

WEBINAR SERIES

Beyond

VOTING

SESSION ONE: APRIL 30, 2020 | 7:00 PM

Census 2020: What You Don't Know About the Census in Michigan!

Our first Beyond Voting event happened on April 30 (via Zoom). While we maintained our physical distance we also got up close and personal on some of the data. You will be able to view a recording of the event on the BUC website soon; here are a few highlights:

- As you can imagine, **we are a bit behind** in responding to the Census although Michigan is keeping pace with other states. The Census Bureau's overall goal is to hear from 82% of the population and we are currently around 60%. The Census Bureau is working with food banks to help promote the Census during the pandemic.
- When people don't respond to the census and workers have to go to additional effort to get those responses, it **incurs more cost**. The deadline has been extended to October 31 due to the pandemic, but the best thing we can do is help to get it done sooner rather than later.
- Federal funding amounts to **\$1,800 per person** in the State of Michigan. We know the Census counts affects all kinds of federal funding: roads, schools, healthcare, pandemic response. It also affects how many representatives Michigan has in the US Congress, which **affects how loud our voice is** on topics such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, just transition to renewable energy and related jobs, and other statewide and Great Lakes Region issues. Since 1960 we have gone from having 18 representatives in Congress to 14.
- Also, there is no question on the Census about **citizenship**, and since the data is kept confidential for 73 years, there will be no repercussions for being undocumented, as far as the Census is concerned. Since immigrants pay a lot of taxes, this is one way for them to get the benefit of those taxes.
- We learned about some ways individuals can help:
 - TALK about it! POST about it! Post on social media, Next Door app. Add a frame to your Facebook profile picture.
 - Ask your friends if they have answered their Census; if they haven't, apply some gentle pressure
 - Play 20 for 20: Send a message to 20 of your friends encouraging them to answer the Census; ask them to send the message to 20 of their friends.
 - Keep up on the status at <https://2020census.gov>, look under "Get the Facts" at "Response Rates"
 - Call/email/text friends, family, neighbors about the importance of completing the Census
 - Assist someone who needs help
 - If you encounter someone who hasn't responded yet, ask them to set a date within the next week to complete it. Follow up with them.
 - Post interesting data, like progress on response percentage for your community
 - All those Zoom sessions you're attending? Ask other participants whether they have completed the Census.
 - Ask everyone you know to ask everyone they know whether they've been counted

To see a recording of the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/_DJ0F-D32XxLU43R42KCUik8TofAEEA8GCUF_PCOZHYHLL9AKZ66CP0CVEXHfDS9?STARTTIME=1588287947000

For more information about Beyond Voting contact Jane ONeil at janeAoneil@gmail.com.

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SESSION TWO: MAY 14 | 7:00 PM

Voting 2020:

How YOU Can Help EVERYONE Vote in 2020

Here are links to some of the things we talked about—and some we didn't!-- that individual citizens can do to help get out the vote in 2020.

Fair and Equal Michigan: sign the petition at <https://www.fairandequalmichigan.com/sign>
<https://www.fairandequalmichigan.com/media-release-center>
<https://www.fairandequalmichigan.com/why-now>

ACLU

If you would like to help get out the vote in metro Detroit's underserved communities while maintaining social distance please contact Scott Reilly at gotvmetrodetroit@riseup.net.

To check your own voter registration status and get on the permanent absentee ballot application request list go to <http://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>

Or www.Michigan.gov/vote

To support the ACLU-MI efforts go to <https://www.aclumich.org/en/act> .

To donate to the ACLU-MI go to <https://www.aclumich.org/en/donate>.

To volunteer with the ACLU-MI go to <https://action.aclu.org/mi-volunteer>

ELECTION WORKER

Be an election worker: www.Michigan.gov/democracyMVP

CLIMATE CRISIS:

Letter writing for Sierra Club campaign (*click this link, retyping it into the browser doesn't seem to work*):

sc.org/RequestLetters!

WAVE

Using our tools at Wave Michigan, you can easily find your friends who are registered but may not vote without some help. You'll be able to see predictions of their political leanings, send them a pre-filled absentee ballot application and follow them through the entire voting process.

Wave Michigan uses a large database of publicly available voter information to predict Michigan's registered voters' likelihood of voting, their likelihood of voting absentee and an insightful prediction of their political leanings.

www.wave-michigan.com

For more information about Beyond Voting contact Jane O'Neil at janeAoneil@gmail.com.

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SESSION THREE: MAY 28 | 7:00 PM

Safety 2020: The VNP Campaign to Vote SAFE

Here are links to the organizations we talked about at the May 28 Beyond Voting meeting.

Census 2020 Here's where you can check up on how are we doing at responding to the Census.	https://2020census.gov Navigate to "Get the Facts" then "Response Rates"
Voters Not Politicians Learn more about their work, volunteer to help	https://votersnotpoliticians.com/volunteer/ Text VOTESAFE to 555-888
Michigan Voter Information Center LOTS of info on registering to vote, getting your absentee ballot, etc.	https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/
To access the ballot application form online, click here:	https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html
League of Women Voters National	www.lowv.org www.vote411.org
League of Women Voters Oakland County <i>(NOTE: There are 27 LWV chapters in Michigan; you can find out about them on the National site above)</i>	www.lwvoa.org
Enter your address to find and contact your federal, state, county and local elected representatives	myreps.datamade.us
Ballotpedia is the digital encyclopedia of American politics and elections.	www.ballotpedia.org
Vote Smart The Voter's Self-Defense System Every detail on thousands of politicians, all made simple to use and easy to understand.	www.votesmart.org
Sierra Club Candidate positions on environmental issues	www.sierraclub.org/michigan Political Action Legislative Scorecards

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SESSION FOUR: JUNE 11 | 7:00 PM

Election 2020: Supporting Our Elections

Many thanks to Lisa Brown, Oakland County Clerk, for spending her evening with us at our fourth Beyond Voting event. Here are some of the things we talked about.

Absentee Voters: Things to Remember

- Fill in the box to vote; don't just put a check mark in the box, and don't circle your answer.
- Use black or blue ink, no pencil, no other color
- In August, you can only vote one side of the ballot or the other, Democrat or Republican, you cannot vote for candidates from both parties. Also, please note that there is a non-partisan section.
- You will need two stamps to mail in your ballot—or 68 cents postage.
- You can drop off your ballot in person at your city or township clerk's office anytime in the weeks leading up to the election, up until 8 pm on Election Day.
- If you ruin your ballot or change your mind, you can request a new one; contact your clerk's office.
- You can request an absentee ballot up until 4 pm on the Friday before the election (but it's not advisable to wait that long)
- Check whether your absentee ballot has been received at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>

IF you decide to vote at the polls instead of by absentee, please

Bring your own blue or black pen, wear a mask, wash your hands before and after voting

Jobs/Ways You Can Help in an Election

Contact your city or township clerk to learn how you can participate:

Absentee Voter Counting Board

Election Inspection Worker

Poll Watcher /Challenger

Attend the Board of Canvasser meeting after the election to monitor the certification of the voting

Educate yourself on the process and offer to help a friend

Or, work for your chosen political party or on the campaign of a candidate at the County, State or Federal level

LEARN ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO REPRESENT YOU

Candidate Forums put on by the League of Women Voters of Oakland; this site includes forums for candidates running for various offices in Oakland County.

There is usually a video of past events; check other chapters for forums for other areas.

<http://www.lwvoa.org/forums.html>