

Social Work and VotER

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Welcome!

- Goal: Learn more about VotER's new Healthy Democracy Voter Registration Kit and how to use it in multiple settings to help people, especially the disenfranchised, register and vote.
- "Vote like **our** health depends on it!"



Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW

Why Should Social Workers Get Involved with VotER?

- Social workers inspired the creation of VotER!
- My experience as a member of the VotER Core Team
- Possible impact of COVID-19 on voter registration and participation
- Importance of civic engagement, especially digital organizing during the pandemic
- Healthy Democracy Voter Registration Kit promotes empowerment, health equity, and social justice!

By engaging in VotER, we're voting for our clients and a better healthcare system.

THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK VOTER MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN



- Voting: *The Most Basic Right in our Democracy*
- The Voter Suppression Problem
- The National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign (“Voting is Social Work”) partners with *VotER* to Provide Fast and Easy Voter Registration
 - About the Campaign
 - Benefits of Voting for Individuals, Communities, and the Social Work Profession
 - Voter Registration and Social Work’s Strong Civic Engagement Tradition
- COVID-19 Ups The Ante.

Be Part of History!

- ✓ Join the National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign.
- ✓ Learn how to use the Health Democracy Voter Registration Tool Kit.
- ✓ Order your kits, and join as we make democracy work again!



Organizational endorsements include: CSWE • North American Network of Field Educators and Directors (NANFED) • National Association of Deans & Directors (NADD) • Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice in Social Work • Association for Community Organization & Social Action (ACOSA) • #MacroSWNetwork for Social Work Management (NSWM) • Influencing Social Policy (ISP) • National Rural Social Work Caucus

✓ + ER



Health Care-Based Voter Registration

Confidential



My Patient

Social Work to the Rescue



“I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD..

NO ONE HAS EVER ASKED ME IF I
WANTED TO BE REGISTERED TO
VOTE BEFORE.”

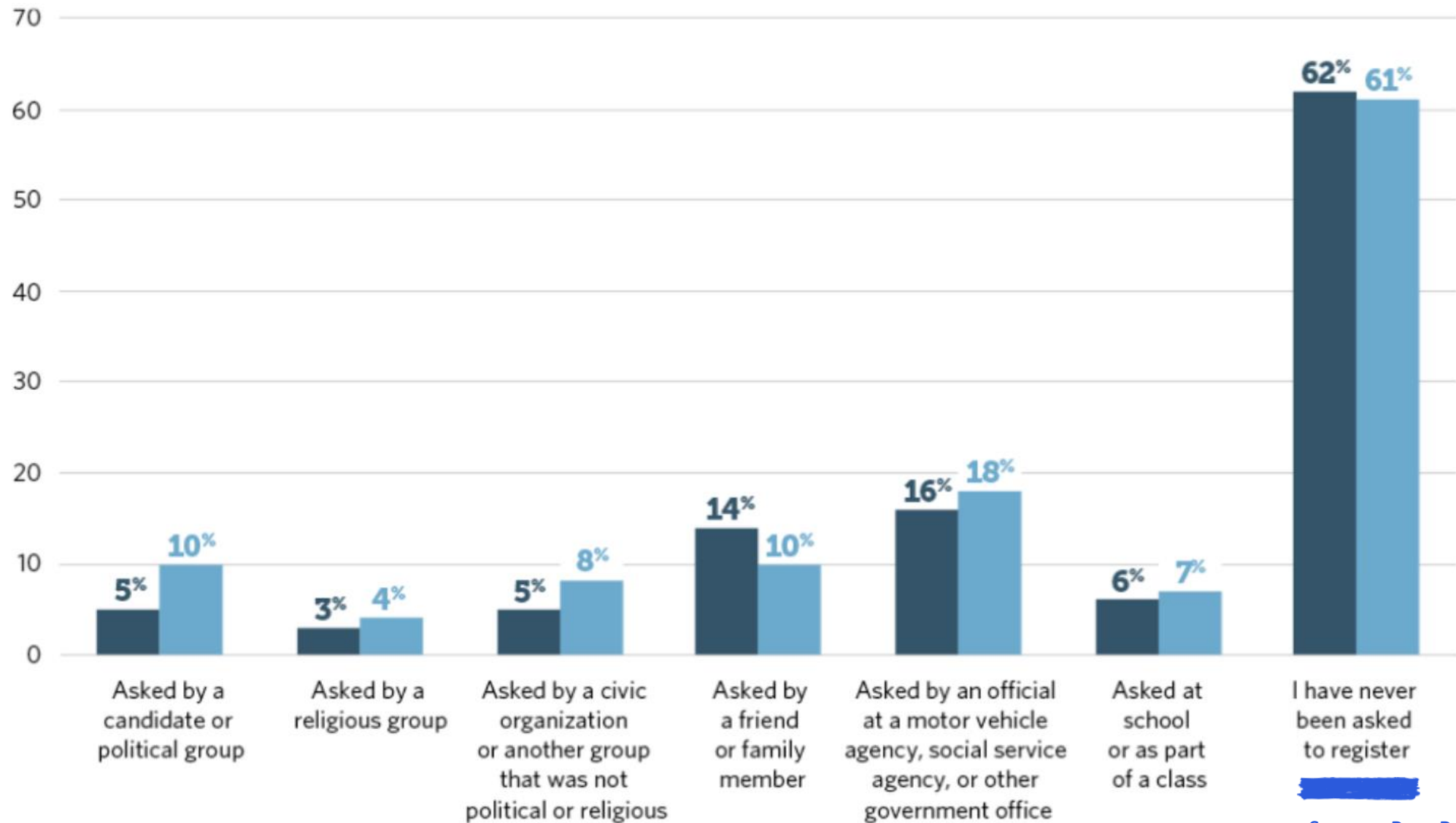
51 Million =



Unregistered Voters in the United States

Entire Pop. of Spain

Have you been asked to vote in any of the following ways?



