

OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES

2020

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

The Challenge of Voting without an Address

July 16, 2020

General Logistics



- We will allow for time at the end of today's webinar for questions. If you have a question, please use the Q&A box in your webinar browser.
- We will provide access to both a video recording and a copy of today's slides to all participants following the webinar.
- If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, please send an email to Brooke Schipporeit at bschipporeit@nlihc.org.

Agenda



1. Introduction
2. Overview of Our Homes, Our Votes
3. Update on COVID-19 Advocacy
4. Become an Affiliate of Our Homes, Our Votes
5. Featured Topic: Voting Without an Address

Presenters



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INTRODUCTION

Automatic voting machine with privacy
curtain, invented in Iowa, 1898
Gift of Rockwell Manufacturing Company

**VOTE
HERE**

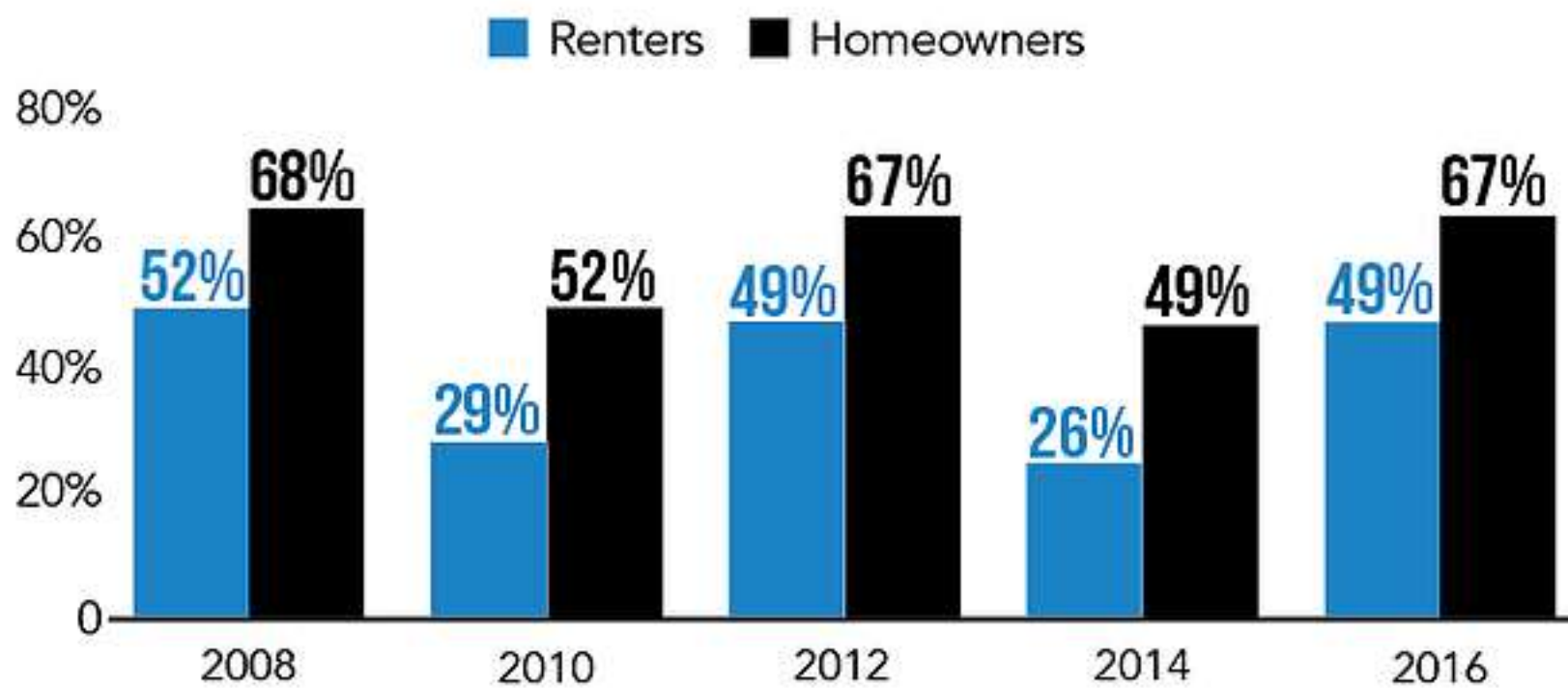
Engaging Voters and Candidates



Our Homes, Our Votes is NLIHC's voter engagement effort focusing on increasing voter registration and turnout among low-income housing renters and advocates.

