


MISSING VOTER PROJECT



Toolkit for civic engagement

A nonpartisan organizer's guide for effective voter education, registration, and mobilization

South Carolina Progressive Network Education Fund
scpronet.com • network@scpronet.com • 803.808.3384
Nonpartisan Research and Policy Institute since 1996

rev. 2019



MISSING VOTER PROJECT



The South Carolina Progressive Network is working to build a movement for a more democratic, just and equitable state. We believe that when citizens are not engaged in the political process, their government is not responsive to their needs. Toward that end, the Network started the Missing Voter Project in 2004 to teach groups and individuals how to use state-of-the-art tools and strategies to maximize their voter registration and mobilization drives. The MVP is a nonpartisan campaign that seeks to find the nearly 1 million eligible SC citizens who are not registered. Another one million who are registered vote infrequently.

The United States ranks behind 127 other nations — between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Burundi — in the percentage of citizens voting. In the 2018 general election, of the 3,147,589 registered voters, only 55% turned out to vote. In 2016, 68% of SC registered voters turned out to choose a president (1.98 million), but 1.5 million voting age citizens didn't vote. Hillary Clinton lost in SC by 300,000 votes and nearly 370,000 registered black citizens didn't vote.

The MVP is designed to take voter registration beyond traditional party building or drumming up support for a specific campaign or candidate. It is a long-term effort to engage new voters in a larger movement for social change based on citizen empowerment. During its registration drives, the Network will collect information from new voters about the issues important to them, and they will be offered the opportunity to get involved with organizations working on those issues.

The MVP is built on the idea that registering and voting is simply the first step to building power at the grassroots level. Our intention is to create a movement of voters with enough power to help set political priorities that meet their needs rather than the needs of politicians and corporate interests.

The MVP uses the voter registration list and runs it against Census data, which allows us to target blocks of unregistered citizens in neighborhoods across the state to maximize voter registration drives. The data can be sorted for race, income, employment, age and other demographics.

If you or your organization is interested in joining the Missing Voter Project, e-mail network@scpronet.com or call 803-808-3384. We will arrange a free training session and provide materials for you to conduct a registration drive in your community. You will find the Missing Voter Tool Box at our web site.

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(rev. 2019)

MISSING VOTER PROJECT

The Progressive Network's Missing Voter Project is an innovative and high-tech way of finding unregistered and infrequent voters. Using voter registration lists and running them against Census data, we are able to target blocks in neighborhoods across the state where voter registration drives would be most effective. The data can be sorted for race, income, employment, age and other demographics. Pick a county, and you can find a precinct and print maps that show high areas of unregistered and infrequent voters.

If your organization is interested to joining the nonpartisan Missing Voter Project, e-mail network@scpronet.com or call 803-808-3384. We would be glad to arrange a training session for your group and provide materials to conduct a registration drive.

SC Voter Data:

(Numbers drawn from 2017 census projection and 2017 voter registration data)

Voting Age Population(VAP): 3,802,489
 White VAP 2,521,777
 Black VAP 999,232
 Hispanic VAP 171,242

Total Missing Voters (2018): 2,081,893
 White Missing Voters 1,305,843
 Non-White Missing Voters 776,050

Total registered (2017): 3,157,327 (83% VAP)

White 2,184,614
 Black 870,683
 Hispanic 45,468
 Asian 27,380
 Native American 6,778
 Other 22,398
 Male 1,427,364
 Female 1,729,788
 18-24 250,979

Total votes in 2018 Governor's race

2018 Total: 1,707,569
 McMaster 921,342
 Smith 784,182
 Margin 137,260

Total SC votes in 2016 for President: 2,103,027

Trump 1,155,389
 Clinton 855,379
 Margin 300,016

Unregistered VAP (2017) 645,162
 Unregistered White VAP 337,163
 Unregistered Black VAP 128,549

- National ranking of percent of VAP registered: 36h.
- National ranking of percent of registered voting: 42nd

Registered not voting (2018) 1,436,731
 White 968,680
 Non-white 468,051

- Global ranking of all countries' VAP participation in elections: United States, 128th in the world (below Bosnia and above Burundi).

Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Voter Turnout Database

The voter turnout as defined as the percentage of the voting age population that actually voted . Some countries have compulsory elections and some allow all citizens to vote. Go to idea.int for the database.

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1	Somalia	42	Sao Tome and Principe
2	Nauru	43	Gibraltar
3	Cook Islands	44	Namibia
4	Tuvalu	45	Venezuela
5	Rwanda	46	Montenegro
6	Papua New Guinea	47	Panama
7	Viet Nam	48	Israel
8	Uruguay	49	Macedonia, former Yugoslav Republic (1993-)
9	Dominica	50	Hungary
10	Uzbekistan	51	Grenada
11	Malta	52	Yemen
12	Timor-Leste	53	Mauritius
13	Ecuador	54	Ghana
14	Peru	55	Greece
15	Seychelles	56	Norway
16	Turkey	57	Philippines
17	Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	58	India
18	Faroe Islands	59	Belize
19	Lao People's Dem. Republic	60	Ethiopia
20	Guyana	61	Vanuatu
21	Bolivia	62	Saint Lucia
22	Indonesia	63	Antigua and Barbuda
23	Sweden	64	Thailand
24	Sierra Leone	65	Finland
25	Cuba	66	Tonga
26	Turkmenistan	67	Greenland
27	Australia	68	Germany
28	Trinidad and Tobago	69	Guinea-Bissau
29	Bangladesh	70	Austria
30	Belgium	71	Albania
31	Argentina	72	Maldives
32	Netherlands	73	Liberia
33	Saint Kitts and Nevis	74	Mongolia
34	Tajikistan	75	Barbados
35	Montserrat	76	Anguilla
36	Brazil	77	Belarus
37	Sri Lanka	78	Bahamas
38	Denmark	79	Cambodia
39	New Zealand	80	Samoa
40	Iceland	81	Taiwan
41	San Marino	82	Mexico

83	Equatorial Guinea	131	Botswana
84	Aruba	132	Moldova, Republic of
85	Honduras	133	Slovenia
86	Italy	134	Lithuania
87	Spain	135	Yugoslavia, SFR (1943-1992)
88	Suriname	136	Latvia
89	Cape Verde	137	Armenia
90	Serbia	138	Angola
91	Dominican Republic	139	Colombia
92	Malawi	140	Singapore
93	Yugoslavia, FR/Union of Serbia and Montenegro	141	Paraguay
94	Guinea	142	Japan
95	United Kingdom	143	Zambia
96	Bulgaria	144	Ukraine
97	Guatemala	145	Liechtenstein
98	Malaysia	146	Chile
99	Canada	147	Comoros
100	Palau	148	Poland
101	Myanmar	149	Marshall Islands
102	Zimbabwe	150	Mauritania
103	Portugal	151	Luxembourg
104	Niger	152	Lesotho
105	Korea, Republic of	153	Syrian Arab Republic
106	Bermuda	154	Iraq
107	Uganda	155	South Africa
108	Solomon Islands	156	Georgia
109	Costa Rica	157	Russian Federation
110	Kenya	158	Tunisia
111	Slovakia	159	Mozambique
112	Micronesia, Federated States of	160	Kiribati
113	Kosovo	161	Jamaica
114	Bhutan	162	Netherlands Antilles
115	Kazakhstan	163	Senegal
116	El Salvador	164	Fiji
117	Tanzania, United Republic of	165	Togo
118	Czech Republic	166	Kyrgyzstan
119	Ireland	167	Lebanon
120	Nicaragua	168	Congo, Democratic Republic of
121	State of Palestine	169	Romania
122	Chad	170	Pakistan
123	Nepal	171	Azerbaijan
124	Benin	172	Cyprus
125	Estonia	173	Switzerland
126	Bosnia and Herzegovina	174	France
127	United States	175	Cameroon
128	Burundi	176	Burkina Faso
129	Croatia	177	Republic of The Congo (Brazzaville)
130	Iran, Islamic Republic of	178	Madagascar
		179	Cayman Islands



MISSING VOTER PROJECT

Tips, Tactics and Talking Points

The Missing Voter Project, begun in 2004 to register and mobilize voters in targeted communities, is not associated with any political party or candidate. We are working to reduce the influence of money on politics and to stop the gerrymandered elections that result in the majority of our legislature being elected by just 8.6% of the state's voters in a partisan primary.

