



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Charleston (SC) Chapter

The Charleston (SC) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated

The COVID-19 Task Force on Citizens Advocacy and Engagement

VOTER EDUCATION TOOL KIT:

Voting in The Time Of COVID-19

Paula Orr, M.D., President

Marguerite Archie-Hudson and Quinetha Frasier, Co-Chairs

INTRODUCTION



The November 3, 2020 election will occur in an extraordinary environment. We are in the throes of a dangerous pandemic – a coronavirus that threatens to destroy our communities and will dramatically change the way we will cast our votes for the persons that we elect to government at the federal, state and local level. At the same time a mandatory census count will determine the level of federal support our state, counties and cities will receive for the next ten years. With the public murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and too many others, our young people of all races, creeds and colors have taken to the streets of America to engage in the 21st century struggle for civil rights and to acclaim with full throated voices that “Black Lives Matter!”

In this extraordinary and challenging time we join hands with our sisters and brothers in our pan-hellenic, civic, social and ecumenical organizations to address four ways in which COVID-19 is affecting our communities: health care, financial literacy, our HBCUs and making our votes count in November. This Tool Kit on Voting In The Time Of COVID is intended to educate and empower our community to use our vote as our voice and our power!

Paula Orr, M.D., President

The COVID-19 Task Force on Citizens Advocacy and Engagement



Why Our Voices Matter

Note from our National President

“As women of color, we possess the power to change the course of history, especially when we vote. We must vote not only to effect change now and in the future but to honor the sacrifices of those in our past who gave their lives so that our power would be heard.....”

“Our primary weapon is our vote and we must wield that power in this country to make change.”



Dr. Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, National President

The 2020 South Carolina Election Quiz (Not a poll tax – just a ‘check-in!’)

“Election 2020: Did You Know?” - Take the quiz and score yourself!

- **Did you know** that the U.S. Senate Seat on your November 2020 ballot was held by each of the following men who strongly supported laws to maintain racial segregation?
 - John C. Calhoun?
 - Ben “Pitchfork” Tillman?
 - Strom Thurmond?

QUESTION: Do we want to continue that shameful legacy- or change it?

- **Did you know** that if South Carolina is undercounted in the 2020 Census we could lose one of our 7 Congressional seats?
 - We increased our Congressional seats from 6 to 7 in 2012- based on the 2010 U.S. census count!
- **Did you know** that South Carolina voters will decide **two** of the most hotly contested elections in the country on the November 3, 2020 ballot?
 - The **U.S. Senate** race between **Senator Lindsey Graham** and **Jaime Harrison** is one of the most competitive Senate races in the country. The candidates are in a virtual ‘dead heat’ according to the latest national poll.
 - **If Jaime Harrison wins**, South Carolina will become the **only state in the nation with 2 African-Americans in the United States Senate!**
 - The **1st Congressional District** race between **Congressman Joe Cunningham** and **challenger Nancy Mace** is rated as one of the top congressional races in the country – by both political parties!
- **Did you know** that only **22%** of Charleston County 295,715 registered voters cast a ballot in the June 2020 Primary election?
- **Did you know** that you can avoid potential exposure to COVID-19 on Election Day by voting absentee?
- **Did you know** that there are 66,993 **registered** African-Americans voters in Charleston County- **23% of all registered voters?**
 - Ages 65+ =15,590
 - Ages 45-64 =21,508
 - Ages 25-44 =24,401
 - Ages 18-24 =5,494
- **Did you know** that all of us working together- in our communities and across the state- can have a major positive impact on the November elections?

Let's Get Started!