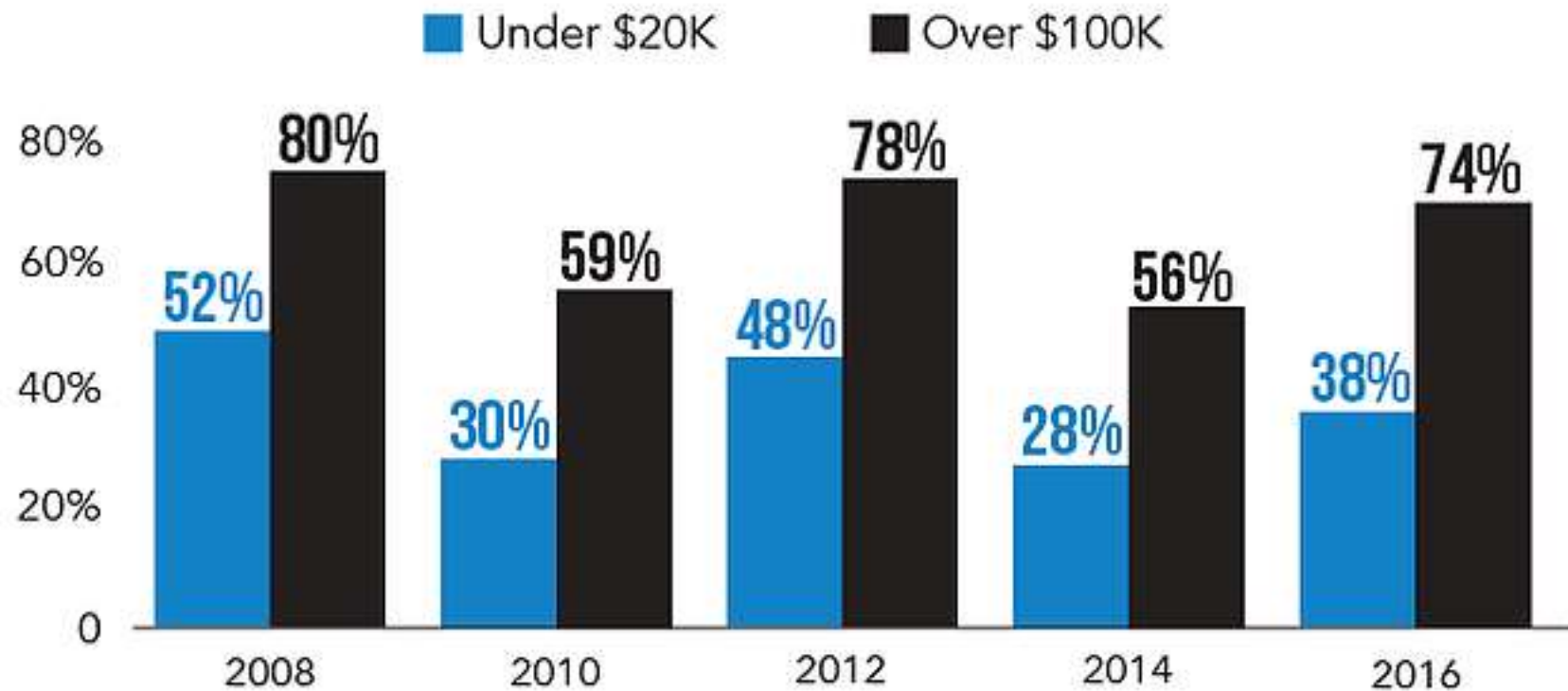


U.S. CITIZENS WHO REPORTED VOTING IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS BY HOUSING TENURE (2008 TO 2016)



Source: November 2006-2016 Current Population Survey data

U.S. CITIZENS WHO REPORTED VOTING IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS BY FAMILY INCOME (2008 TO 2016)



Source: November 2006-2016 Current Population Survey data

83%

of the public agrees that elected officials are not paying enough attention to the cost of housing and the need for more affordable housing.



