed or not.

I understand the information I am collecting is confidential and agree to not retain any record of it once I have provided it to my supervisor and not disclose it to anyone unless required to do so under the law.

Non-Partisan

I understand that the work I have been hired to perform is non-partisan and I cannot express any opinion in favor of or opposition to a candidate while performing my duties.

I understand that I cannot refuse to offer someone an application and accept it from the person if they are otherwise eligible and wish to complete an application.

Voter Registration Worker Training Certification

I affirm that I have completed a voter registration worker-training program conducted by POWER on this day. The instructions included:

- (1) How to fill out the Voter Registration Application;
- (2) How to ensure, to the extent possible, that the Voter Registration Application is filled out completely and accurately;
- (3) Who is eligible to register to vote; and
- (4) A description of the laws and regulations that cover voter registration, and
- (5) The consequences of breaching those laws.