PLAN THE WORK – WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

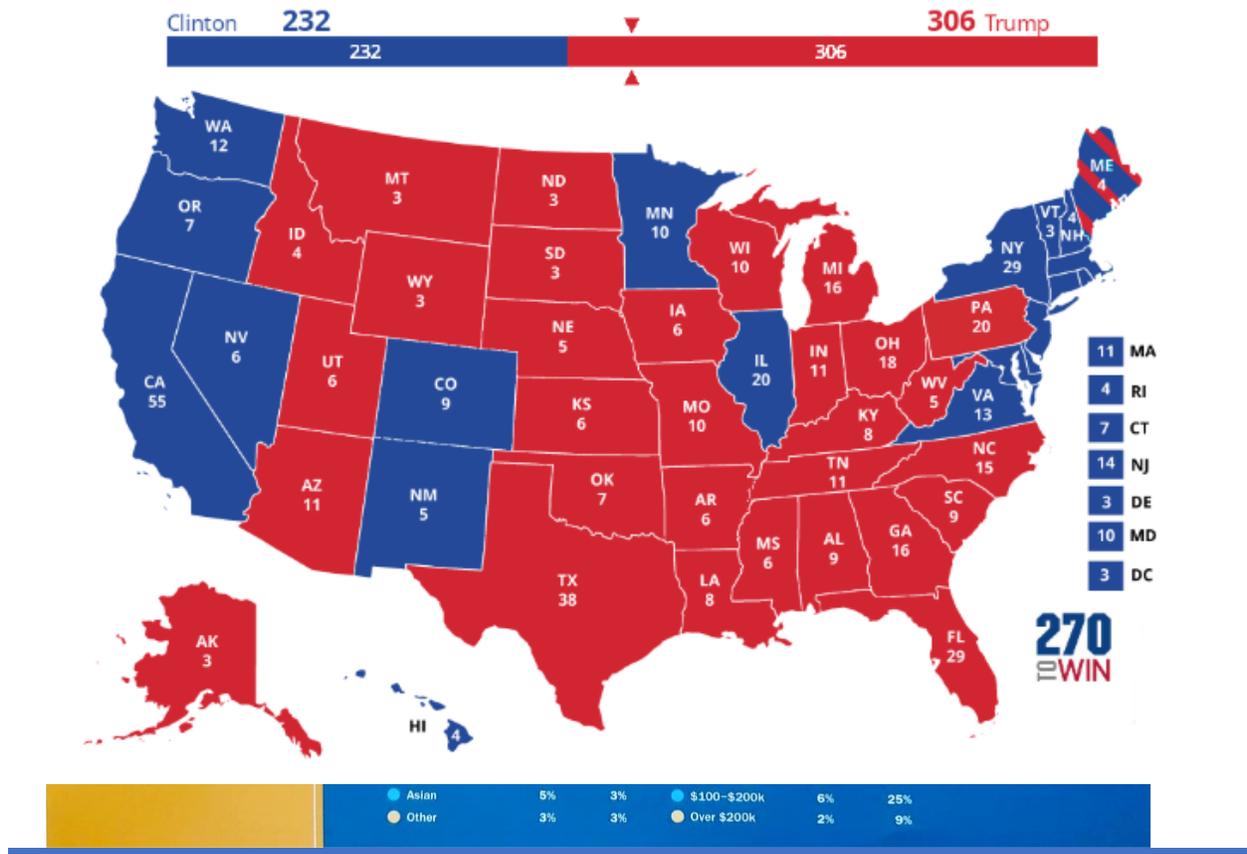
- I. **Sign up every eligible registered voter to vote by absentee ballot by September 30, 2020.**
 - a. Identify and encourage every member **age 65+** of our **sorority/fraternity** chapters and/or our **social/civic organizations** to **secure, complete and file** an absentee ballot. Assist them with the process as necessary or required. Make a list -and make the calls. KEEP A FILE.
 - b. Identify every **licensed professional and/or first responder** member of our sorority/fraternity chapters and/or our social/civic organizations and encourage them to **secure, complete and file** an absentee ballot. Make a list and make the contact. KEEP A FILE.
 - c. Identify every member **age 65+** of our Churches and make sure they **secure, complete and file** an absentee ballot. Assist them with the process as necessary. KEEP A FILE.
 - d. Identify everyone we know who may be eligible to vote absentee due to employment that may require them to work on November 3, election day.
 - e. Persons currently residing in a residential care facility may vote absentee if they are **age 65 or physically disabled**. An absentee ballot application may be requested by the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family or an authorized representative who is a registered voter. We should identify any family and/or friend who meet this eligibility and help them **secure, complete and file** an absentee ballot.
 - f. A chapter or organization may decide to accomplish the above goals by compiling lists of eligible voters and establish a **phone bank operation** to maximize absentee ballot participation for the November 3, 2020 election.



