

TEXAS PROGRESSIVE ACTION NETWORK

2020 Year In Review



Introduction

Texas Progressive Action Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to advancing voter education and good public policy in Texas through advocacy and outreach.

We kicked off in January of 2017 and formally incorporated in August of the same year.

Take a look at our 2020 Year In Review Report below and our plans for the work ahead in 2021.

2020 Called For A Different Level Of Voter Engagement During An Extraordinary Time.

As 2020 was a major election year, the Our Vote Texas project was set to kick into high gear for voter outreach and engagement work across our home state.

Then the COVID crisis hit.

As this ongoing pandemic impacted our most vulnerable (and continues to pose significant risk to many Texans as we head into a new year), it became necessary to recalibrate our efforts to reach voters while keeping communities as safe as possible.

We continued to ship out informative materials for Texas voters and reached into 17 counties across Texas - up 9 more from the previous year. We covered west, north and south Texas including down along the Gulf Coast. By Election Day 2020, we had shipped out over 12,000 resources to Texas voters that made sure they understood their rights at the polls and what to do if they encountered any issues voting.

The Check Your Voter Registration Day social media outreach allowed us to share valuable information with Texans online about how they could make sure they were registered to vote in time for November + what they could do to get registered or update their registration all while still practicing safe social distancing. Other information provided included important election dates, voter resources for ballot information and other election specifics.

We conducted these social media outreach days every other week in the lead-up to Texas's voter registration deadline for both the primaries and the general election.

We kicked off the #VoteSafeTexas campaign in response to Texas's refusal to expand vote by mail for all eligible voters and as a means to promote safe voting for Texans. The goal was to encourage Texas voters to develop their vote plans (like voting early) and talk to their friends and family about doing the same. We included information from the Secretary of State's voting/safety advisory as well as information about vote by mail request deadlines (for those eligible) and important vote early dates for those planning to vote in person.

OUR VOTE TEXAS CONTINUES TO GROW -

VOTER RESOURCES FOR 2020 ELECTION YEAR!

2019 | 2,500+ RESOURCES SHIPPED

2020 | 12,000+ RESOURCES SHIPPED

ACROSS 8 COUNTIES IN 2019.

17 COUNTIES IN 2020.



**IT'S GET
REGISTERED
TO VOTE
DAY!**



**SAFE
TEXAS**

Just How Difficult Is Texas Voting?

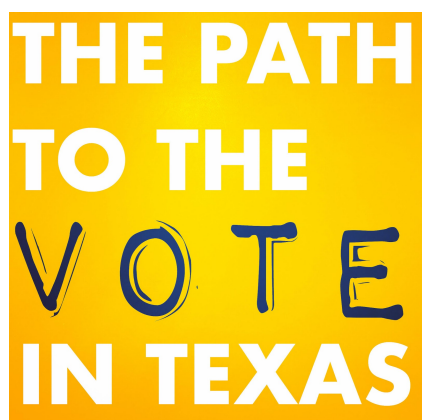
Days after the 2020 Texas Primaries, we launched our voter survey,

THE PATH TO THE VOTE IN TEXAS.

The purpose of this small survey was to hear voters' experiences and what those in our communities think of the state of voting in Texas in general.

From long lines, to the accessibility of voter information for Texans leading up to elections, to our current voter registration system — we sought to get as much feedback as we could from our fellow voters so we can sharpen our advocacy going forward.

We surveyed 616 voters from various parts of the state.



Asking voters what they see as some of the biggest challenges to voting for many Texans, a majority said that long lines and wait times at polling locations can present a major obstacle to casting a ballot.

Not only can long lines most definitely be a deterrent for some voters but [we know the value in being proactive in our solutions to make the voting process better and more functional.](#)

For more, see [Waiting To Vote](#) | The Brennan Center for Justice, 2020.



■ Long Lines and Waits 74%

■ No Access To Voter Resources 62%

■ Transportation Issues 53%

Lack of sufficient access to voter resources such as ballot information, candidate information and specifics about Texas voting requirements is another factor that makes voting difficult in Texas according to some of those surveyed.