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Source: Public Opinion Poll Feb 25-Mar 4, 2019 Hart Research Associates

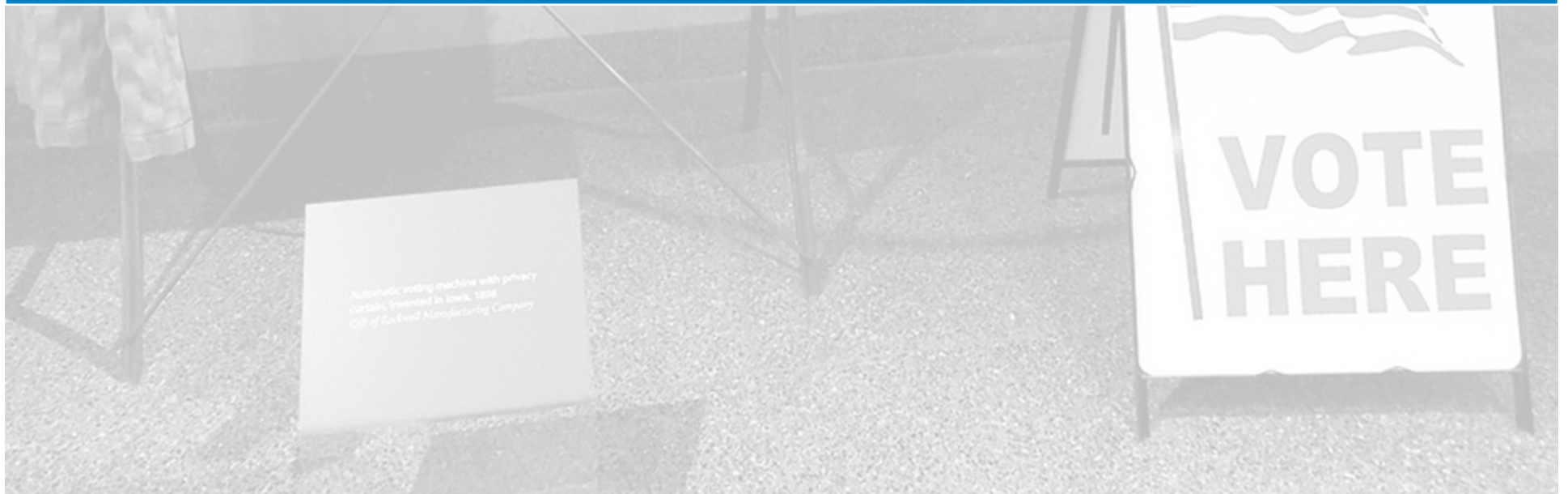
76%

say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that has a detailed plan for making housing more affordable.

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HOUSING IS KEY WITH GUEST
★★★★



COVID-19 Response and Elections



Call to Action!

COVID-19



The Issue: Additional resources are needed to mitigate harm from the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent a wave of evictions and homelessness

The Asks:

1. \$100 billion in emergency rent assistance
2. Comprehensive, national eviction moratorium
3. \$11.5 billion in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to support the work of homeless service agencies

Virtual Lobby Day! July 21



The Time Is Now!

1. **Reach out to your members of Congress to setup virtual meetings in the coming week**
2. **Virtual Lobby Day resources**
 - **All available on website**
 - <https://nlihc.org/virtual-lobby-day-2020>
 - **Talking points on policy asks**
 - Includes talking points for advocates on education, healthcare, racial justice, and gender justice to discuss how this issues are linked to housing
 - **Guidelines on how to lobby virtually**
 - Template email to request a meeting
 - **Factsheets and resources**
 - Background on rental assistance programs
 - Housing needs in your states
 - Polling data on support for a housing intervention

Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act



Senate Bill 3529

- Introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Ron Wyden (D-OR)
 - 36 co-sponsors currently, all democrats
- Ensures that all voters in all states have the option to request absentee balloting
- Requires at least 20 days of early voting in all states
- Provides \$3 million to Election Assistance Commission to begin implementing all requirements of the act

