

Operation Jumpstart the Vote, Partners Meeting, Raleigh, 4/16/14

Present: Irene Godinez (PPHS), Kathie Young (NC Voter Project), Ellie Kinnaird (NC Voter Project), Heather McLaughlin (NCARA), Adam Orlovich (NC AFL-CIO), Bryan Perlmutter (Ignite NC), Irving Allen (Ignite NC / Beloved Community Center), Brenda Rogers (LWV – ODC & NC), Tom Burton (Blueprint NC), Sarah Preston (ACL-NC), Terrence Wilson (ACLU-NC), Peter Greer (Greater Diversity News), J. Denny McQuire (AAUW-NC), Terry Grunwald (Carolina Jews for Justice), Ivan Garcia Marengo (visitor), and Adam Sotak, Bob Hall and Ron Garcia-Fogarty (Democracy NC).

Introductions. Everyone shared name, organization, and a summer destination.

Post-Primary Assessment – Democracy NC & NC Vote Defenders

- Ignite NC and Democracy NC teamed up for election protection work, focused mostly on larger precincts with large proportion of African American voters for the county, higher rejection rate for provisional ballots, higher turnout for previous primary, etc.
- Several groups helped with volunteer recruitment, especially Common Cause, Carolina Jews for Justice and League of Women Voters, plus Unifour, labor and women's groups, and NAACP.
- 400 volunteers signed up for 12 trainings across the state and 320 showed up on Election Day for minimum of 3 hours. Volunteers were in about 120 precincts in 36 counties on May 6.
- We collected over 6,000 exit surveys and 150 incident reports collected. A quick analysis of the first 4,000 surveys shows that 70% of the voters who responded said that the ID information they were given by election officials was "clear and understandable," BUT 40% of these could not even say when the ID would be required. In other words, it was simplistic, almost useless info. In general, white voters were about twice as likely as black voters to say the election changes made them feel more "confidence" in the security and fairness of elections.
- Poll officials were supposed to ask each voter if they had one of the IDs that would be required in 2016, but we found lots of variations in what was asked or shown regarding the ID. In Durham, no one was asked about ID; they were just handed a paper with the information. Over half the voters were asked for ID in Watauga County, but the others were not.
- About 200 large signs were posted at voting precincts and volunteers wore 300 t-shirts with the 888-OUR-VOTE hotline.
- We received approximately 150 calls on the hotline on May 6. Most issue related to ID rules, out-of-precinct voting, or provisional ballots. The hotline was staffed by volunteers from the UNC Center for Civil Rights and Democracy NC.
- Volunteers at the polls spent a lot of time troubleshooting misinformation and helping voters,

for example with people mistakenly showing up at an early voting sites and thinking it was a precinct polling place or going to the wrong precinct. The volunteers felt good about helping individual voters overcome problems and get to vote.

- The success of the event was a testament to the collaboration built through Operation Jumpstart.
- The exit surveys will go to the political scientist for analysis and we will get the results released to the press for wider circulation.

Voter Integrity Project (VIP)

- The tea party inspired VIP will be stepping up complaints and challenges into the fall.
- They circulated a press release this week comparing FL & NC, claiming they had identified over 100 people who voted in both states.
- BOE has information, but came up with only 4-5 problems from this list.
- VIP will be using volunteers to challenge voters before the general election.

Other discussion

- Volunteers often come from churches and neighborhoods that are mostly registered.
- Suggestion to promote absentee voting with students.
- We need to create a message to encourage people to vote.
- There were successful examples of high school voter registration in Greensboro and Wake.

Fall Election Protection

- Some adults who volunteered in the primary will work for campaigns or parties in the fall so we may have to rely more on students, as well as retired people.
- We will do a bigger effort to get signs at more polling sites in the fall and publicize the hotline.
- Also push more for protection in rural areas.
- All organizations present agreed to help with election protection in fall elections.

Summer BOE Advocacy

- Adam Sotak circulated “Early Voting Plan – Advocacy Campaign” to partners, Ron circulated “How to Advocate for a Strong Early Voting Plan in Your County” <http://www.democracy-nc.org/jumpstart/downloads/EarlyVotingAdvocacy.pdf>
- Governor McCrory has stated that counties should not reduce their early voting hours – their

plans should provide as many hours of early voting opportunity in 10 days as the 2010 plan had in 17 days.

- The county and state boards have to be unanimous in approving any reduction in hours. That requirement gives each board member leverage to hold out and negotiate for quality time on weekends and evenings if the total hours are reduced. Every county has to have at least 1 site.
- Peter suggested that we develop a template for local volunteers to follow in what they present to county BOEs about a quality early voting plan, which can be refined at pre-BOE meeting conversation.
- Adam at Democracy NC will have a sample request by end of May or first week of June regarding local BOE plans and intelligence from the county BOES about when they will discuss and vote on early voting plans and will circulate to partners.
- Carolina Jews for Justice mentioned that it's very important for the Jewish community to have a Sunday option. Other groups can coordinate with them to advocate this position in counties.
- Contact Adam to participate in BOE advocacy for strong early voting plans.

Future:

- 2016: Photo ID goes into effect.
- 2018: They will get rid of touch-screen machines.

Announcements:

- Add <https://www.facebook.com/votersuppression> as resource and place to post material. Contact Peter Greer for more information at pgrear@grearlaw.com
- Medicaid expansion lobby day on June 4, 2014. Contact Irene Godinez for more info at Irene.godinez@pphs.org or 919-491-5627
- Contact Irene Cadwell from NC PIRG if interested in a Voter Registration tool for including on your website. She can be reached at Irene@ncpirg.org or 720-402-9177.

Next meeting: Monday, July 14, 11am – 1:30pm at Advocates for Justice building.