Source: Pew Research Survey

WHO ARE THE UNREGISTERED?

The Young



41% of young adults (age 18-24) are unregistered

Low-Income



50% of people who were unregistered had a family income of less than \$30,000

People of color



43% of eligible Latinos are unregistered

31% of eligible African Americans are unregistered

WHO ARE THE 'LOW ACUITY' PRESENTERS TO THE ER AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS?

The Young

Young adults were 2x as likely to have non-urgent ER visits compared to older adults.

Low Income

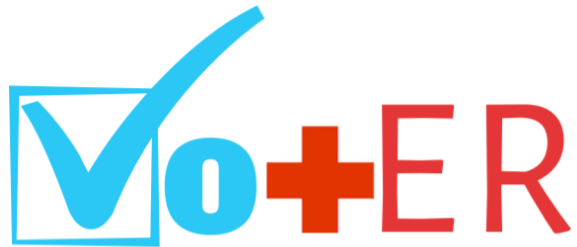
Low-income patients are more likely to make non-urgent ER visits.

People of color

African American patients are more likely than white patients to make non-urgent ER visits.

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERLAP

Opportunity to offer voter registration



Powered by



Three Mechanisms

- Site-based

Pre-COVID19

- Healthy Democracy
- Digital/Telehealth

Post-COVID19

Site Based: Pre-COVID19

Kiosks

Text to Register Posters



- Prominently displayed in main waiting rooms
- In low acuity waiting areas
- Captive audience with novel distraction and high engagement
- Capacity to have staff (e.g. medical students) do guided voter registration using kiosk



Discharge Papers Handout



Site based: Numbers to date

1-3%

Conversion Rate. If done at scale in every ER and community health center, this would equate to 2.4 - 2.8 million newly registered voters per year.

51

Pipeline. Hospitals that are currently in the pipeline to onboard pending funding.

20

Current Partners. Hospitals, Community Health Centers, Children's Hospitals who currently have the VotER platform.

4

Current States.
Our partners are all in 4 key states.

VotER and Social Work



Tanya Rhodes Smith, MSW



Dr. Mimi Abramovitz



Dr. Charles E Lewis Jr.



Alberto Cifuentes, LMSW

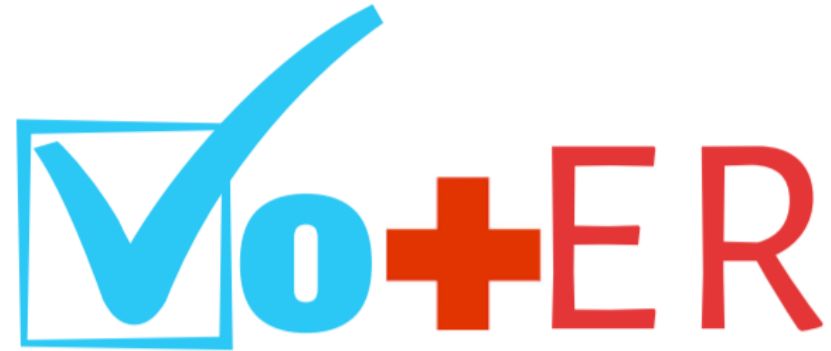


Deona Hooper, MSW



Dr. Terry Mizrahi

VotER and Social Work



A new tool to help your clients/patients

- A broader perspective than just hospital-based -- widely applicable to most client scenarios
- Healthy Democracy Kit (HDK) for Social Workers
- Telehealth Applications

What is in the Health Democracy Kit?