55% OF THOSE RESPONDENTS CONSIDER THIS INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY PROBLEM SO VAST IN FACT THAT THEY LIST IT AS A CHIEF REASON A TEXAS VOTER WOULD BE LEAST LIKELY TO VOTE. (SEE BELOW)

We know that this is an area in which our state falls woefully short again and again because it has been the work of many organizations to try to fill in the gaps for Texas voters by providing as much of this information as possible leading up to each and every election. Indeed it is chiefly because of this ongoing issue that Our Vote Texas came into existence and strives to do this crucial outreach work.

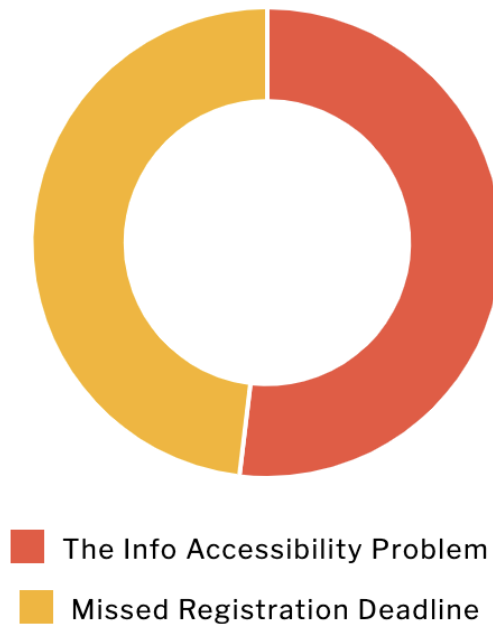
We know that lining up a transportation plan can be an insurmountable challenge for some voters and can lead to a depressed turnout. Recently, [many Texas counties have moved to](#)

[countywide polling](#) and this has allowed voters in those counties a chance to vote at any location that is most convenient for them and not just during the early voting period.

We look forward to advocating for more pro-voter reforms in the year ahead.

For more on this topic: [What Happens When You Can't Catch a Ride to the Polls?](#) | The American Prospect, 2018.

What Ultimately Keeps Some Voters From Voting At All?



51% OF VOTERS SURVEYED BELIEVE THAT NOT BEING REGISTERED OR NOT GETTING REGISTERED IN TIME ARE THE OTHER MAJOR REASONS AN OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE VOTER STAYS HOME ON ELECTION DAY.

Updating our antiquated voter registration system and making it easier for those eligible to register would allow more Texans to be part of the electoral process!

A clear majority of respondents surveyed (73%) agree and want to see voter registration updates made in Texas!

We'll be posting more details from this survey in early 2021.

Thank you to all who participated and shared your voting experience with us!

WANT TO DISCUSS TEXAS VOTING A LITTLE FURTHER? Send us some feedback:

txprogressiveaction@gmail.com

The Need For An Accurate Count - The 2020 Census.

We know that an accurate count that includes all of us is fundamental to the prosperity of our state.

The 2020 Census is a collection of data that determines everything from how many representatives we have in Congress to how our voting districts are ultimately drawn up in Texas + it helps pave the way for critical federal funding and its state by state distribution.

We know that failing to achieve an accurate count undermines whole communities and can deprive us of important public and private resources.