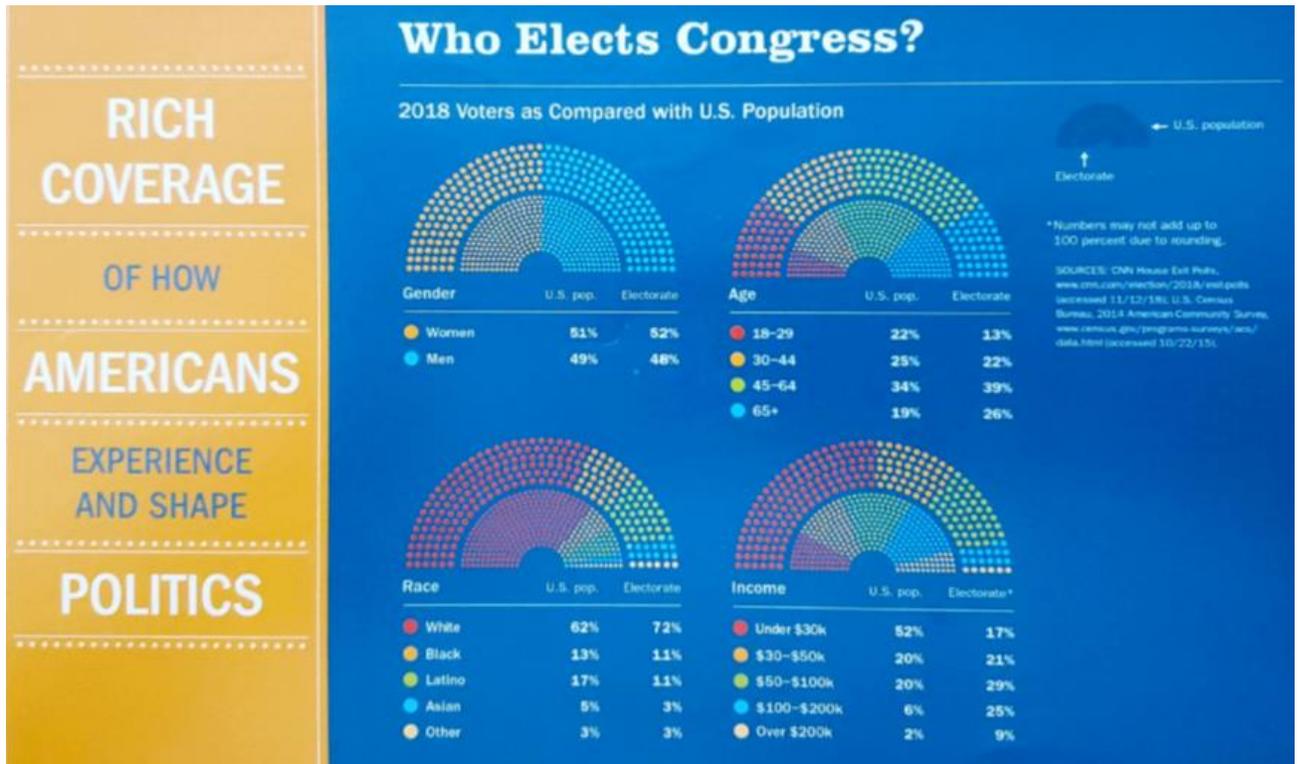
- II. Register our Youth who are first-time voters:**
- a. Register all Future Leaders, Jack and Jill Teens, Heir-O-Links, Delta Gems and other youth who will become 18 **before** November 3, 2020. **How will you know? Did you send a High School Graduation Card? If so, you should now follow-up with a Voter Registration Application – and assist the person in completing and filing it!**
 - b. Give the new voter information on the voting process on Election Day or sign them up for absentee voting if state law permits

- III. Who are our Team Members?**
- a. The Links, Incorporated
 - b. The Pan-Hellenic organizations
 - c. Our Social and Civic partners
 - d. Our Ecumenical organizations
 - e. Our Youth Leadership

WHO WON THE 2016 NATIONAL ELECTION?



WHO VOTED IN THE 2018 NATIONAL ELECTION?



QUESTION: WHO WILL WIN IN 2020? OUR VOTE WILL IMPACT THE RESULTS

THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Why It Matters for South Carolina

ELECTION OF OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



- The President of the United States:
 - Appoint Supreme Court Justices, Attorney General, Cabinet Secretaries, etc.
- The U.S. Senate - 1/3
 - South Carolina has “skin in the game”- potential: Only state to be represented by 2 African-American Senators!
- The U.S. House of Representatives - 435
 - South Carolina has 7 seats – one held by the Majority Whip- 3rd most powerful leader in Congress!
 - Key proposed legislation before the Congress:
 - Protecting the Affordable Care Act
 - Protecting Medicare and Medicaid
 - Ensuring continuing aid to state and counties in response to COVID-19
 - Passing the Justice in Policing Act, etc.

ELECTION OF OUR STATE LEGISLATURE



- 46 Senate Seats – 1 per county – all up for election in November
- 124 House Seats – all up for election on November 3rd:
 - 3 Local vacancies – incumbents retiring:
 - District 109 – Rep. David Mack
 - District 115 – Rep. Peter McCoy
 - District 116 – Rep. Robert Brown
- State Legislature will draw new legislative districts for 2020 following U.S. census population changes.
- State Legislature make critical decisions re:
 - Funding for COVID-19 relief
 - Should SC enact a Hate Crime Law?
 - Should Legislature change how judges, including Magistrates are elected?
 - Should election procedures for Charleston County School Board be changed?

ELECTION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



- Charleston County
- Dorchester County
- Berkeley County

CHARLESTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT



- County Council- 9 members- 4 seats up for election in November 2020
 - District 3 -Elliott Summey
 - District 4- Henry Darby
 - District 6- Vic Rawl
 - District 7- Brantley Moody
- County Coroner - vacancy

OUR GOAL: DESIGN AND EXECUTE A NOVEMBER ELECTION STRATEGY THAT:



- Educate our community about why the November 3rd election matters
- Maximize registration of new voters:
 - Key demographic: Youth Vote
- Maximize use of absentee ballots and early voting:
 - Key concerns: seniors, rural areas and first-time voters
- Design an effective Get Out The Vote strategy for November 3rd



“Laws will not eliminate prejudice from the hearts of human beings. But that is no reason to allow prejudice to continue to be enshrined under laws to perpetuate injustice through inaction.”

– Shirley Chisholm.

