Non-Profit Civic Engagement Organizations Team Up for ‘National Voter Registration Day’

City Elections Matters!

Atlanta, Georgia, September 18, 2015 — Civic engagement groups come together to ensure that Georgia’s voters are ready for upcoming local elections at Woodruff Park on National Voter Registration Day

ATLANTA -- On September 22, 2015 leading civic engagement non-profit organizations will join residents and volunteers working around the state to register voters for the upcoming election on November 3rd, 2015.

A press conference at the Woodruff Park will kick off the day at 11:30 a.m. in front of the Gazebo. Community leaders will highlight the importance of registering to vote and of voting. They will also address the powerful impact of participation in local elections, remind voters how voting influence decisions made on the issues most impacting their lives and communities, and call for a day of action to register voters across Metro Atlanta.

Often overlooked, local elections are critical. At a time when many Georgia voters are concerned with the issues impacting their communities, voting in City Government elections will impact issues such as police accountability, education, city budgets, and street repairs are addressed through their vote.

This year, we want to make sure there is robust voter turnout in cities that are holding municipal elections.

WHO: 9to5Atlanta, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta (AAAJ-Atlanta), Environment Georgia, Equality Foundation of Georgia, Feminist Women’s Health Center, Georgia AFL-CIO, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), Georgia ACLU, Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda, Georgia Stand UP!, Georgia NAACP, Georgia WAND Education Fund, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) Atlanta Chapter, New American Pathways, Planned Parenthood Southeast, Partnership for Southern Equity, Rise Up Georgia, Spark Reproductive Justice NOW!, Women Engaged, Working America. and eligible voters.

WHAT: Press conference and event to kick off National Voter Registration Day. Community leaders will speak to the importance of voting and call on voters to make an impact on their communities by voting.

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 11:00a.m. -1:00p.m.

Press Conference: 11:30a.m.

WHERE: Woodruff Park (in front of the Gazebo)

In addition to the Voter Registration Drive at Woodruff Park, our partners will be holding drives throughout the day.

Coalition of Peoples Agenda: Five Points/ 9-12pm

NAACP: Greenbrier Mall Food Court /11am-7pm

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta: Johns Creek H-Mart/12-3pm & Hong Kong Supermarket/12-3pm
**Thoughts from Partner Organizations:**

"Across Georgia and around the nation, evidence shows we are witnessing the worst assault on voting rights since the passage of the Voting Rights Act. National Voter Registration Day provides an opportunity to lift up the fundamental role that the franchise plays in a healthy democracy. For 106 years, the Georgia NAACP has advocated for a stronger America through the expansion of voting rights. Instead of being a worst-in-class offender; Georgia could lead the nation by adopting same-day or universal voter registration. Francys Johnson, Georgia NAACP President and Statesboro Attorney

"Register -- it’s an important first step that lets you exercise your right to vote and be heard. Voting is one way you can speak up to protect access to health care and other fundamental rights." Staci Fox, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeast.

“The majority of domestic workers in Atlanta are Black women who have been historically disenfranchised from voting. The National Domestic Workers Alliance - Atlanta Chapter is asking folks to come out in support of voting in this election because real change happens on a local level.” Meredith Blankinship, Operations Manager for National Domestic Workers Alliance

“Equal access to the ballot box is an essential aspect of Georgia’s democratic process. From our work through the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project to other partnership efforts with the NAACP, we have always sought to advance an array of voting rights. In particular, some of our greatest game changing work culminated in the passage of the VRA. Despite these gains, the ACLU of Georgia continues to fight against citizen exclusion and to advocate for the widest access possible for all Georgia voters, as a goal well carved when the VRA was passed 50 years ago.” Maya Dillard Smith, Executive Director of ACLU of Georgia

“The right to vote for women was won by overcoming significant barriers! And, so it’s important that we continue to fight to ensure that we and members of marginalized communities are not disenfranchised. Voter education Voter Registration and the actual right to cast a vote is not just a right but a responsibility that we all have to protect. What guarantees that this right is not taken way is that it is exercised by all of us not just some of us!! Georgia Wand works to ensure that we all have access to the critical knowledge about the connections between voting and our self-interests including the larger issues that affect our quality of life, such as the distribution, exploitation, and the extraction of precious public resources water, energy, and air through our tax dollars.” Alona Clifton, Coordinator of GA Wand’s WeCount Outreach Program

9to5 believes our political system works best when everyone has the ability to fully participate, this includes registering to vote, voting, running for office, governing and holding elected officials accountable. 9to5 is committed to training women to lead in all phases of the process.” Charmaine Davis, Chapter Director of 9to5 Georgia

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**About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees ("Asian Americans") in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit [www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org](http://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org).