**ZMarch 27, 2020 Voter Engagement Meeting Summary Notes**

**March 27, 2020 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**ZOOM Video Conference**

**Meeting Objectives:**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Time** | **Description** |
| Opening | 3:00pm – 3:10pm | Welcome, norms, principles and check in question, “What’s one thing that brings you energy and joy”? presented by Frances with Houston in Action.  |
| Grounded in our priorities  |  3:10pm – 3:15pm  | Frances discussed what the current priorities are now….* Keep healthy and informed
* Support coronavirus education and volunteer efforts, motivate people continue voter engagement efforts.
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| Harris County Clerk Elections Updates  | 3:15pm – 3:35pm | Roxanne Werner with County Clerk’s Harris Office provided updates regarding the Harris County elections. * Early voting will begin on Monday, July 6th and will end on Friday, July 10th
* You will have to vote in parties primary that you participated in during the March 3, 2020
* For ballot by mail, you may vote early if you are registered to vote and meet one of the following criteria….

 Away from the county of residence of election day and  during the early voting period Sick or disabled 65years of age or older on election day Confined in jail but eligible to voteApplications are available at harrisvotes.com. For assistance email BBM@cco.hctx.net or call 713. 755.6965Q: If vote by mail is expanded ballot by mail does your office have the capabilities to handle the load?A: They are looking at what that would look like and are brainstorming ideas. Q: How will long lines be addressed, especially with the pandemic, COVID19?A: Some insights and plans are being assessed.Q: What will the voting process be like for someone who is transgender?A: We are making sure that poll workers are getting trained so they can speak to this and this is a very high priority to make certain that everyone has the right to vote.Q: If someone wanted to apply to vote by mail, would they need to go to the website, to print it out and mail it in?A: Yes Q: Will there be a way to do this online to stay compliant with social distancing?A: Not at this time.  |
| Things we can advocate for right now | 3:35pm – 3:50pm | By Beth Stevens with The Texas Civil Rights Project provided information on what we can advocate for right now:* SOS provide guidance to counties about mail-in ballot eligibility
* Push counties to prepare now for increase in mail in ballots (for July & November)
* Push counties to prepare now for obtaining sufficient protective supplies to ensure public safety (publicly calling on SOS to help out)

Q: Will TCRP or anyone be doing an op-ed for Texas papers about this?A: This question will be presented to Texas Civil Rights Project communications team. Q: Does this information live online anywhere?A: No, but the information shared today will be shared on Basecamp on this coming Monday. For any questions to Beth directly, please email her at beth@texascivilrightsproject.org |
| Q & A | 3:50pm – 4:20pm | **What are others seeing as big concerns around elections and on partisan voter engagement? Statements, questions and concerns from group**Q: To what extent can we ask the secretary of state to mail voter registration forms?A: There is a link online to request an application to be mail. Q: Is there as system that people can find out who’s registered and who’s not? A: Register2vote.org website will let you look up a neighborhood to identify unregistered voters? **What should our rapid response priorities be right now?** **Statements, questions and concerns from group**Focus should be on COVID19Q: When things get back to normal and if you have access to get voter ballot by mail and bring it to seniorsA: Giving the applications to people are find but you not allowed to help them complete it. Make sure that we’re sending out the right message during this time**What is the infrastructure needed to support our priorities?** **Statements, questions and concerns from group**People, seniors in general, did not know that they could go anywhere to vote.I think of how the message gets disseminated when infrastructure is involved. How do help to spread the word? Q: Can you please explain the existing infrastructure that’s in place now.A: We communicate with each other, specific calls once a month, established 7 priorities for Voter Engagement, Please reach out if you’re having trouble moving forward digitally. Q: Is there a good definition for the voters we’re trying to reach? A: This is a priority for the VE team is to gather data from organizations to know where everyone has been. HiA will work with county clerk’s office to obtain this data. |
| Closing and Next Steps  | 4:20pm – 4:25pm | Frances provided a survey so that everyone can complete and closed the meeting. Q: Will the slides from this meeting be available?A: Yes via Basecamp |