

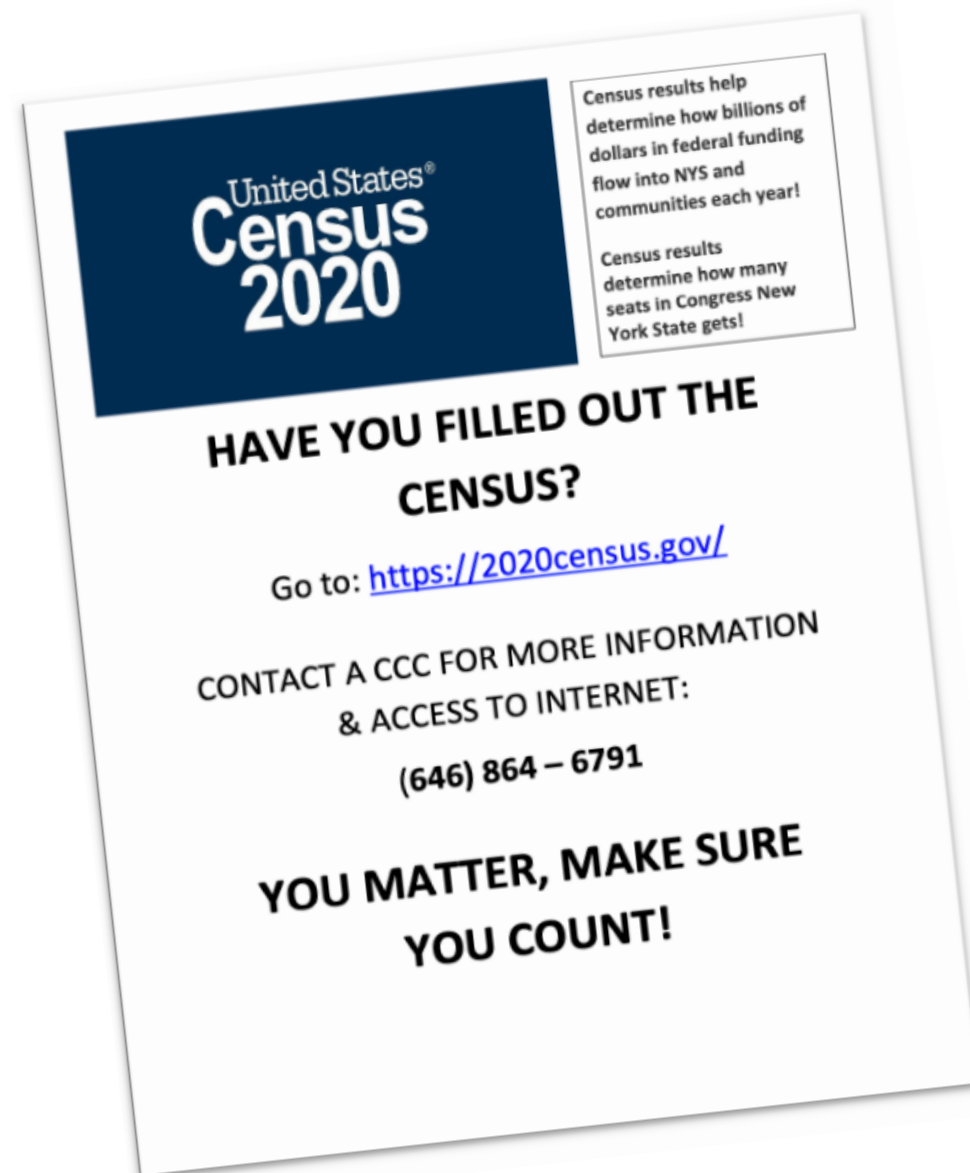
Civic Empowerment of our Unhoused Neighbors

July 2024

Presented by
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2020 ELECTION

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



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 engagement!*

- I. **Goal:** Increase civic engagement at Win by three metrics:
 1. 2020 Census: Online at <https://2020census.gov>
 2. Voter registration: Online at <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter/>
 3. 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:**
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
- III. **Preparation and marketing:**
 1. Day will be agency-wide.
 2. Day will be promoted via informational campaigns including flyers, Win social media, and onsite door knocking and canvassing.
- IV. **Day of the event:**
 1. Each site will have access to a common area – if possible, host in computer labs at sites that have this resource available.
 2. 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.) **



3) Pens!
Black and blue ink ONLY!



