

RELEASE: Six major Minnesota nonprofits join forces for National Voter Registration Day

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SIX MINNESOTA NONPROFITS JOIN TOGETHER TO PROMOTE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

This cross-sector effort seeks to inform Minnesotans about the importance of voting

MINNEAPOLIS/ST PAUL – Tomorrow, September 17, is National Voter Registration Day, and six major Twin Cities nonprofits are teaming up to get the word out about the importance of voting this year. Catholic Charities Twin Cities, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Second Harvest Heartland and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity are encouraging all Minnesotans to register, research the candidates in their area, and vote on or before November 5.

Minnesota is frequently leading the nation for voter turnout, but low-income Minnesotans vote at lower levels than the general population. Furthermore, people with fewer resources and people with disabilities continue to face barriers to voting. That’s why these Minnesota nonprofits and many others are supporting equitable access to civic participation and providing nonpartisan voter registration and education to the neighbors who use their services.

[According to recent studies](#), 7 in 10 Americans believe nonprofits should offer voter support services. Another study showed neighbors engaged through nonpartisan initiatives such as these were 10% more likely to vote than their peers.

*“Those experiencing homelessness and housing instability often face unique barriers to voting, despite being eligible,” said **John Marston, Interim CEO of Catholic Charities Twin Cities**. “At Catholic Charities Twin Cities, we believe your vote is your voice, and we are proud to support nonpartisan voter outreach across our programs. This work increases election participation and helps more people – regardless of their housing status – have a say in the future of their community.”*

*“Minnesota’s election laws changed in the last year, making nonpartisan voter education more critical,” said **Michael Wirth-Davis, President and CEO of Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota**. “As trusted nonprofit service providers, we’re working together to increase knowledge and access so the voices of people we serve are heard this election year.”*

*“Minnesota is a national leader in voter turnout, but we know that systemic racism and economic barriers still prevent many Minnesotans from exercising their right to vote,” said **Shannon Smith Jones, Senior Vice President of Community Impact at Greater Twin Cities United Way**. “By expanding the community’s access to nonpartisan election information, we can ensure that all Minnesotans’ voices are heard this November.”*

*“Our vision is that all people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives of their own choosing,” said **Patrick Thueson, President of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**. “Having a voice in the electoral process plays a role in achieving that vision, and nonpartisan voter education helps make it a reality.”*

“Our core mission at Second Harvest Heartland is to end hunger, and we know we cannot do that through charity alone,” said Allison O’Toole, CEO of Second Harvest Heartland. “From SNAP benefits to investments in basic needs, public policy has an outsized impact on hunger in Minnesota. That’s why we say hunger is a policy choice, and it is why, alongside our nonprofit colleagues, we are encouraging all eligible Minnesotans to register, research the candidates, and vote on or before November 5th. We need everyone at the table – neighbors, policymakers, the business community, and the nonprofit sector – to make hunger history.”

“As nonprofit community organizations, we all have a shared goal of empowering the people we serve,” said Chris Coleman, CEO of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. “Voter education and engagement are crucial to the success of our missions. We encourage our supporters, clients, and neighbors to be proactive in registering to vote and casting their ballot this November and will provide information to navigate this important process.”

As 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, all nonprofits involved in promoting National Voter Registration Day are engaged in strictly nonpartisan voter registration efforts.

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