Voter Registration lanyard and badge backer

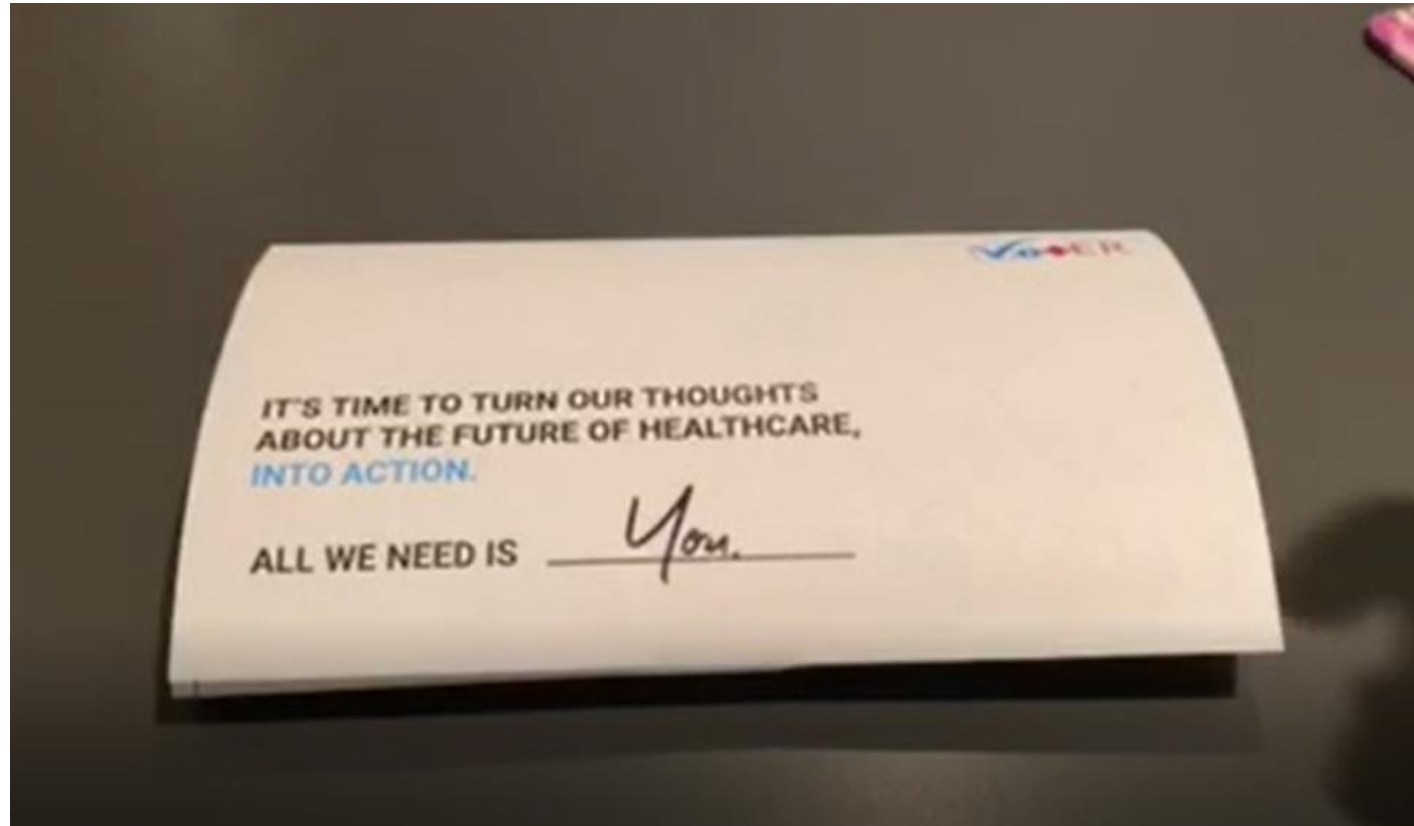
Video on how to use the kit to prompt patients...

- to register to vote OR
- to request their vote-from-home ballot

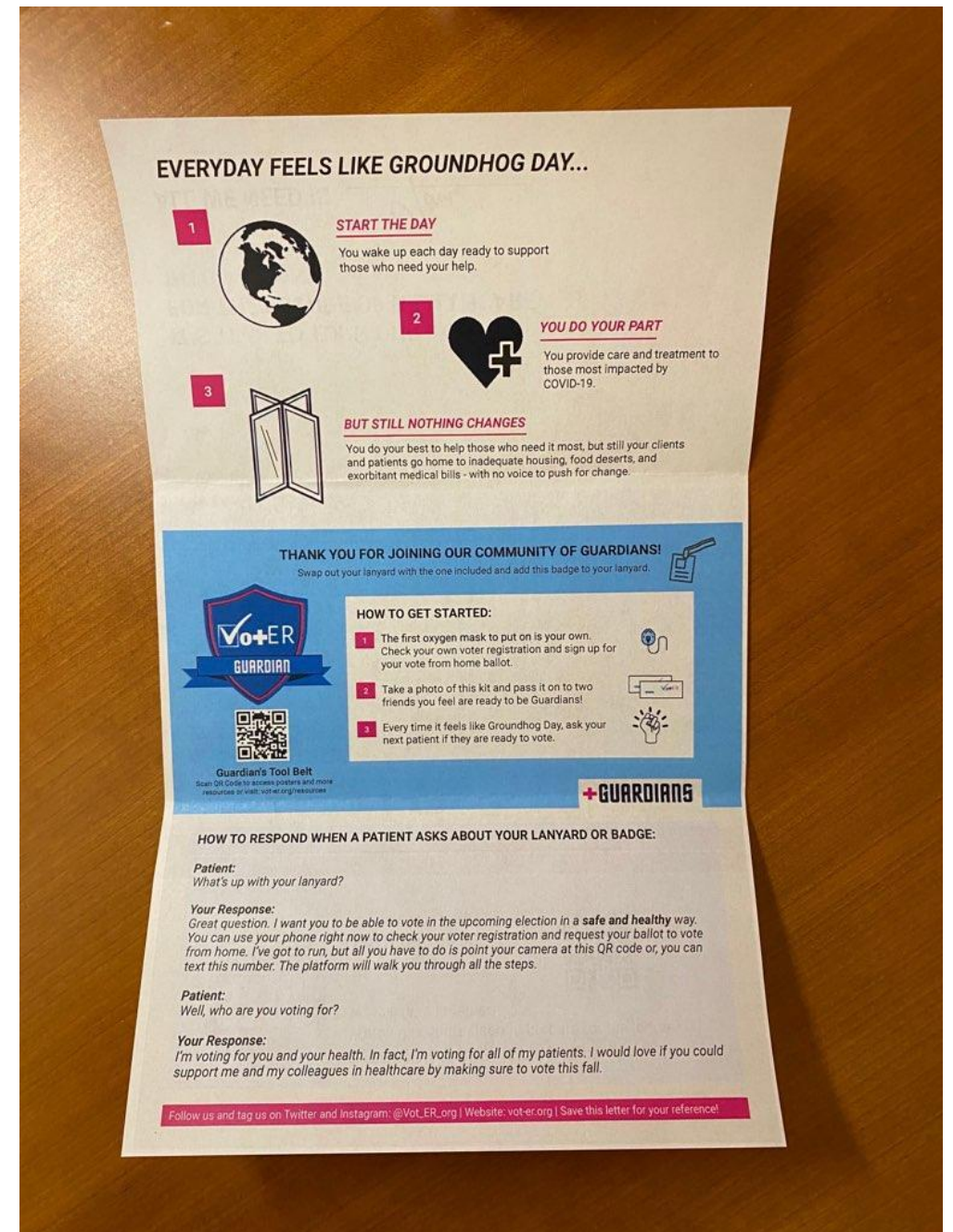
Invitation to join a national **Healthy Democracy Community**