4) Voter Planning information

- Absentee Ballot applications
- Early voting information
- Polling site information
- Transportation options
- Childcare options



5) Raffle Tickets!
Client qualifies to enter
after registering!

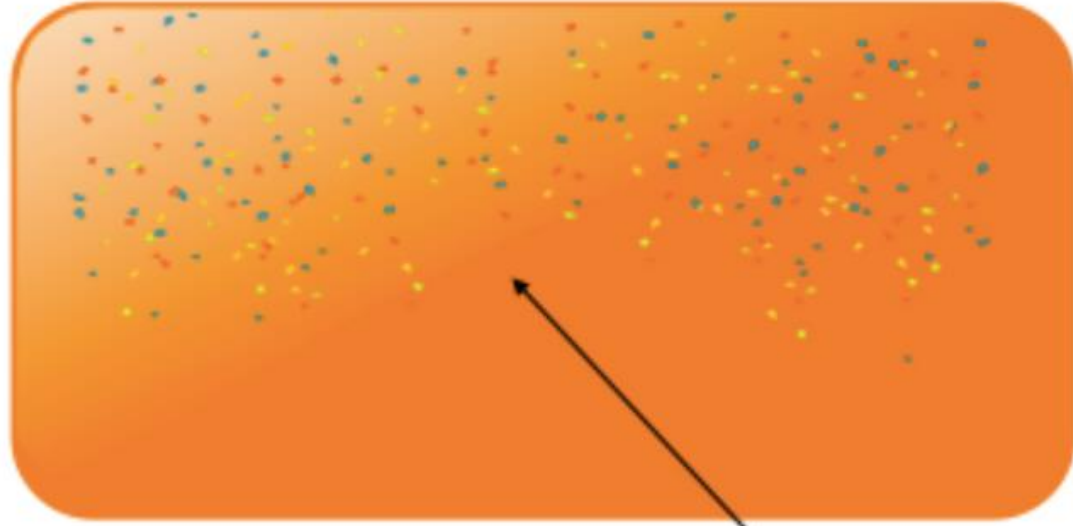


6) Voter Registration Forms
Printed on legal size paper!

7) Absentee Ballot Application
Option for all clients due to the
pandemic! (regardless of
medical need)

**8) Poll Worker
Application Information!**
NYC Poll Workers are
paid!

Additional table suggestions:

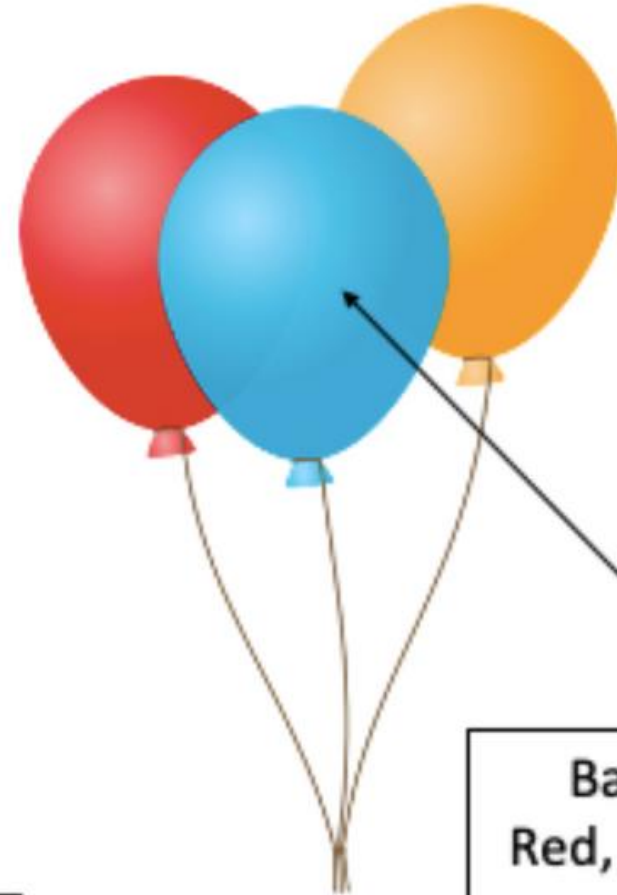
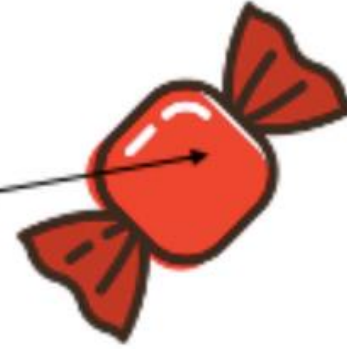


Modest/festive table confetti!



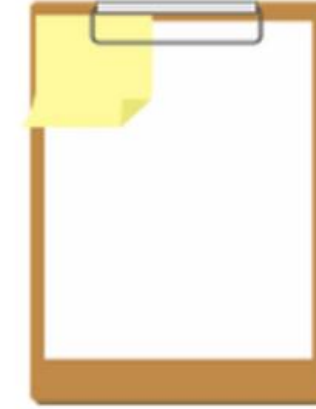
Appropriate/
festive music!

Individually
wrapped table
candy
NO PEANUTS!



Balloons!
Red, Blue, and
Orange for
Win!

Off the table you will need:



9) A safe space to count 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!

NYS Voter Registration Form:

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

This is a screenshot of the New York State Voter Registration Form. It includes sections for "Register to vote", "Verifying your identity", "Qualifications", "Your name", "More information", "The address where you live", "The address where you receive mail", "Voting history", "Voting information that has changed", "Identification", "Political party", "Affidavit", and "Optional questions". The form is designed to be filled out by a voter to register for an upcoming election.

New York State Absentee Ballot Application

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

This is a screenshot of the New York State Absentee Ballot Application form. It includes sections for "I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason)", "Absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s)", "Delivery of Primary/Election Ballot (check one)", "Delivery of General or Special Election Ballot (check one)", and "Applicant Must Sign Below". The form is designed to be filled out by a voter who is unable to appear in person at the polls.

NYS Absentee Ballot Application:

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

This is a screenshot of the New York State Poll Worker Application form. It includes sections for "FOR USE ONLY", "Borough", "Valid from July 15, 2020 to July 15, 2021", "Are you a New York City Resident?", "NAME", "HOME ADDRESS", "PHONE NUMBER", "SOCIAL SECURITY #", "EMAIL ADDRESS", "ALL POLL WORKERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A MANDATORY TRAINING CLASS. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.", and "I SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE." The form is designed to be filled out by a person who is interested in working as a poll worker.

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 NATIONAL
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
MORE THAN

