



The Urban League of Portland

2016 Voter's Guide



Presented by the
Advocacy & Civic
Engagement (ACE)
Department

Welcome! The Urban League of Portland Voter Guide, prepared by the Advocacy & Civic Engagement (ACE) Department, is a resource that can be used to help with making decision about the upcoming election.

Our goal is to support and encourage voting during all elections to further the voice of the people. *Voting is a right that has not always been afforded to all people.*

Brief History of Voting Rights in the USA

Throughout our history, Americans have fought and died for the right to vote.

- In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted Black men the right to vote, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
- In November 1912, Oregon voters approved women's suffrage and women gained the right to vote in Oregon, though it was not universal and inclusive to all women.
- The 19th Amendment passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920, granted women the right to vote.
- In the State of Oregon, the State Constitution is finally amended to remove a clause denying Blacks the right to vote in 1927.

While the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions guaranteed equal voting rights for every citizen, some states continued to employ discriminatory voter suppression tactics to keep Black men and women from exercising their right up until the 1960s.

In 1965, the Voting Rights Act outlawed the discriminatory voting practices and voter suppression adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests, poll tax, restrictive and arbitrary registration practices—as a prerequisite to voting.

And today, while we have made significant progress, there are those who seek to limit voting rights. Some of these barriers like long lines and an inadequate number of polling booths are meant to discourage voters to wait or even show up to vote. Other tactics are systematic and disproportionately affect African-Americans, like barring people with past felony convictions to vote.

As a result, these types of barriers and suppression tactics should remind us that the fight is not over.

Within the Urban League of Portland Voter's Guide, you'll find brief summaries of the General Election Measures that are up for a vote this November 2016.

Take action to register, review information, and respond by VOTING.

Our actions today will make the difference for tomorrow.

MEASURE 97

YES Vote: Increases the corporate minimum tax when sales exceed \$25 million dollars; removes the tax limits; exempts "benefit companies"; increases revenue funds for education, healthcare, and senior services

NO Vote: Retains the existing corporate minimum tax rates based on Oregon sales; limits tax to \$100,000 dollars; revenue funds not dedicated to specific programs

How It Supports Community: Oregon has the lowest corporate tax in the country. This measure would increase the corporate tax rate to 2.5% for the businesses generating more than \$25 million dollars in annual revenue. This would impact only 0.2% of all businesses in Oregon, but would generate approximately \$3 billion dollars in annual revenue. The funds would contribute to the Oregon general fund for public schools, healthcare, and senior services. These funds are highly needed to support basic services to the community.

MEASURE 98

YES Vote: Requires the Oregon legislature to fund dropout prevention, career and college readiness programs through grants to Oregon high schools

NO Vote: Retains the current law; Oregon not required to commit funds to career-technical, college-level education, or dropout prevention programs

How It Supports Community: Oregon has one of the worst graduation rates in the country. The measure would require the Oregon legislature to fund programs directed toward dropout prevention, career and technical education, and college prep courses that would create a path for success for Oregon students. Every child deserves access to these programs that create college and career readiness pathways. Fostering students to career track opportunities and hands-on training can make the difference. Ensuring that every student has access to college prep courses and adequate support in high school will provide students with more opportunities and tools to reach their full potential.

MEASURE 99

YES Vote: Creates a fund, financed by the Oregon Lottery, to provide outdoor school programs statewide

NO Vote: Rejects creation of fund to provide outdoor school programs; retains current law where program is administered by Oregon State University if funding is available

How It Supports Community: Outdoor School is an existing institution that connects kids to Oregon's natural environment while helping to keep kids in school, raise attendance, and raise interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematic fields of study and career paths. Currently, less than half of all the students in Oregon have the opportunity to participate in the program based on current school district resources. The measure would help ensure that students have the opportunity to learn more about the environment, science, and math, while keeping them interested and invested in learning.

MEASURE 100

YES Vote: Prohibits purchase and sale of parts and products from certain wildlife species; exceptions made for specified activities, gifts, inheritances, certain antiques, and musical instruments; creates civil penalties

NO Vote: Maintains current Oregon law, which does not prohibit the purchase or sale of parts of products from certain species

How It Supports Community: The disappearance of wildlife species around the world not only hurts ecosystems and the natural environment, but it impacts our communities locally. The measure prohibits the purchase or sale of parts or products that come from 20 endangered wildlife species, including elephant, jaguar, sea turtle, and others. Preserving these species for future generations is part of a global narrative, but everyone can do their part to ensure that future generations get to experience these animals and prevent the animals from going extinct.