1977 CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS



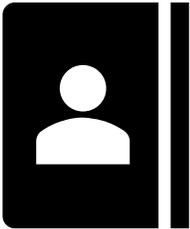
Fifteen members of the Congressional Black Caucus pose on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in 1977., from left to right: (front row) [Barbara Jordan](#) of Texas, [Robert Nix, Sr.](#), of Pennsylvania, [Ralph Metcalfe](#) of Illinois, [Cardiss Collins](#) of Illinois, [Parren Mitchell](#) of Maryland, [Gus Hawkins](#) of California, [Shirley Chisholm](#) of New York; (middle row) [John Conyers, Jr.](#), of Michigan, [Charles Rangel](#) of New York, [Harold Ford, Sr.](#), of Tennessee, [Yvonne Brathwaite Burke](#) of California, [Walter Fauntroy](#) of the District of Columbia; (back row) [Ronald Dellums](#) of California, [Louis Stokes](#) of Ohio, and [Charles C. Diggs, Jr.](#), of Michigan.

VOTER REGISTRATION 101

NOT REGISTERED? WE HAVE A PLAN FOR THAT!!! ARE YOU ELIGIBLE??

Your November 3, 2020 Registration Checklist : Who is eligible to vote?

- (1) U.S. citizenship
- (2) At least eighteen years old before November 3, 2020
- (3) Resident of South Carolina, your County and your precinct (the location where you will vote)
- (4) Not be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent
- (5) Not be confined in any public prison resulting from a **conviction** of a crime.
 - i. Note: Someone who has been arrested on a charge **but not yet tried and/or convicted** is eligible to vote in the upcoming election.
- (6) Have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws **or** if previously convicted, have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole or have received a pardon for the conviction.
- (7) You must register at the address at which you reside
- (8) There is no length of residency requirement in SC in order to register to vote. You may register at any time.
- (9) Students may register to vote where they reside while attending college. This may be at an address in the college community (i.e., a dormitory or college housing) or at an address you plan to return to while not in the college community (i.e., a family home)
- (10) For guidance in determining what residence to claim for voter registration purposes, see S.C. Code of Laws, Section 7-1-25, (<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/to7c001.php>).
- (11) You must be registered at least 30 days prior to the November 3, 2020 election in order to vote in that election.



HOW TO REGISTER:

Your November 3, 2020 Registration checklist:

- a. **Register online-** (<https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/ovr/start.aspx>). S.C. Drivers License or DMV ID required. If you have moved, you must first **update your residence address with DMV** (<https://www.scdmvonline.com/Public/Transactions/AddressChange/Page1.aspx>).

- b. **Register by mail, email or fax-Download a voter registration form** <https://www.scvotes.gov/files/VR%20Blank%20Form.pdf>
Complete the form, return it to your county board of voter registration (how-register-absentee-voting) by mail, fax or e-mail.
SEE A COPY OF THE FORM BELOW

- c. **Register in person-** Visit your County Board of Voter Registration and register in person. **Charleston Board of Voter Registration -P.O. Box 71419- Charleston, SC 29415. Phone: 843-744=8683; Fax: 843-974-6419; Email: voterregistration@charlestoncounty.org**

SOUTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION MAIL APPLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION

Registration Number

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you checked 'NO' in response to either of these questions, DO NOT complete this form.		Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration (Check above if moving from one county to another) <input type="checkbox"/> Address or name change within the same county						
NAME	Last	First		MI	Suffix			
SEX	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	RACE	Black/African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	Other Specify	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER *
	Female <input type="checkbox"/>		White <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (Physical Address)	Street			Apt Number		Inside City Limits		
	City			State	Zip Code	Would you like to be a poll worker?		
MAILING ADDRESS (If Different from Above)	Street or Post Office Box							
	City			State	Zip Code			
BIRTHDATE	Month	Day	Year	PHONE #	Home ()	Work ()		
PREVIOUS REGISTRATION/NAME	Precinct		County	State	Previous Name			

Voter Declaration – (read and sign below)

I swear or affirm that:

- I am a citizen of the United States of America
- I will be 18 years of age on or before Election Day
- I am a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
- I am not under a court order declaring me mentally incompetent
- I am not confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- I have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, I have served my entire sentence, including probation or parole, or I have received a pardon for the conviction
- the address listed above is my only legal place of residence, and I claim no other place as my legal residence

If you do not have a street name or number, draw a diagram of the area in which you live. Show your house in relation to local landmarks such as schools, churches, stores, etc. Be sure to label the streets or roads.

Attach ID Here

Signature _____

Date of Application _____

Whoever shall, willfully and knowingly, swear (or affirm) falsely in taking any oath required by law shall be guilty of perjury and, on conviction, incur the pains and penalties of the offense.

ID Required: If you are registering for the first time in this county, you **must** attach a copy of a current valid photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address in this county. If you do not provide this identification now, you will be required to provide this information when you vote. Voters who are age 65 and over, voters with disabilities, members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or Merchant Marines and their families, and U.S. Citizens residing outside the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

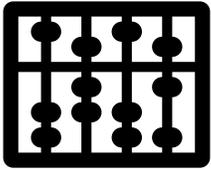
Check here if you are exempt.