Posters templates that can be used to post in clinics widely

Kit: Unboxing



Kit: Unboxing



Kit: Lanyards and badgebackers



- Free
- Track # of registrations as provider type
 - Social workers, physicians, medical students
- Track overall number of mail-in ballots requested

Kit: Lanyards and badgebackers

How it works



Client: I noticed your badge says get ready to vote. What's that about?

Social Worker: Yep. You **can get registered to vote** or get your mail in ballot to vote at home right on your phone. All you have to do is take your phone out and **point your phone at this QR code** (showing badgebacker) or you can text this number. The **site will walk you through all the steps**. Do you want to take a look at it together?



Kit: Posters

Poster Template Examples

REGISTER TO VOTE

Text "join
VotER
cchealth"
to 34444

or visit vot-er.org/cchealth

I vote because of

I vote because of **healthcare**

I vote because of **my kids**

I vote because of **education**

I vote because of **jobs**



Did you know? Places where more people vote also have better healthcare.

**THE HEALTH
OF OUR
DEMOCRACY
IS IN YOUR
HANDS**

REGISTER TO VOTE WHILE YOU WAIT

Text "Join VotER MGHER" to 34444
Or visit vot-er.org/mgher

Yo voto por acceso a la salud Yo voto por mis hijos Yo voto por la justicia Yo voto por el trabajo Yo voto por la educación

**Envía el texto
"join VotER
MGHER" al 34444**

¿Cuál es su motivo?
Regístrese hoy para votar.

¿Sabe usted que las comunidades donde más gente vota tienen mejor acceso a la salud?

Healthy Democracy Kits

Early Results

- 2,256 kits ordered



Can you guess who ordered more?

Across 39 states

Physicians or Social workers?

Healthy Democracy Kits

Pre-orders

Physicians: 1,668

Social workers: 315



Healthy Democracy Kits

Order your free HDK now by pointing your camera at the QR code:



or go to: vot-er.org/socialwork

VotER and Telehealth

Telehealth toolkit for social workers

VotER and Telehealth for
Clinical Providers



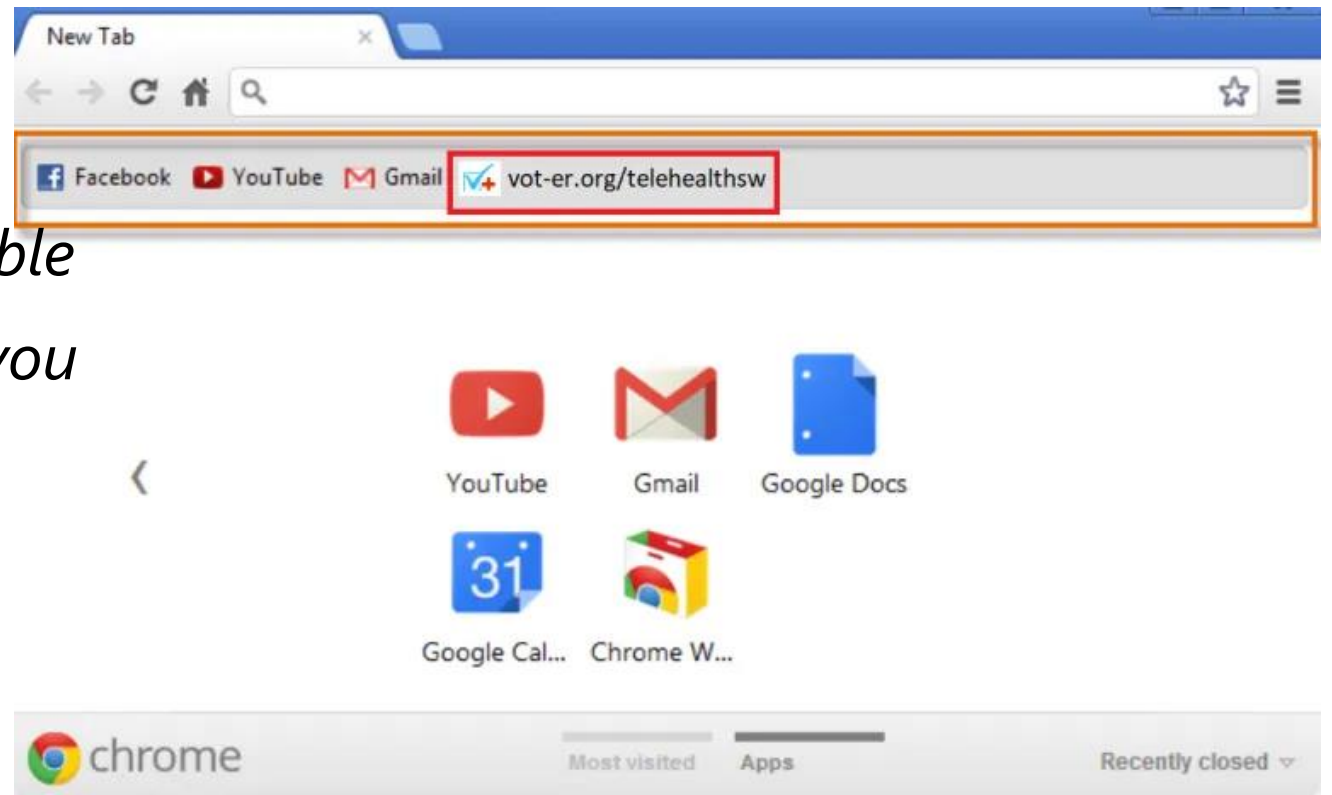
- VotER has been adapted to telehealth platforms to offer voter registration and mail-in ballot request via telehealth
- Available on all telehealth platforms

