



A NON-PARTISAN

# CALL TO ACTION Turn Out The Vote

## NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK VOTER MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

VOTING = A HUMAN RIGHT

Voting Supports the Political Power of Clients and Communities

Voting Powers the Fight for Racial, Social and Economic Justice

VOTING IS SOCIAL WORK

### *Why Vote?*

Took years for Congress to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA).

Many people fought for and died to win this basic right.

Non-partisan voter registration, education and outreach are legal, ethical and professional.

A healthy democracy depends on an accessible and inclusive electoral process.

Your Vote is Your Voice!

### *The Benefits of Voting*

Individuals who vote report higher levels of health and mental health, stronger social connections, better employment outcomes, and a greater sense of individual efficacy.

Communities that vote in high numbers receive more attention, responses and resources from legislators and develop stronger community connections.

Professions that Get-Out-The-Vote elevate their visibility, voice, and political influence.

### *Barriers to be Overcome*

Limited Access: Long lines, lack of transportation, lack of information on candidates and where to vote keeps people away from the polls.

Voter Suppression: Voter ID laws, gerrymandering, purged voter rolls, disenfranchised felons, myths of voter fraud, and closed polling places target the poor, women, persons of color and youth, & uphold white supremacy.

Structural Racism: Chips away our right to vote, challenges free and fair elections and the democratic ideal of equality for all.

Distrust of Government: Feelings that “my vote does not matter”, “the system is rigged”, “candidates don’t understand my situation”, and that “politics is not for me” discourage voting.

Misbeliefs: People wrongly believe that homeless persons, domestic violence victims, disabled people and convicted felons do not have the right to vote.

### *Make a Difference*

Obtain and utilize the VotER Tool Kit online and in person.

Raise awareness of the importance of voting to social work practice and social policy.

Link voting rights to social work issues.

Organize voter registration drives at your school, agency or field placement.

Invite candidates to speak to your community about important issues.

Inform everyone about candidates, election dates, voting site locations and mail-in possibilities in your state. ([turbovote.org](http://turbovote.org))

Help register constituents, remind them to vote, and help get out the vote.

Become a poll worker on election day.

Make voting rights and voter mobilization skills part of your classroom and field assignments.

NASW & Council on Social Work Education support social action.

Powerful interests suppress the vote of the people.

For more information go to [VotingIsSocialWork.org](http://VotingIsSocialWork.org)



# NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK VOTER MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN: VOTING IS SOCIAL WORK

## *The Non-Partisan Campaign Seeks to*

- Raise awareness of the importance of voting to social work practice and social policy.
- Integrate voter engagement activities into classroom and field education.
- Train faculty, field instructors and students to mobilize the vote.
- Activate every social worker, from micro to macro, to support the vote!
- Ensure access to the vote for all people.
- Protect our democratic rights and institutions.

### **Organizational Endorsements**

- Association for Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA)
- Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA)
- Congressional Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE)
- Influencing Social Policy (ISP)
- Latino Social Workers Organization
- Nancy A Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work
- National Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Directors (BPD)
- National Association of Deans and Directors (NADD)
- National Association of Perinatal Social Workers
- National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW)
- National Rural Social Work Caucus
- Network for Social Work Management (NSWM)
- New Social Worker
- North American Network of Field Educators and Directors (NANFED)
- Social Welfare Action Alliance
- Society of Social Work Leadership in Health Care
- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
- Social Policy Education, Advocacy and Knowledge (SPEAK)
- Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice in Social Work
- #MacroSW Twitter Chat Collaborative
- VotER: Building a Health Democracy

*Every vote matters in a healthy democracy.*

Be a part of history and join the  
National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign!

**Learn more at: [VotingIsSocialWork.org](http://VotingIsSocialWork.org)**

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