MEASURE 26-179

YES Vote: Creates bonds that will be used to build new housing, purchase and rehabilitate existing housing to maintain affordability and prevent displacement

NO Vote: Rejects bonds for affordable housing for low income households

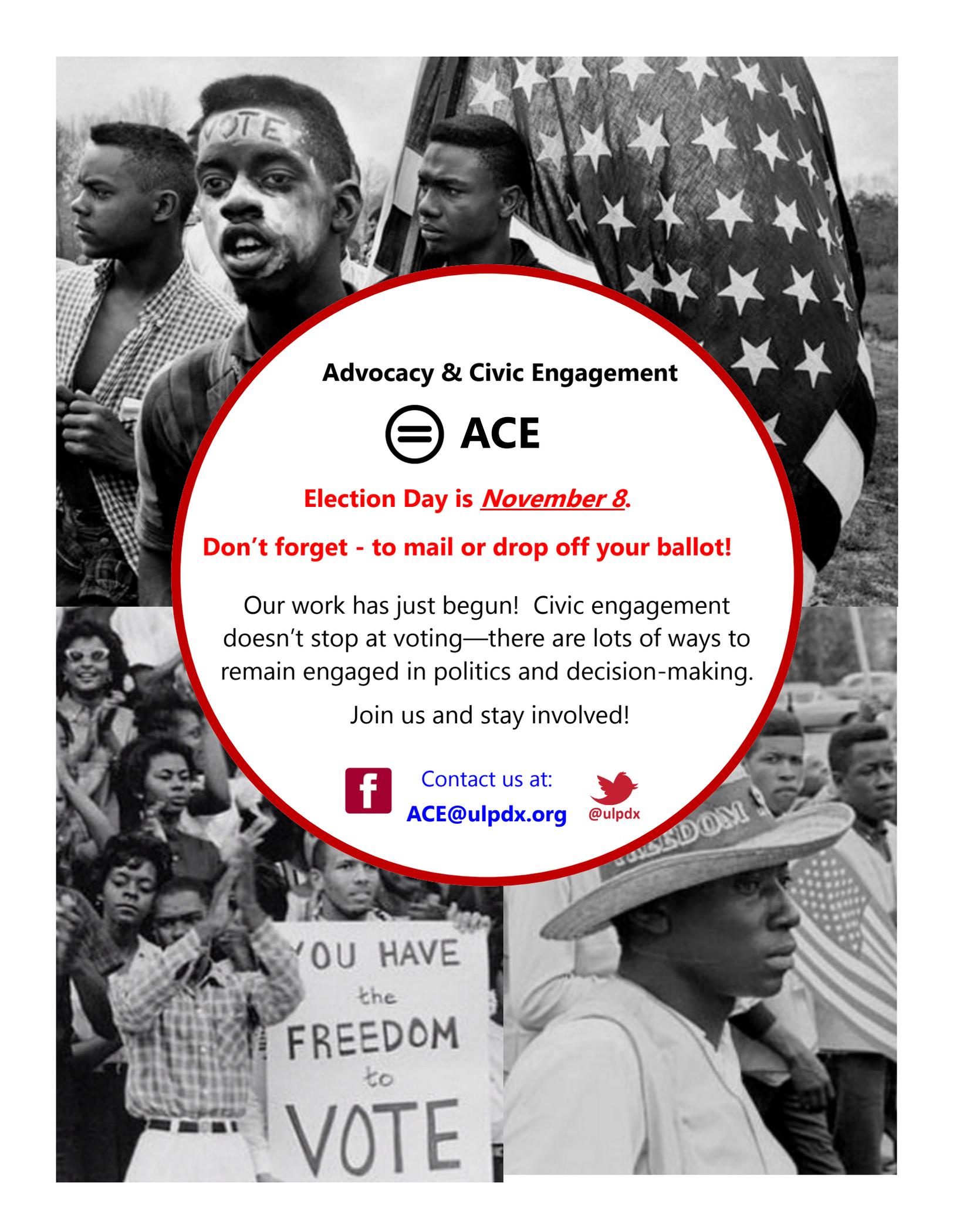
How It Supports Community: Portland is facing a housing crisis due to rising housing and rent costs. More affordable housing could benefit families that are at risk of displacement. The measure would allow the City of Portland to issue more than \$250 million dollars in revenue to build new affordable housing units and create at least 1,300 high quality affordable housing units to house 2,900 Portlanders. These housing units would stabilize housing low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and others who are experiencing economic hardship. When there is a sufficient affordable housing supply, other resources are created to address the housing and homelessness crisis.

MEASURE 26-184

YES Vote: Creates requirement for limits on campaign contributions to candidates; allows for the formation of Small Donor Committees; creates campaign contribution disclosure accountability

NO Vote: Campaign contributions remain unregulated at the County level; no limits are in place currently

How It Supports Community: Oregon elected officials do not reflect Oregon's changing demographics. Political campaign limits could create a more level playing field and increase opportunity for low-income and people of color to seek office and make an impact in their community. Campaign finance reform is needed and this measure would be a first step towards creating an even playing field for candidates who are interested in running for office, but don't have a lot of starting capital or large financial backers.



Advocacy & Civic Engagement



Election Day is November 8.

Don't forget - to mail or drop off your ballot!

Our work has just begun! Civic engagement doesn't stop at voting—there are lots of ways to remain engaged in politics and decision-making.

Join us and stay involved!



Contact us at:

ACE@ulpdx.org



[@ulpdx](https://twitter.com/ulpdx)