The MVP is a project of the SC Progressive Network's nonpartisan Education Fund, a nonprofit (501-c-3) started in 1996. The mission of the MVP is to educate voters about government policies and how those policies affect their lives. MVP volunteers may offer facts about public policies relevant in this election. Volunteers may not offer opinions regarding policies or candidates. (See nonpartisan policy facts on reverse.)

DOs and DON'Ts

Don't suggest a candidate, or party to vote for, stick to the facts and let the voter decide.

Don't wear political buttons or partisan t-shirts or stickers.

Don't wait for someone to ask to register; instead, engage people.

Don't ask "*Are you registered to vote?*"

Ask:

- Is your voter registration current?
- Have you moved since you registered to vote?
- Is everybody in your family registered to vote? *Show them how to register by phone.*
- Would you be interested in absentee voting early in person, or by mail? *If so, explain the process.*
- Will you help spread the word about the importance of knowing the candidates' position on healthcare before the midterm elections on Nov. 6. Will you talk this up with all the voters in your family? Will you pass out some of these flyers to your neighbors or at your church?
- Can we contact you in the future about other local Network events? *If so, ask if they would sign the MVP pledge card.*
- Thank them for their time.

DO: Go to <https://www.scvotes.org/> and learn the ways you can register, check registration, get sample ballots and apply for absentee ballots by phone. Bookmark this on your phone, use it to register people and show them how to register others.

If we do not have accurate contact information for this person, please write down their name, phone number, and email address on the contact card or sheet. If they sign up to help, note their preferred form of communication (phone, text, or email). Encourage them to help get their family and friends registered and voting..

If someone is interested in the Progressive Network, tell them we have been building a homegrown movement for social justice for 22 years, and we would welcome their help spreading the word about the importance of knowing the gubernatorial candidates' position on expanding Medicaid and on racial gerrymandering.

SOUTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION MAIL APPLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION

Registration Number

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you checked 'NO' in response to either of these questions, DO NOT complete this form.					Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration (Check above if moving from one county to another) <input type="checkbox"/> Address or name change within the same county				
NAME		Last		First		MI	Suffix		
SEX	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	RACE	White <input type="checkbox"/>	Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>	Native American <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Specify <input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	Female <input type="checkbox"/>		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER **						
ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (Physical Address)		Street			Apt Number		Inside City Limits Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
		City			State	Zip Code		Would you like to be a poll worker? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
MAILING ADDRESS (if different from above)		Street or Post Office Box							
		City			State	Zip Code			
BIRTHDATE		Month	Day	Year	PHONE #	Home ()		Work ()	
PREVIOUS REGISTRATION/NAME		Precinct		County		State	Previous Name		

Voter Declaration – (read and sign below)

I swear or affirm that:

- I am a citizen of the United States of America
- I will be 18 years of age on or before Election Day
- I am a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
- I am not under a court order declaring me mentally incompetent
- I am not confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- I have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, I have served my entire sentence, including probation or parole, or I have received a pardon for the conviction
- the address listed above is my only legal place of residence, and I claim no other place as my legal residence

If you do not have a street name or number, draw a diagram of the area in which you live. Show your house in relation to local landmarks such as schools, churches, stores, etc. Be sure to label the streets or roads.

Attach ID Here

Signature _____

Date of Application _____

Whoever shall, willfully and knowingly, swear (or affirm) falsely in taking any oath required by law shall be guilty of perjury and, on conviction, incur the pains and penalties of the offense.

ID Required: If you are registering for the first time in this county, you **must** attach a copy of a current valid photo ID **or** a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address in this county. If you do not provide this identification now, you will be required to provide this information when you vote. Voters who are age 65 and over, voters with disabilities, members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or Merchant Marines and their families, and U.S. Citizens residing outside the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

Check here if you are exempt.