VotER and Telehealth

1. Bookmark the page:

Vot-er.org/telehealthsw/

Make this resource easily accessible and reduce the amount of time you spend searching for the page during your interactions with clients.



VotER and Telehealth

2. Prompt the Conversation

"Before I let you go, I wanted to acknowledge that with all the disruptions related to COVID-19, it can be hard to do the important tasks like remembering to register to vote. Are you ready to vote in the next election?"



VotER and Telehealth

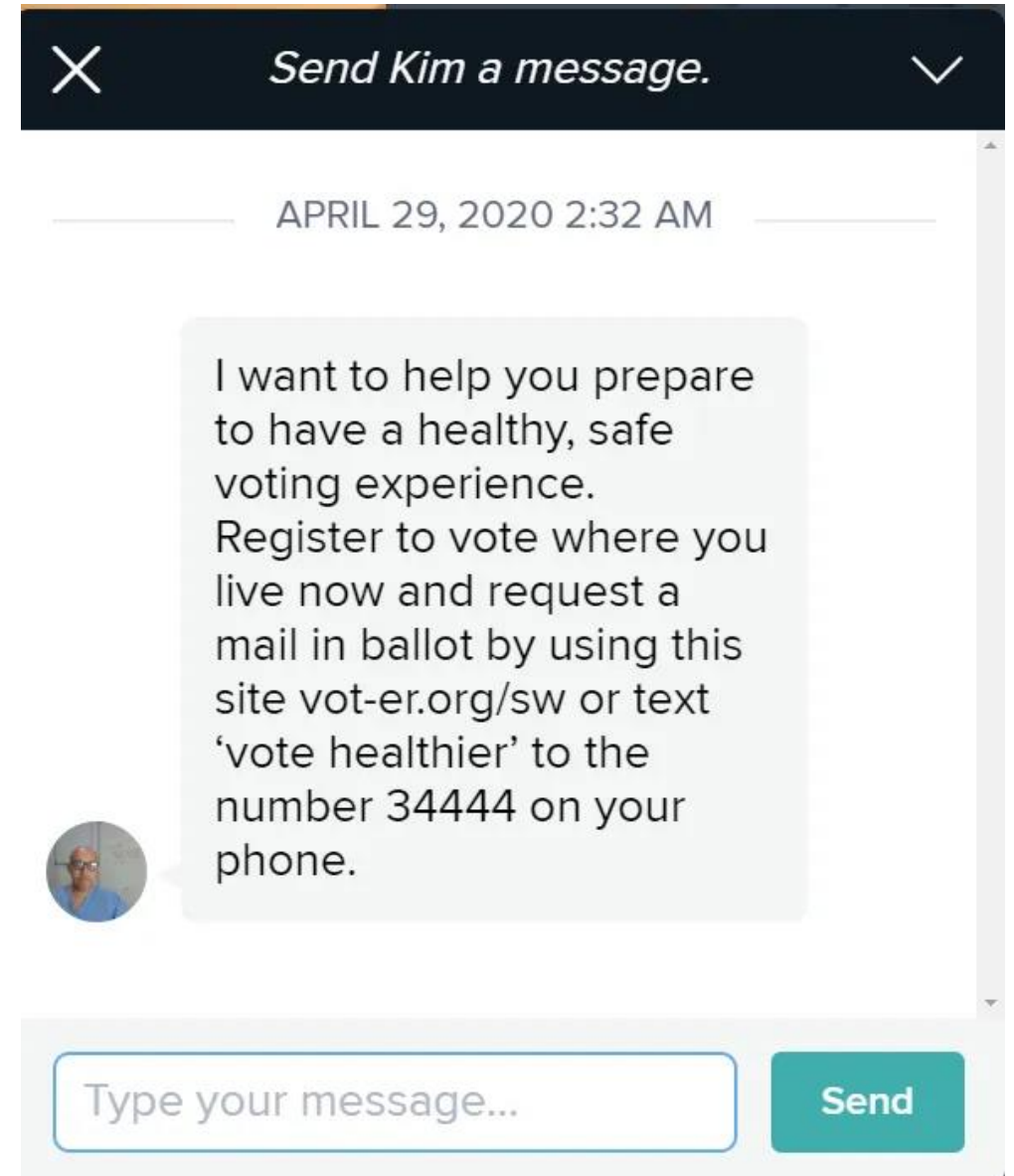
3. Paste/edit this invitation.

