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.

Misperceptions: 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)
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

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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