* Social Security Number (SSN) is required by the S.C. Code § 7-5-170. Applications containing only the last four digits of your SSN will be accepted. Your SSN is used for internal purposes only and eliminates multiple registrations by a single individual. Your SSN is not released to any unauthorized individual.

For Voter Registration Board Use Only

scVOTES.org

Approved Disapproved by _____ (Member, Voter Registration Board) Date _____



THE ABCs OF VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

The ABCs of Voting by Absentee Ballot: The following Memo entitled: “Vote Early, Vote Absentee” is provided by Isaac D. Cramer, Project Officer, Charleston County Board of Elections and Registration:

Vote Early, Vote Absentee

Are you working on Election Day? Are you going on vacation? Over the age of 65? Have a physical disability?

If so: Vote By Mail

By Mail

Call Charleston County Board of Elections for an application (843) 744-8683. Our office will mail the application to the voter. Voter must sign and return the application by mail or email (absentee@charlestoncounty.org). 30 days prior to the election, an absentee ballot will be mailed to the voter. Each voter has until 7 PM of Election Day to return the absentee ballot.

All absentee ballots are counted!

Persons qualified to vote by absentee ballot:

1. Members of the Armed Forces or Merchant Marine serving outside their county of residence and their spouses and dependents residing with them ([click here for additional information](#))
2. Persons serving with the American Red Cross or with the United Service Organizations (USO) who are attached to and serving with the Armed Forces outside their county of residence and their spouses and dependents residing with them
3. Overseas Citizens ([click here for additional information](#))
4. Persons who are physically disabled
5. Students attending school outside their county of residence and their spouses and dependents residing with them
6. **Persons who for reasons of employment**
7. Government employees serving outside their county of residence on Election Day and their spouses and dependents residing with them
8. **Persons who plan to be on vacation outside their county of residence on Election Day**
9. Persons serving as a juror in state or federal court on Election Day
10. Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on Election Day or within a four-day period before the election
11. Persons with a death or funeral in the family within three days before the election
12. Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial
13. Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons
14. Certified poll watchers, poll managers, and county election officials working on Election Day
15. **Persons sixty-five years of age or older**
16. Persons who for religious reasons do not want to vote on a Saturday (Presidential Primaries Only)

-End of memo-

SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ON ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY

ATTENTION TO # 6- “Persons who for reason of employment will not be able to vote on election day.”

- The election laws do not define a category of employees who meet this criterion – the voter makes this decision depending on his/her individual work schedule and the ability to forecast or control it.
- During the initial state shutdown in response to COVID-19, Governor Henry McMaster released a list of “essential services” defined as those activities required to keep the state’s business and economic sectors working. While that list is not designed to determine who should be eligible to secure an absentee ballot, it does help us to think about the variety of jobs, professions and/or careers that may require one to work on election day.
- Examples of jobs/careers that might require someone to work on election day include: medical professionals; first responders; bus/transportation drivers; restaurant cooks, servers, dishwashers and cleaning staff; delivery persons; grocery store clerks; child care workers; postal workers; baby-sitters; hotel workers; sole proprietors, etc.



RECOMMENDATIONS BY MARCI ANDIO, Executive Director, SC Elections Commissions, for changes in voting procedures for the November 3, 2020 Election.

*On Friday, July 17, 2020 **Marci Andino, Executive Director, SC Elections Commissions, made the following recommendation to SC Senate President Harvey Peeler and SC State House Speaker Jay Lucas for changes in the November 3, 2020 election:***

- Reinstatement of the “State of Emergency” reason for voting absentee that allowed all voters to cast their ballots by absentee ballots in the June 2020 primaries.
- Allow voters to apply for an absentee ballot online.
- Remove the witness signature requirement.
- Allow the use of drop boxes for returning absentee ballots.
- Give election officials more time to process absentee-by-mail ballots and certify elections.
- Limit curbside voting to designated locations instead of every polling place.