** Social Security Number is required by the S.C. Code of Laws 7-5-170. This number is used for internal purposes only and eliminates multiple registrations by a single individual. Your Social Security Number is not released to any unauthorized individual.

For Voter Registration Board Use Only

scVOTES.org

Approved Disapproved by _____ (Member, Voter Registration Board) Date _____

MSSNG VOTER PROJECT

Guide to helping voters register under South Carolina law

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

In South Carolina, an individual may become a registered voter if he/she:

- Is a citizen of the United States.
- Is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election.
- Is a SC resident, living in the county and precinct where they want to vote.
- Not under a court order declaring them mentally incompetent.
- Is not in jail or prison serving a sentence, or on probation or parole. If you have served all the sentence, you can register.
- Is in jail awaiting trial and has not been found, you can register and vote absentee from jail.
- Students may register to vote where they reside while attending college. Use dormitory address for residence, PO Box for mailing.
- Submits a voter registration application 30 days before the election.
- You do not need ID to register to vote. First time voters will be required to show ID at the polls in addition to your voter registration card. Acceptable forms of this additional ID include: a valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows the voter's name and address in the county.
- At the poll, if you have valid voter registration card, but do not have a photo ID, you can vote a paper ballot by claiming a "reasonable impediment" prevented you from getting a photo ID (the form will have sample impediments to check). A "reasonable impediment" ballot can not be rejected by the county board unless proof is presented that you lied about your impediment.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?

Without the following information an application will be rejected:

- Name
- Sex
- Race
- Social security number (Registration will be denied without SS#. This is not public information and must be protected.)
- Date of birth
- Residence address
- Telephone number (if they don't have one put "none")
- Location of prior voter registration is required for all previously registered voters. The applicant should fill in whatever information she knows about the location of previous registration, even if she cannot recall the precinct or county (put "?" if unknown, everyone should know what state they were previously registered in.)
- The applicant must sign the Voter Declaration, swearing that they meet the requirements to register to vote.

The following information is optional:

- Mailing address, if the same as "address where you live", put "same".
- Diagram of home location and whether or not you are inside city limits.
- "Would you like to be a poll worker?" check off box.

The law requires any application to be rejected if:

- Any portion of the application is not complete (answering "none" for telephone, or indicating they don't know location of previous registration with a "?" is acceptable.)
- Any portion of the application is illegible in the opinion of a member and the clerk of the board
- The board is unable to determine, from the address stated on the application, the precinct in which the voter should be assigned or the election districts in which he is entitled to vote. If a new voter provides a bad address their application will be rejected.

MVP GUIDELINES FOR VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

(These are our guidelines for more effective voter education/mobilization, they are legal, but not laws)

A. Do not fold and seal forms until you record the voter's contact information on the voter contact sheet, or electronically. Turn the completed forms in to your MVP coordinator. Do not leave them with the new voter. Your coordinator will turn them into the county registration office. Teams will follow up to make sure the new voter got their card and gets out to vote. If the voter doesn't want to give you their Social Security number, give them a blank form and show them where to mail it. Offer to fill out the form as you can do it quicker and print neatly, **but have the voter sign the form.**

B. MVP coordinators will turn in completed forms to their county voter registration office once a week. Forms **MUST** be turned in 30 days before election day. If the 30 day cut off falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, you must call the voter registration office in each county you work to know the latest you can deliver the forms. The times the offices are open varies by county.

SC Progressive Network Education Fund

PO Box 8325, Columbia, SC 29202 • 803-808-3384 • www.scpnet.com

(rev. 2018)



**MISSING
VOTER
PROJECT**

Missing Voter Project Agreement

This is an agreement between the SC Progressive Network Education Fund and volunteers of the Missing Voter Project.

I, _____
(print name)

have completed the Missing Voter Project training on voter registration/education in South Carolina.

- I understand that I am legally responsible for the truthful completion of the Voter Registration forms and promise that all information is correct to the best of my belief.
- I understand that the forms I complete and turn in will be checked by the SC Progressive Network and that if I am found to have willfully allowed false information to be included, I will face legal consequences.
- I will safeguard the information and completed Voter Registration forms and return them promptly to the SC Progressive Network, or its appointed representative.
- I understand that the Missing Voter Project is a nonpartisan effort and that I will neither support or oppose a candidate, nor wear or distribute material supporting or opposing a candidate while I am representing the Missing Voter Project.