Coronavirus and the elections



Strategies:

1. Promote voting by mail
 - ACLU has a great resource available at <https://tinyurl.com/vdagfub>
2. Plan voter education events, candidate forums, and town halls as remote events
 - Scheduling for end of summer or early autumn are strong strategies
3. Make voters aware of online voter registration tools that can be accessed via phone or tablet
4. Stay up-to-date with the Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020 state-by-state pages

Shifting Rules for Voters



Stay aware of what's happening in your state

- Webpage for each state is up at www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org
- NLIHC will be updating in an ongoing manner
- Share information about activities in your state

Things You Need To Know

1. Primary Date:

June 9

2. Presidential Primary Date:

March 10

3. Polling Times:

7 a.m. to 9 a.m.; close between 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

4. Is Early Voting Available:

Early voting is not available in North Dakota

5. Can I Vote by Mail:

Yes, You can register [here](#).

Join as an Affiliate



Benefits of Joining Our Homes, Our Votes

- Swag package
- Use of the logo and images on co-branded materials
- Amplification through media engagement
- Guidance and assistance from NLIHC staff



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Voting without an Address

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Initial Observations



- An address is important to voting
 - It determines what district a voter lives in, and which candidates they help select
 - All states ask for a residential address and a mailing address on registration forms
- Options exist for voters without an address
 - Important for voters who are homeless
 - Also matters for voters in extremely rural areas who have not been assigned a traditional mailing address
 - Very common on American Indian tribal lands, and often a significant barrier to voting



The Map Option



- 28 states allow voters to draw a map or diagram of where they live
 - Some states have specific language declaring this option to be for rural voters
- Process and instructions vary from state to state
 - Example 1 – Alaska: Voters who live in rural Alaska may provide the name of the community they live in rather than the residential address
 - Example 2 – Georgia: Voters are instructed to draw a diagram if they live in an area without house numbers and street names.

Voters Who Are Homeless



- Some states specifically address voters who are homeless, rather than indicating their options are mostly for rural voters
 - Example 1 – Colorado: Voter registration form actually includes a checkbox for voters experiencing homelessness. Allows people who check this box to list a location where they commonly sleep.
 - Example 2 – Iowa: Registration form includes instructions to “describe where you reside,” for voters without an established address.
 - Example 3 – Ohio: Allows for a “shelter or other location” to be listed as a residence for people without a fixed location for permanent habitation.

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Registration Form FAQs

- In some states, there is no solution on the registration form, but there is an FAQ page that discusses important next steps
 - Example 1 – Delaware: Provides instructions on in-person registration that requires two pieces of paper with a name on it, one of which must have information of an address used on the registration form, even if the address is a shelter.
 - Example 2 – Minnesota: Provides instructions on registration with described sleeping locations, but also adds that voters without an address will be asked to swear under oath at the polling location that their address is correctly listed.
 - Example 3 – FAQ describes how voters can register by describing a sleeping location

Best Practices



- After reviewing all 50 states, the best methods are:
 1. Include clear language on the actual voter registration form that while an address is required, voting address may be a map or description of a place.
 - This option should include plenty of space for drawing the map
 2. The language for voting without an address should specifically include people who are homeless.
 - A checkbox makes this very clear
 3. States should prominently feature on their elections websites the necessary information for voting while experiencing homelessness.

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Questions?

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Third Thursdays at Three Webinar and Podcast Series

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Upcoming Training and Discussion Topics



1. Voter Mobilization Part 1 – Early voting and vote-by-mail (August 20, 2020)
2. Voter Mobilization Part 2 – Protecting against voter intimidation (September 17, 2020)
3. Election Day! Getting Out The Vote (October 15, 2020)
4. Holding candidates to their promises (November 19, 2020)

Other webinar recordings available at
www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/webinars

**It's never been easy.
Our commitment is unwavering.
Join us and amplify the voices of
the poorest families in need.**

**OUR MEMBERS
ARE OUR STRENGTH.**



**NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION**

**JOIN TODAY
WWW.NLIHC.ORG/MEMBERSHIP**

Contact Us

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HOUSING ADVOCACY ORGANIZERS BY STATE