The collection of accurate, comprehensive race and ethnicity data (and gender and age) from the census affects how we implement and evaluate our civil rights laws and that can have direct impact on

housing

education

health care

the job market

fair political representation

voting reforms

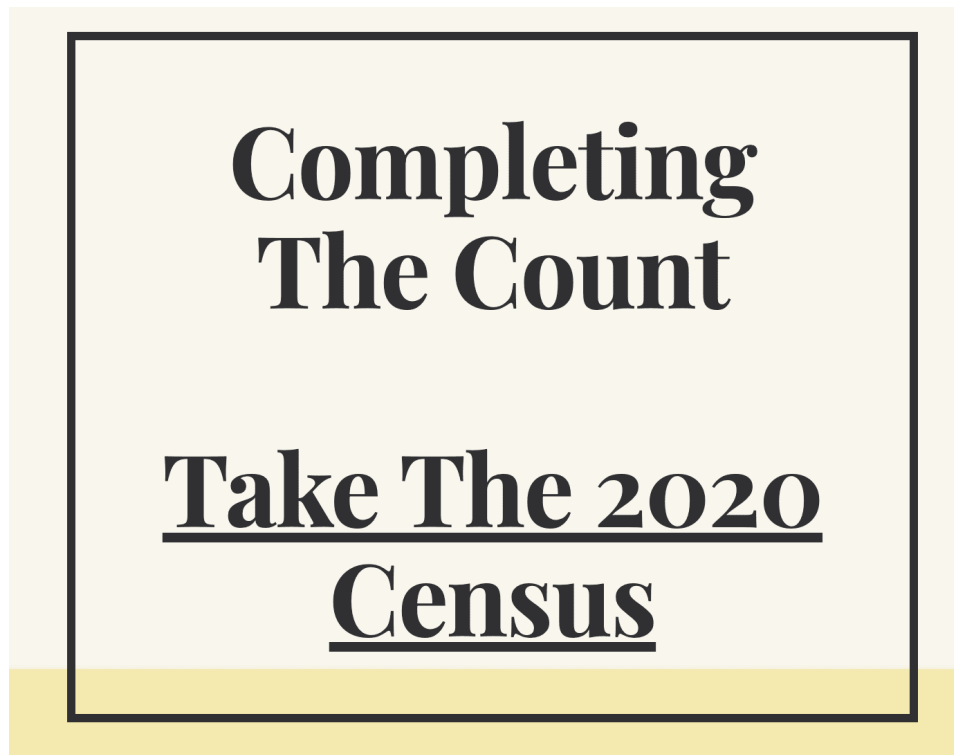
IN AN EFFORT TO HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT A FAIR COUNT IS ONE IN WHICH WE ALL COUNT, WE LAUNCHED COMPLETING THE COUNT TEXAS - A 2020 PROJECT OF TPAN.

Completing The Count Texas

- provided information about the census,

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- provided access to resources for sharing with those in our communities,
 - provided updates on all things related to the census and the still ongoing joint efforts to protect it,
 - and provided Check In Cards for those who had completed their census as a way to promote participation on their own social media platforms.

Upon closing of the census response, Completing The Count Texas was archived and we continue to track census updates.



**I TOOK THE 2020
CENSUS.**

YOUR TURN.

CHECK IN!

Project Civic Act Takes Shape.

In keeping with our mission to help voters engage, TPAN recognizes that starting that journey early is of utmost importance, particularly in today's overall landscape. That's why in 2020 we launched Project Civic Act!

Tomorrow's leaders have already begun their work and Project Civic Act aims to pull together an evolving collection of resources for educators and students to help shift tired approaches to civics education.

We firmly believe that a truly full history and civics education only benefits our students + it can better prepare them to succeed in shaping systems that can best serve the people.

PCA STRIVES TO PUT PARTICULAR FOCUS ON:

- Underrepresented texts and writers.

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- Underrepresented communities in the democratic process.
 - Texts that explore a reimagined framework for the way we hold elections, build political power and engage as citizens.
 - Forgotten and lesser told history that centers the marginalized.

We are very excited to continue building PCA and working to help build that necessary culture of civic engagement that makes communities strong.



The Road Ahead In 2021.

As we wind down this year and prepare for 2021, our work will include continued advocacy during the 87th Texas Legislative Session for

voter rights advancements,

fair redistricting,

prioritized civics education and plenty more.

We will continue to track legislation and work with volunteers to keep our fellow Texans informed and engaged in the legislative process every step of the way.

Thank You For Your Continued Support!