(signature)

(address)

(phone)

(email)

(date)

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Voter Contact Sheet

(to be filled out by Missing Voter Project organizer)

**MISSING
VOTER
PROJECT**

Name _____

Issue(s) of concern: _____

Address _____
street city zip

Day phone _____ night phone _____

email address _____

Name _____

Issue(s) of concern: _____

Address _____
street city zip

Day phone _____ night phone _____

email address _____

Name _____

Issue(s) of concern: _____

Address _____
street city zip

Day phone _____ night phone _____

email address _____

Name _____

Issue(s) of concern: _____

Address _____
street city zip

Day phone _____ night phone _____

email address _____

**MISSING
VOTER
PROJECT**

Missing Voter Team Contact information

TEAM NAME: _____

TEAM LEADER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

1. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

2. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

3. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

4. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

5. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

6. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

7. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

8. ORGANIZER: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Missing Voter Project

organizer

A nonpartisan project of the SC Progressive Network
803-808-3384

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Copy these badges on card stock, cut to 4x3".
They fit Avery 5392 badge holders, available at office supply stores, or you can order
them from the Network

Know Your Rights!

You have the right to vote—it's the law, and you have the proof in your hands! You'll notice letters and numbers after each of your rights listed below—those codes tell lawyers and poll-workers where to find the actual South Carolina statute that protects your right to vote! These rights are guaranteed to properly registered and qualified voters.

If you think your rights have been violated, call the Election Protection lawyer hotline toll free: 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Prepared by the National Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.

South Carolina Voters' Bill of Rights

1. The polls will be open from 7 am to 7 pm on Election Day. If you are in line or in the process of voting when the polls close at 7 pm, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 7-13-60 and 7-13-850 (2002)
2. If something happens to your registration card, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A DUPLICATE CARD** from the county board of registration. § 7-13-710
3. If your name is not on the poll list and election officials cannot verify your eligibility at that time after calling the county registrar's office, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE** by provisional ballot. § 7-13-820
4. If you cannot read or write, or if a disability prevents you from casting a ballot, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to request assistance from either a family member or from an election manager and one other person (except your employer, agent of your employer or officer or agent of your union). § 7-13-770
5. If you are blind, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to request assistance from any person of your choosing without the presence of a manager. Id.
6. If you are elderly or physically disabled and are unable to enter the polling place to vote, **YOU HAVE A RIGHT** to vote outside the polling place in your vehicle in the closest available parking area. § 7-13-771(A)
7. If you are physically disabled, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to vote at the Countywide Barrier-Free Voting Precinct if you apply for and receive authorization from the county board 30 days before the election. § 7-7-990
8. If you have moved within the same precinct, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE** at that same precinct after affirming your change of address verbally or in writing. § 7-5-440(A)
9. If you have moved between precincts or between counties within 30 days of the election, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**, after affirming your new address, at your former polling place by provisional ballot or at the main office of the county board of voter registration for your new county of residence. § 7-5-440(B)(1)-(2)
10. If the registration records inaccurately indicate that you have moved, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE** after providing written or oral affirmation that you have not moved. § 7-5-440(C)
11. If you have been convicted of a felony or of violating the election laws, but have completed your sentence, including any period of probation and parole, and have registered to vote since that time, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**. § 7-5-120(B)(3)
12. When you are within 200 feet of the polling place entrance, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to vote or wait without anyone distributing campaign literature to you. § 7-25-180(A)
13. If you make a mistake on your ballot and have not cast it, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN ONE REPLACEMENT BALLOT** after returning the spoiled ballot to the election managers with the stub attached. § 7-13-790
14. If your right to vote is challenged for any reason, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE** by provisional ballot. § 7-13-830

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE THIS BILL OF RIGHTS INTO THE VOTING BOOTH WITH YOU.

Call 1-866-OUR VOTE to report problems

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