"I want to help you prepare to have a healthy, safe voting experience.

Register to vote where you live now and request a mail in ballot by using this site:

vot-er.org/sw or

text 'vote healthier' to the number 34444 on your phone"



Learn More



Contact us - <https://vot-er.org>

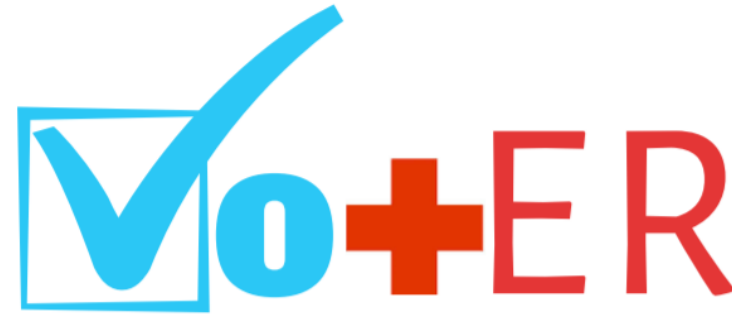


@vot_ER_org

Links on Background:

- COVID response: <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/mission-possible-voter-keeps-engagement-key-during-covid-outbreak/>
- Penn Partner: <https://www.phillymag.com/healthcare-news/2020/01/22/the-emergency-room-is-the-new-place-to-register-to-vote/>
- Boston Globe: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/01/13/opinion/er-sign-up-vote/>
- MGH Hotline: <https://www.massgeneral.org/news/hotline/HTL011020/voter>
- MGH Giving: <https://giving.massgeneral.org/hospital-voter-registration-initiative/>
- Video Explainers: <https://vot-er.org/explainervid/>

VotER and Social Work



Making the most of this webinar:

1. Order your free kit: vot-er.org/socialwork
2. Bookmark for telehealth: vot-er.org/telehealthsw/
3. Share this story with one other like-minded social worker



Becca Litwin, LMSW

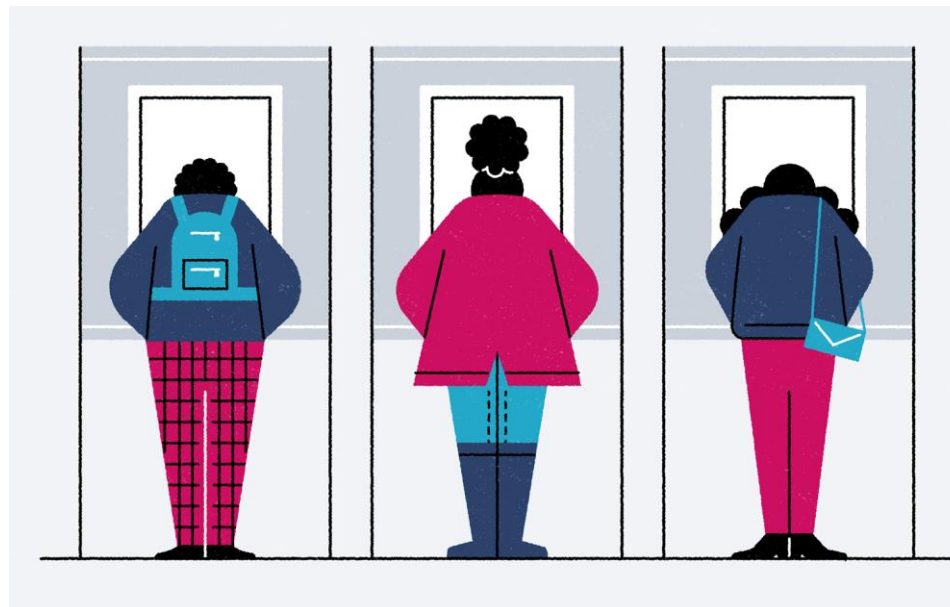
Voter Engagement
Partnerships at Democracy
Works, Inc.