2X

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

1 in 16

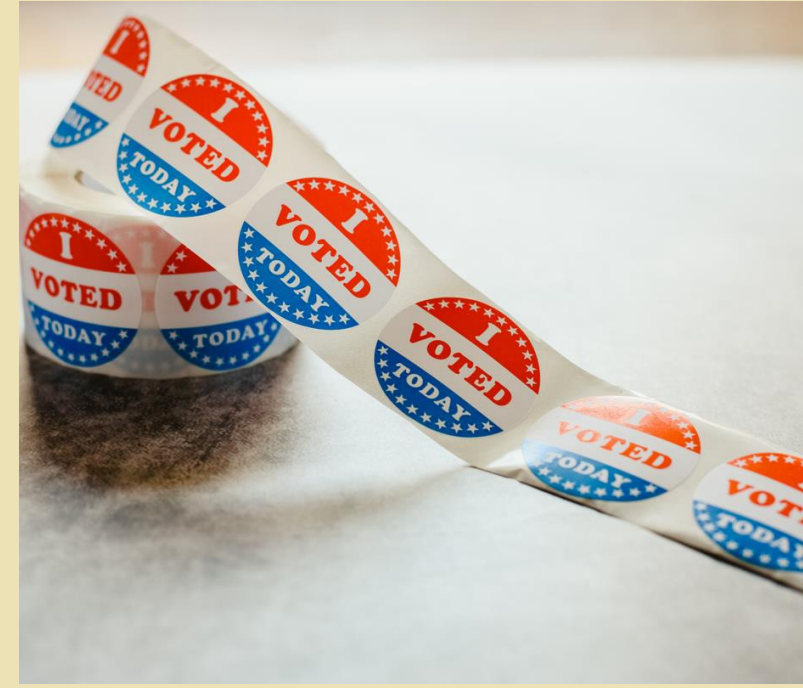
BLACK AMERICANS CANNOT
VOTE DUE TO
DISENFRANCHISEMENT LAWS

IN 2018, WHITES WERE

2X

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

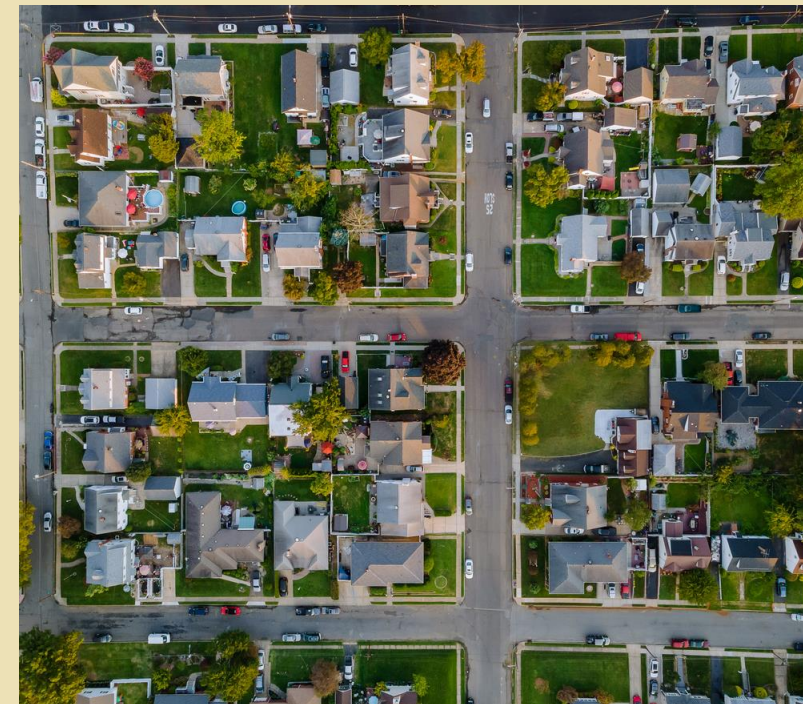
UNIQUE IMPACT on our unhoused neighbors



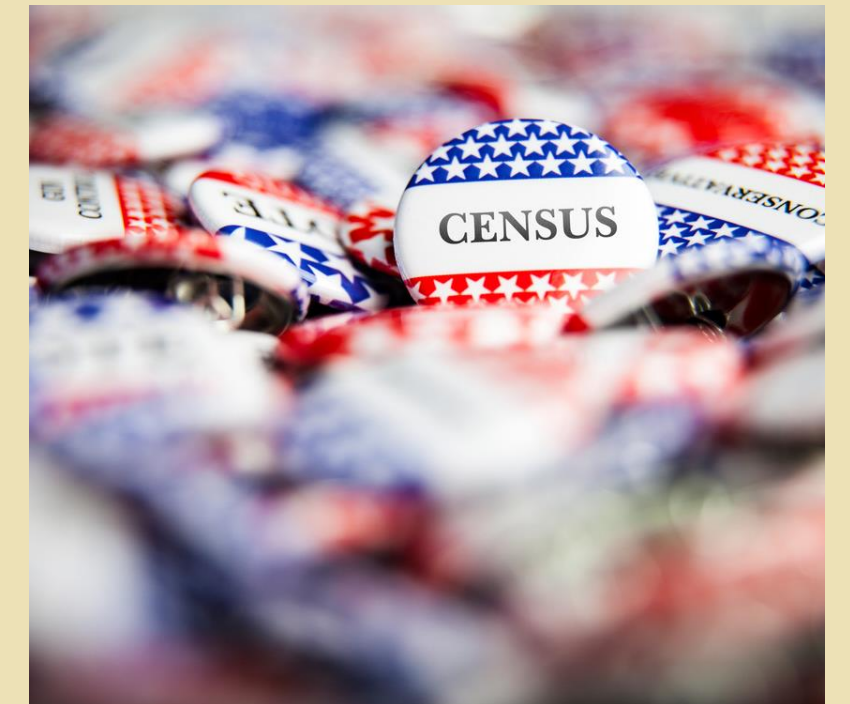
Voter Roll Purging



Redistricting



Gerrymandering



Undercounting

addressing **THE PROBLEM**

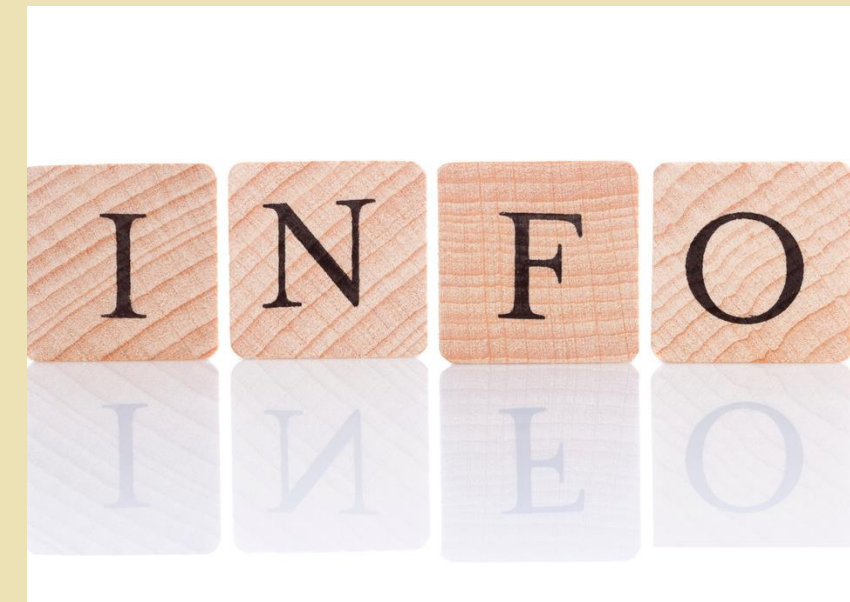
Voter **REGISTRATION** Interventions



**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



CIVIC LITERACY



**BUILDING COMMUNITY
POWER**



**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
- 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

CIVIC EMPOWERMENT OF THE SHELTERED HOMELESS

ELECTION CYCLE

- 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

STAKEHOLDER INVESTMENT & COLLABORATION

YEAR ROUND

- Coordinate visits/talks with elected officials, organization administration, local community boards, etc.
- Invite and encourage stakeholders to join shelter community meetings

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

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

ELECTION CYCLE

- 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

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,

Thank you
For your attention



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www.caitlinkrenn.com



I'm Caitlin,
Advocate
Researcher
Educator &
Clinician

Working to end
homelessness as
know it.