



Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection | www.JustVoteColorado.org | 866-OUR-VOTE | 888-VE-Y-VOTA

JUST VOTE! COLORADO ELECTION PROTECTION

is a collaborative nonpartisan election protection program created in 2004 to assist voters with election activities, expand access to information about the voting process, and to monitor and document the electoral process across the state.

The 2012 election, with the combination of candidate races and hot-button ballot measures, will create an environment where nonpartisan election protection efforts will be critically important. With Colorado being a top swing state in 2012, our state will receive much national attention, particularly from well-funded partisan campaigns.

From robocalls with false information about voting locations to challengers at the polls, **threats of voter suppression and deceptive voting tactics are real**. This environment will require great attention to every detail to ensure voters know their rights and are able to exercise them if so desired.

BE A VOTING HERO

Voting is the right our democracy is built on. Blood has been shed and lives have been lost to protect this right, more than any other. Every generation of Americans has stepped up and fought to protect and expand this fundamental right. Now it's our turn.

Voting Heroes will work in our communities to:

- ✓ Be informed on key voting rights issues
- ✓ Make sure your neighbors know their rights
- ✓ Serve as an Election Judge
- ✓ Be a Poll Monitor

DEVELOPING POLICY

Colorado Common Cause works with community allies to monitor legislation and rules that impact voting rights and develops policy recommendations that strengthen the ability of voters to participate in elections.

Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection works with organizations representing a wide range of constituencies and populations. We assist organizations engaging in civic engagement work by providing the necessary resources about the mechanics of voting.

PROTECTING THE VOTE

Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection provides accurate and user-friendly information for voters so they have the information they need about where, when and how to vote.

Through our website and toll-free call center Colorado voters can get the information they need to participate in election activities. The toll-free bilingual hotline, staffed by volunteer attorneys, operates for two weeks leading up to the November election and on Election Day.

BE AN ELECTION JUDGE

Another way for you to help people vote is to become an election judge for your county. In this role, you would check voters' ID, give them ballots and prepare voting locations for early vote and Election Day.

Colorado Common Cause | (303)292-2163 | Colorado@commoncause.org | @CommonCauseCO



Why we need you to be a Voting Hero on Election Day

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

In **Maryland in November of 2010**, thousands of minority voters received automated Election Day phone calls advising them that incumbent Gov. Martin O'Malley had secured a second term and that they didn't need to vote. The calls were ultimately traced to the rival campaign of Republican Bob Ehrlich.

In Mississippi in 2011, a minister posted a notice on his Facebook page announcing that because of an expected high turnout, opponents of the anti-abortion "personhood" amendment to the state constitution would be casting their ballots on the day following the actual election.

And right here in Colorado in November of 2008, **Pueblo County** Hispanic residents were targeted in an automated "robo call" that stated that polling places had changed, and voters had to call the county clerk's office prior to voting. County clerk Bo Ortiz worked with the local news media to correct the damage, but hundreds of voters were misled about their right to vote.

As a Voting Hero, you will spread the correct information to people who may have been lied to, as well as watching and listening for misinformation that can be corrected.

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

Some Election Judges, either willfully or not, will ask voters for more stringent ID than the law requires, resulting in eligible voters being turned away without exercising their right to vote.

Voting Heroes will be on hand to tell voters what their rights are and alert authorities and our network of attorneys to voter suppression.

Polling places are supposed to be accessible to people with disabilities, but many, and some years most, are not.

Voting Heroes will report this lack of accessibility, allowing the problem to be remedied immediately or flagging that location as inadequate for the next election.

VOTER INTIMIDATION

A group called True the Vote has committed to organize recruit more than 1 million challengers to question voters' eligibility at the polls on Election Day. Imagine that you've gone to vote and you're standing in a long line. Ahead of you, a woman is being challenged about her eligibility to vote. She's pulled out of line and made to endure a lengthy verification process. Then, the man right in front of you is also pulled out of line. When someone comes toward you and challenges your status, you might be inclined to leave because you have to get back to work. These public challenges are designed to stop people from voting. These threats have come in the past, but they are more organized and fired up this election cycle. These efforts will create headaches at the polls for election administrators and pose a real threat to voters who are targeted.

Voting Heroes will alert the hotline to these activities, so that attorneys and other poll monitors can come support voters in that location.