Jill Brownfield

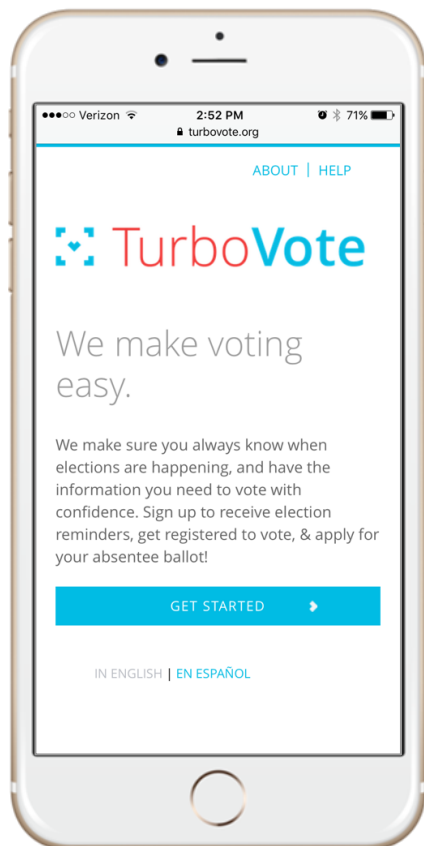
Voter Engagement
Partnerships at Democracy
Works, Inc.

Democracy Works is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that aims to **make voting a simple & seamless experience...**

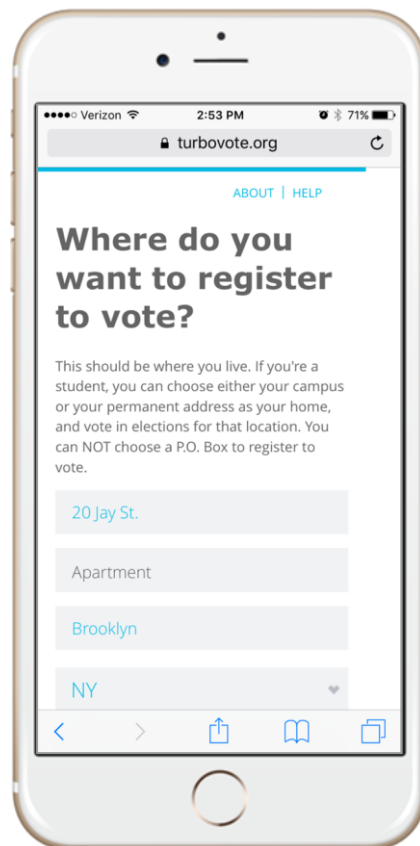


...so that no one misses an election.

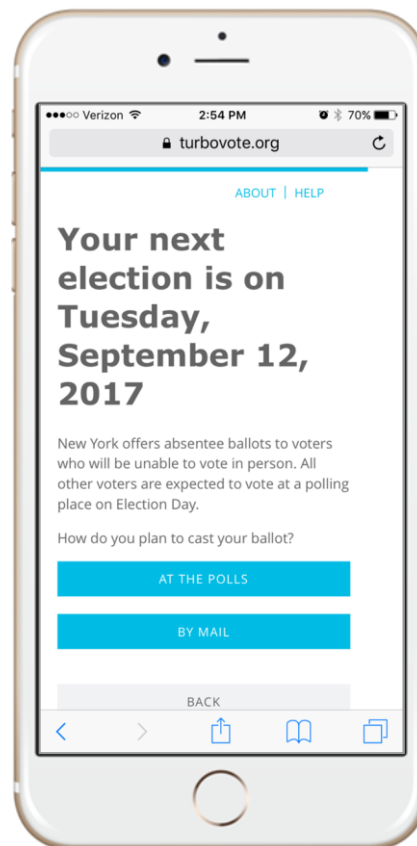
How TurboVote works



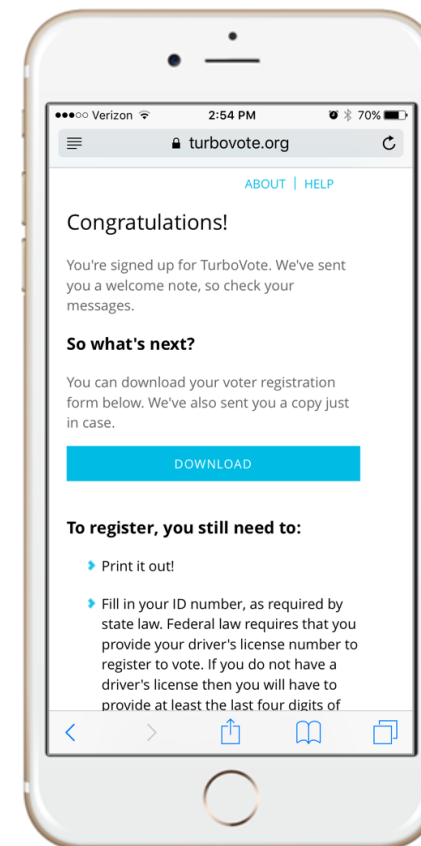
Help people register to vote



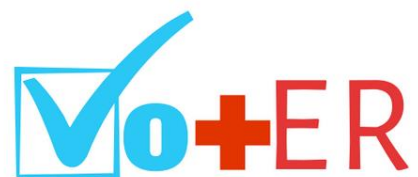
Help people get ready for elections



Send regular text communications



Sign up at voter.turbovote.org



ER Based Voter Registration

We know registering to vote is not always convenient. That's why we want to make it easier for you. Why not register to vote while you wait?
Get Started Below!

