

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

GCSW Voter Engagement and Political Justice Initiative

Preparing social workers to engage with and expand the electorate throughout their social work careers

In advance of the November 2018 midterm elections, the GCSW's Voter Engagement and Political Justice Initiative (VEPJ) is partnering with several Houston-area community organizations that focus extensively on non-partisan voter engagement with marginalized communities of color.

Social workers have an important role to play in expanding access to voting. As part of this Initiative, **GCSW students are encouraged to volunteer with any of our partner organizations** to help increase voter engagement in the Houston area and beyond.

Voter engagement happens in several phases prior to the election:

Now – Oct. 9:	Voter Registration (must be deputized VDVR to register voters)
Oct. 9:	Deadline to Register to Vote for the 2018 Midterm Elections
Oct. 10 – Oct. 21:	Voter Education
Oct. 22 – Nov. 2:	Early Voting Period
Oct. 22 – Nov. 6:	Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Efforts
Nov. 6:	Election Day 2018

Information about voter engagement opportunities with each partner organization is provided on the back of this flyer. Volunteer alone, or make it a group activity with your fellow social work students!

GCSW Students, Staff, & Faculty: Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/GCSWvoting> each time you volunteer to log your volunteer hours & how many voters you register or engage with through education or GOTV efforts. This enables the GCSW to track its impact through this Initiative. Regular updates on GCSW progress on this Initiative will be provided throughout the fall semester.



10 GCSW students will be recognized for exceptional commitment to this Initiative with a customized tote bag!

Questions? Contact Dr. Suzanne Pritzker at spritzker@uh.edu or Ali Lozano at lozano.alesandra@gmail.com.
This Initiative is supported by the New York Community Trust and the Council on Social Work Education.

VEPJ Partner Organizations

Mi Familia Vota – www.mifamiliavota.org

“A national civic engagement organization that unites Latino, immigrant, and allied communities to promote social and economic justice through citizenship workshops, voter registration, and voter participation. Our mission is to build Latino political power by expanding the electorate, strengthening local infrastructures, and through year-round voter engagement.”

Volunteer opportunities: Daily *voter registration* opportunities for VDVRs through 10/9; *voter engagement* opportunities through Election Day.

To volunteer: Email Carlos Zamora at carlosz@mifamiliavota.org and copy Carlos Duarte at carlosd@mifamiliavota.org; subject line: “Voter Registration Volunteer Interest”

Houston Justice: Project Orange & HOU Votes – www.houstonjustice.org

Project Orange: “aims to register eligible inmates and their family members during visitation. ...first-of-its-kind ambitious partnership between Houston Justice, the Harris County Sheriff’s Department, and the Harris County Tax Assessor’s Office...”

HOU Votes: includes “a campaign that conducts voter registration in shelters and churches”

Volunteer opportunities: *Voter registration* opportunities for VDVRs through 10/9, often on weekends.

To volunteer: View volunteer opportunities at the Houston Justice events page and click “RSVP”:
<https://www.houstonjustice.org/calendar/>

OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates of Greater Houston – www.ocahouston.org

“OCA-Greater Houston Chapter is a volunteer driven organization of community advocates that strives to meet the current and evolving needs of a diverse population through a comprehensive continuum of programs targeting different life stages of AAPIs with a focus on developing advocacy, leadership, and civic engagement participation of AAPIs.”

Volunteer opportunities: *Voter registration* opportunities for VDVRs through 10/9; *voter engagement* opportunities through Election Day.

To volunteer: Email Debbie Chen at debbiechen13@gmail.com; subject line: “Voter Engagement Volunteer”

Emgage USA – Houston Chapter – www.emgageusa.org

“We strive to build the political awareness and capacity of Muslim Americans to engage on key policy issues that affect all of us as Americans, but especially as Muslims....Emgage is dedicated to bridging the gap between the electorate and the policies that affect their lives by organizing grassroots efforts such as voter registration campaigns, absentee ballot drives, candidate forums, statewide phone banking and canvassing, organizing early voting events and distributing nonpartisan issue guides.”

Volunteer opportunities: *Voter registration* opportunities for VDVRs via block walking through 10/9; *GOTV* opportunities through Election Day.

To volunteer: Email Umarah Zakaria at uzakaria@emgageusa.org; subject line: “Voter Engagement Volunteer”

Texas Organizing Project (TOP) – www.organizetexas.org

“TOP organizes Black and Latino communities in Dallas, Harris and Bexar counties with the goal of transforming Texas into a state where working people of color have the power and representation they deserve.

Volunteer opportunities: *Voter engagement* opportunities through Election Day.

To volunteer: Email Ali Lozano at Lozano.alesandra@gmail.com to connect you with appropriate TOP staff.