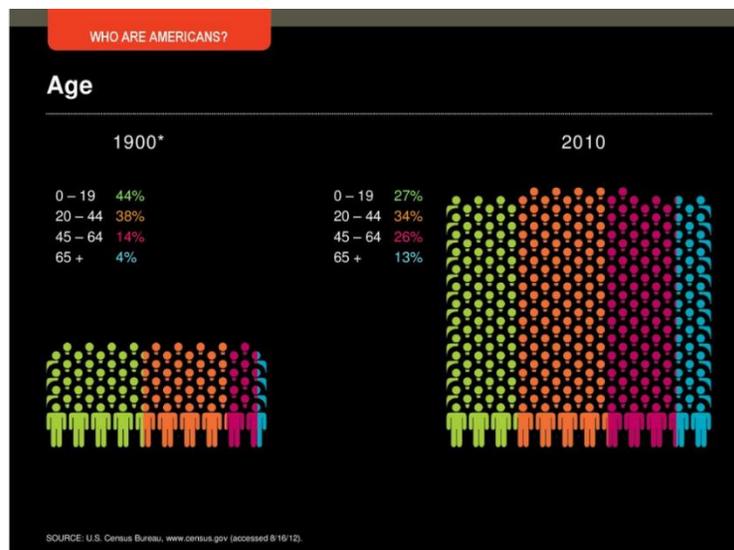
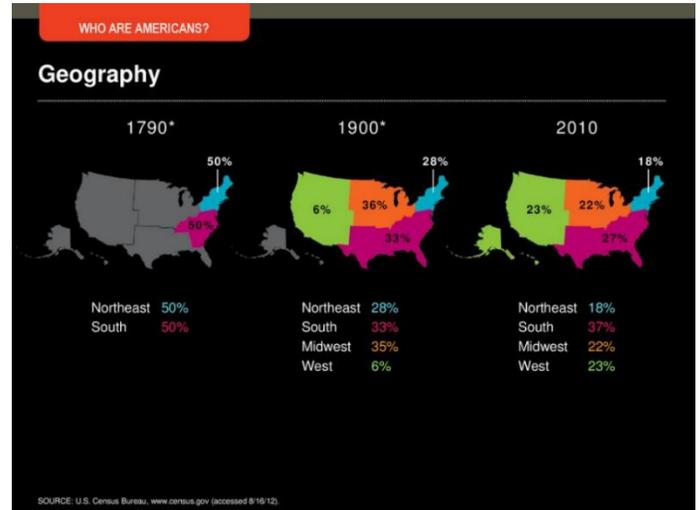
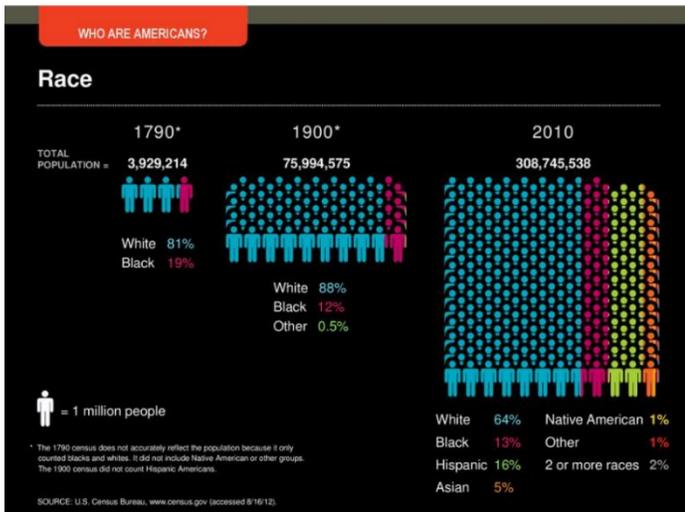
CALL TO ACTION: Please call or text your elected officials and support the changes you feel would be helpful in increasing the participation in absentee ballots.

WHY THE 2020 CENSUS MATTERS TO SOUTH CAROLINA

Tracking the “Melanin Revolution” in America

“The distribution of more than \$678 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.”

-Vermelle P. Simmons, Partnership Specialist Census 2020 South Carolina

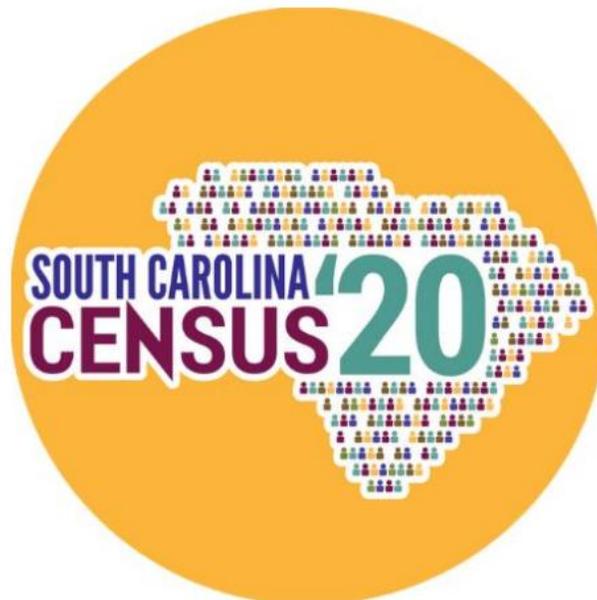


The NATION
grew from 1 million in 1790 to
309 million in 2010

A curious fact: African-Americans were 12% of the U.S. population in 1790 and 12% in 2010!

Question: Were we undercounted in 2010?

Question: Will we be fully counted in 2020?



Complete the Census!

Its safe, easy and Important

CALL 1-844-330-2020

YOU CAN ASK FOR THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.

IT ONLY TAKES FEW MINUTES

You May Also:

Respond online at WWW.My2020Census.gov

Respond by US Mail using the form received by mail

Completion Date
 Percentages are
 subject to change
 as data is updated.

THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS OVERVIEW

- U.S. Census conducted every 10 years - mandated by U.S. Constitution: Article I, Sec.2
- 2020 U.S. Census will:
 - Determine current demographics of the U.S. population:
 - Race, gender, age, population centers, etc.
 - Determine number of 2022 congressional seats each state will receive.
 - Distribute \$675 billion in federal dollars to states based on 2020 populations:
 - Health care, hospitals, Medicaid, etc.
 - School lunch programs, welfare assistance, etc.
 - Schools, roads, police and fire services, etc.
 - Support for rural counties, etc.



SOUTH CAROLINA'S STAKE IN 2020 CENSUS COUNT

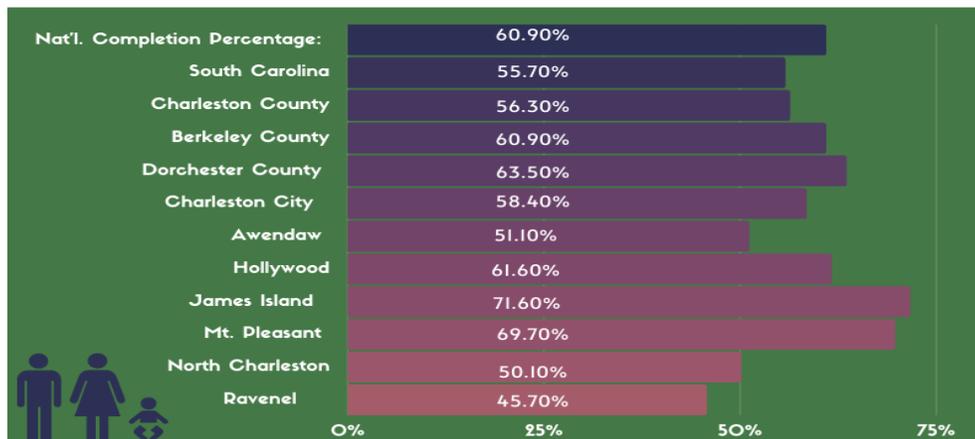
- South Carolina is 23 rd largest state in U.S.
 - 46 Counties
 - 271 Cities – all competing for share of federal census funds
- Major impact: Percentage of population captured in census count = key element in distribution of \$675 billion by federal government
- Federal census completion goal: 60.60% of Americans counted (versus 72% goal in 2020).
 - States performance will be measured against this national standard.
 - State of South Carolina census completion to date: 55.40%



LOCAL COUNTIES COMPLETION TO DATE:



KEY CITIES/POPULATION AREAS COMPLETION TO DATE:



Implication: Above data helps to define key areas of activity in designing a census strategy.
 Source: Vermelle Simmons, Partnership Specialist, South Carolina- U.S. Census Bureau

50 WAYS CENSUS DATA ARE USED

- Decision making at all levels of government.
- Drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts.
- Attracting new businesses to state and local areas.
- Distributing over \$675 billion annually in federal funds and even more in state funds.
- Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.
- Forecasting future housing needs for all segments of the population.
- Directing funds for services for people in poverty.
- Designing public safety strategies.
- Development of rural areas.
- Analyzing local trends.
- Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters.
- Developing assistance programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Creating maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance.
- Delivering goods and services to local markets.
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children.
- Planning future government services.
- Planning investments and evaluating financial risk.
- Publishing economic and statistical reports about the United States and its people.
- Facilitating scientific research.
- Developing "intelligent" maps for government and business.
- Providing proof of age, relationship, or residence certificates provided by the Census Bureau.
- Distributing medical research.
- Reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives.
- Planning and researching for media as backup for news stories.
- Drawing school district boundaries.
- Planning budgets for government at all levels.
- Spotting trends in the economic well-being of the nation.
- Planning for public transportation services.
- Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities.
- Establishing fair market rents and enforcing fair lending practices.
- Directing services to children and adults with limited English-language proficiency.
- Planning urban land use.
- Planning outreach strategies.
- Understanding labor supply.
- Assessing the potential for spread of communicable diseases.
- Making business decisions.
- Understanding consumer needs.
- Planning for faith-based organizations.
- Locating factory sites and distribution centers.
- Distributing catalogs and developing direct mail pieces.
- Setting a standard for creating both public and private sector surveys.
- Evaluating programs in different geographic areas.
- Providing genealogical research.
- Planning for school projects.
- Developing adult education programs.
- Researching historical subject areas.
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.