GET STARTED [▶](#)

IN ENGLISH | [EN ESPAÑOL](#)

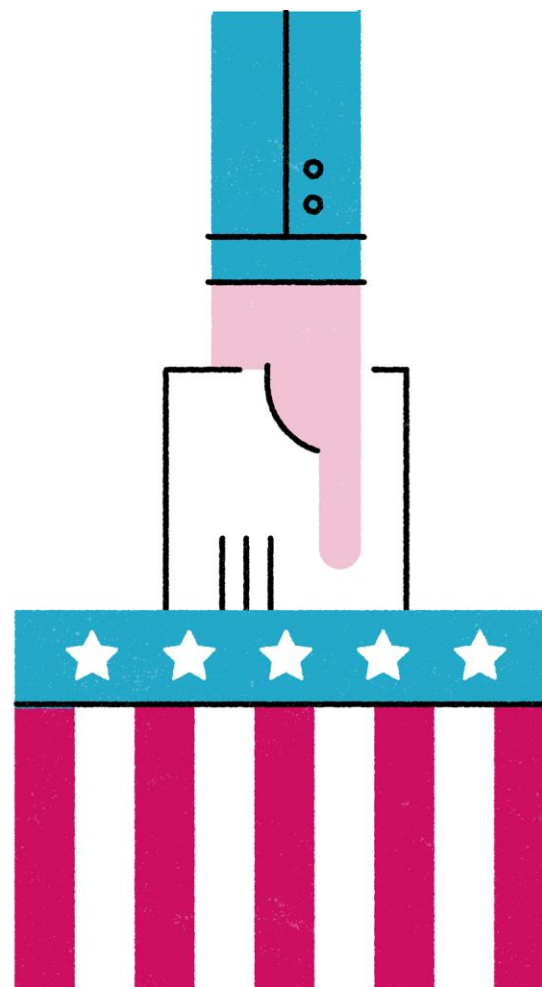
For COVID-19 election updates,
visit

tvote.org/COVID19



Thank you!

**Contact us at
partnerships@democracy.works**



THE ROLE OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ON VOTER ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



**Cheryl Aguilar, LICSW, LCSW-C
Founding Director & Therapist
Hope Center for Wellness**

**National Association of Social Workers
Mental Health Specialty Section Committee Member**

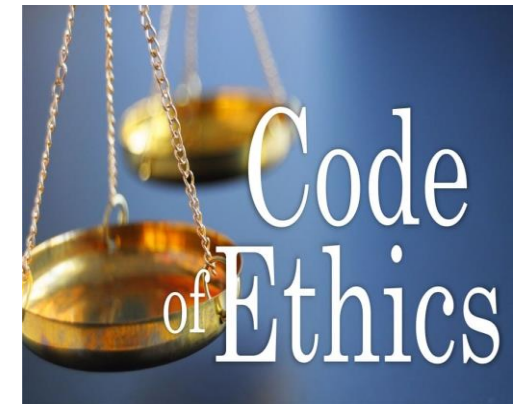
**Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy
Board Member**



HOPE
CENTER FOR WELLNESS

CONNECTING VOTER ENGAGEMENT TO SOCIAL WORK MISSION

- Empowerment = Foundation of Social Work Helping Role
- National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
NASW's Code of Ethics standard 6.02 denotes that "social workers should facilitate informed participation by the public in shaping social policies and institutions" (NASW, 2020).
- Clinical Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
The Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA) Code of Ethics standard VI (2020), points to clinical social workers' responsibilities to the community, noting that "clinical social workers recognize a responsibility to participate in activities leading towards improved social conditions.
- What does social work identity have to do with it?



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INTEGRATING VOTER ENGAGEMENT IN CLINICAL INTERVENTION

- Voting participation connected to enhanced well-being
(Abramovitz, Sherraden, Hill, Rhodes Smith, Lewis, & Mizrahi, 2019)
- Voting as social determinant of health
(Spence & Coffey, 2020)



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WHAT ENGAGEMENT MAY LOOK LIKE IN SESSION

- Covert and Overt Strategies
- Mindful Listening – Listen for Opportunities
- Existing interventions lend themselves to voter engagement:
 - Solution-Focused
 - Strengths-Based/Empowerment Approach
 - Person-Centered Care



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ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clinical social workers should engage in ongoing exploration and self-evaluation.
- As you self-reflect and consider how you may be able to effect, as a first step, check-in on your own assumptions or feelings to your role on voter engagement.
- If feelings and assumptions are grounded on a not-knowing stance, turn to research, our Code of Ethics, and your practice's or agency's policies to guide your decision on whether you should engage in voter participation efforts.



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ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS *(CON'T)*

- If you are exploring efforts outside of your own practice, consider your emotional bandwidth. If there is a drive to do more, it's important to do so in moderation and while balancing work and life.
- Become familiar with social media or online voter engagement efforts you may support that make take less time.
- If you decide not to engage in voter participation efforts, consider delegating this task to someone else within your practice/agency or providing clients referrals to others who may be able to provide relevant voting information.



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CONTACT

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Twitter: [@hope_center_](https://twitter.com/hope_center_)

Instagram: [@hopecenterforwellness](https://www.instagram.com/hopecenterforwellness)



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Audience Q & A

Your call to action!



1. Order your free kit: vot-er.org/socialwork
2. Bookmark for telehealth: vot-er.org/telehealthsw/
3. Share this story with one other like-minded social workers



4. Participate in the 2020 census: 2020census.gov



5. Go to VotingisSocialWork.org for resources and information

Stay in touch!

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