

*From Cindy Rubin, Social Action Committee Voter Engagement*

## **Social Action Committee and Voter Engagement**

One of the primary areas of focus for the Social Action Committee is to encourage voter participation in this fall's election. The work is a partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) that has launched a national campaign to mobilize voters called Every Voice, Every Vote. Members of the Committee are especially interested in engaging voters who may not be aware that they have been removed from voter rolls, as well as those who have not voted consistently during previous elections.

Three members of the Committee, Leta Miller, Jerry Franks, and Cindy Rubin, describe why they are involved in this effort and what they are doing. They are happy to provide additional information so you, too, can get involved:

### **Leta Miller:**

"I have been distressed by the divisiveness and hatred manifest in our country, and the only effective way to successfully fight that negative trend is to register my vote in November and to encourage others to do the same."

Leta is volunteering with *Vote Forward* <https://votefwd.org/>. This organization encourages unregistered and low propensity voters to register and vote. After joining as a volunteer with *Vote Forward*, the organization sends a link to letters directed at a particular set of voters in a state. The writer downloads the letters, prints them, and fills in the blank section: "I always vote because...." The writer then addresses the letters and envelopes (a return address from the state in question is provided by *Vote Forward*), stamps the envelopes, and then holds these letters until October when they can then be mailed. This is a non-partisan program, as the party registration of these voters is not provided.

Leta can be reached at: [leta@ucsc.edu](mailto:leta@ucsc.edu)

### **Jerry Frank:**

"Over a year ago I decided to stop feeling helpless and do what little I could towards making our country a better place, even if my own efforts seemed small. As part of this, I'm participating in postcarding southern states where voter suppression is a big problem. The goal is to remind people to make sure they are registered to vote, so they have a real say in who gets elected."

Jerry is working with *Reclaim Our Vote*:

<http://centerforcommonground.org/main/index.php/campaigns/reclaim-our-vote>, a program of the Center for Common Ground. RAC congregations throughout the U.S. are working with the Center to encourage full voter participation. Jerry has already received a list of voter names and addresses as well as postcards. Postcard writers will be supplied with these materials as well as the messages to be written. Volunteers will just need to provide their own stamps.

Jerry can be reached at: [geraldfrankmd@gmail.com](mailto:geraldfrankmd@gmail.com)

**Cindy Rubin:**

“Several months ago, at the invitation of a friend, I became involved with a group from another synagogue comprised of volunteers who, like myself, were frustrated by low voter turnout in our country. Those volunteers have aligned themselves with *Reclaim Our Vote* and together have sent over 10,000 postcards, primarily to communities of color in the south. These postcards inform the addressees that the voter rolls show they are no longer registered and urge those prospective voters to contact their local registrars. (Contact information is provided.) I am now working with the Social Action Committee to support *Reclaim Our Vote*'s campaign. This election is the most critical election in my lifetime, and I want to help ensure that all eligible voters exercise their right and responsibility to vote.”

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