

TALKING TO ASIAN-AMERICANS ABOUT VOTING

This document provides messages that can be used to discuss voting restrictions with Asian-Americans, and help encourage them to vote.

DISCUSSING VOTING RESTRICTIONS

When talking to Asian-Americans about voting restrictions, the following messages may be useful:

- Voting brings us together as Americans. By voting, you join your family and friends in helping to strengthen our community.
- Voting is the one time when we are all equal — whether young or old, rich or poor — and the one time when we all have the same say.
- Citizens have the responsibility to do their part and vote. It's our right to vote. It's our democracy. It's important that our election laws are fair and equal.
- It's important for us to have a say in what happens in this country. Voting is empowering and provides us all with some control over what happens to us, our families, and our community.
- Your vote makes a difference, and together, Americans' voices count. If you don't vote, you can't complain.
- Voting is our civic duty, and it's something we do to show our country and children that we are proud to be American.
- As the leading democracy of the world, our voting system should be free, fair, and accessible to all eligible Americans.
- The Declaration of Independence says that we all are "created equal." If America wants to live up to its promise to provide all citizens with the same opportunities, then we can't pass laws that block some Americans from voting, and deny them the opportunity to participate equally in our democracy.

WHAT RESEARCH SHOWS

Though there is limited data available on Asian-American voters, initial findings suggest that the following values resonate strongly:

- Civic duty
- To have a voice
- Responsibility to my country

- Unfair voting laws are being passed by politicians who are trying to manipulate the system for their own benefit — because they don't like what the voters have to say.
- It's wrong to pass laws for political gain that take away the right to vote from millions of eligible citizens, including seniors and veterans.
- Even though every American has a responsibility to follow the rules for voting, it's wrong to pass laws that make voting unfair and unequal. We fought hard to ensure that every American — regardless of age, sex, race, or income — have an equal opportunity to participate in politics. The new laws are taking away this opportunity and are un-American.

MOBILIZING VOTERS

Though sample sizes are small, research suggests that several core ideas can help energize Asian-American voters:

- As an American citizen, it is your responsibility to do your civic duty and vote on Election Day.
- I'm proud to be an American, and I vote because I'm loyal to my country and believe in democracy. Turnout is going to be high this year, and a lot of my family, friends, and people I work with vote because it's our civic duty, to make things better. We can't complain about the way things are going if we don't take responsibility to stand up for what we believe.
- Voting is your chance to take control over what happens to your family and your community. Many Americans are struggling these days in the economy — to find jobs, pay their mortgages, and put food on the table — and all Americans deserve a say in how to solve these problems.
- People in our community are small business owners, creative thinkers, innovators, and contributing members of their communities. We represent the best of the American Dream, because we have seized opportunities and have worked hard.
- It's important to stand up for our rights and elect leaders who will lift up our country and our communities. America's future is our future, and we need to vote and make sure the politicians hear our voices and know we count and we matter. We can't complain about the way things are going if we don't take responsibility and stand up for what we believe in.
- The politicians who are trying to make it harder for you to vote are the same ones behind strict immigration laws that promote racial profiling, scapegoating of immigrants, and self-deportation. That's why it's so critical that you register and vote on Election Day.
- Your vote — along with everyone's vote — matters. It lets politicians know that the American people have an opinion, and that they need to listen to what we have to say.