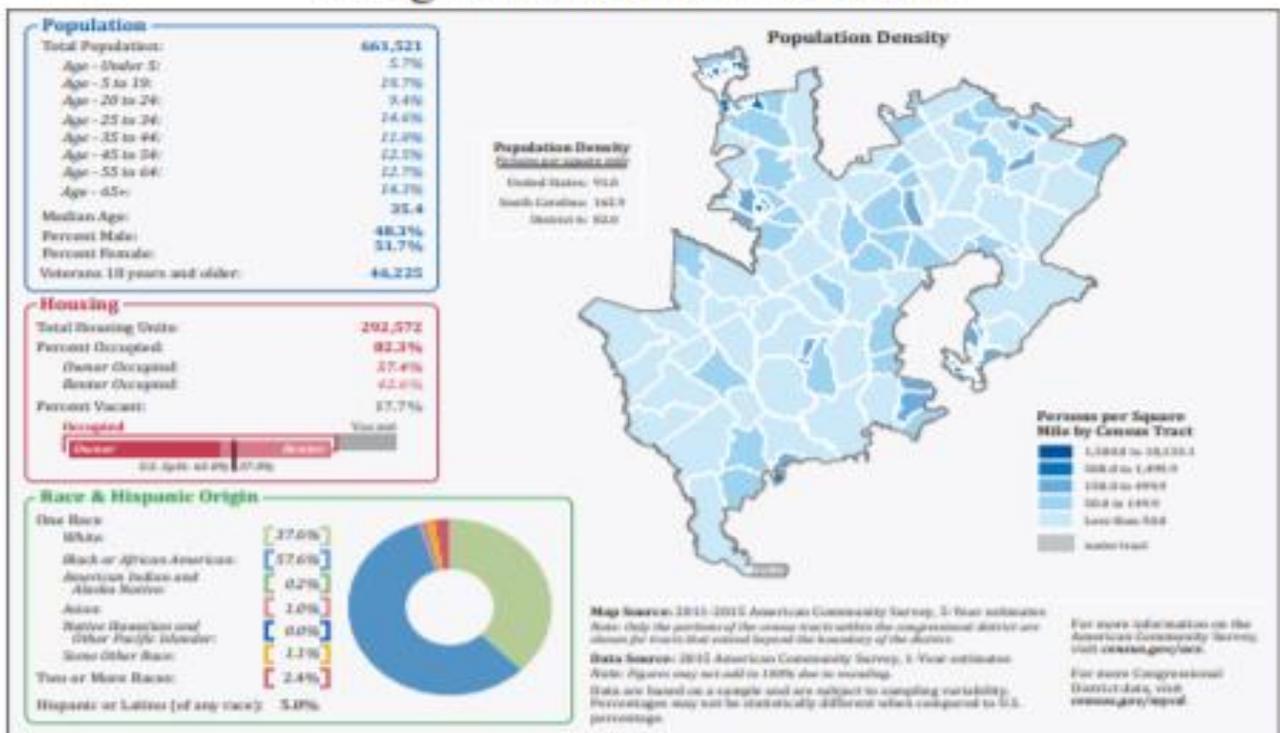
2020 Census Complete Count Committee Guide



Congressman Jim Clyburn, 3rd ranking member of the US House of Representatives, represents the 6th Congressional District

**The Census determines number of Congressional Seats that each state receives*

Congressional District 6 Profile

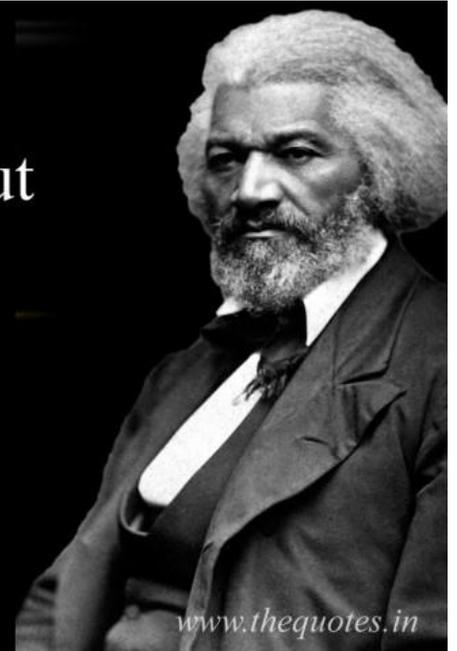


United StatesTM
Census
 Bureau

For general information, contact the Congressional Affairs Office at (301) 763-4100. For more information regarding congressional district plans as a result of the 2010 Census, redistricting, and voting rights data, contact the Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office at (301) 763-6039 or www.census.gov/rd. For information regarding other U.S. Census Bureau products, visit www.census.gov.

Power concedes nothing without
a demand. It never did and
it never will.

Frederick Douglass



www.thequotes.in



WHAT IS THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE – AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- d. **Authority:** Established by Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution. Amended by the 12th and 23rd Amendments.
- e. **Composition:** Consists of a total of **538** members: one for each U.S. Senator (N= 100) and one for each member of the U.S. House of Representatives (N=435), plus three additional electors representing the District of Columbia (3). (Total =538).
- f. **Election Process:** Currently, all states select their electors through a popular vote. **Following is a summary of how the Electoral College will work in the 2020 presidential election:**

- Spring and Summer 2020 – Nomination of Electors – The **political parties** in each state nominate their electors, generally persons loyal to the party or active party members/activists. This activity traditionally occurs at the party's state convention. The expectation is that these electors will cast their votes for the party's nominee for president.
- November 3, 2020 – Election Day – Voters in each state will cast a vote for President. This vote **will include the electors already selected** by the party of the presidential candidate.
- December 8, 2020 – Deadline for resolving election disputes. All state recounts and court contests over presidential election results must be completed by this date.
- December 14, 2020 – Meeting of the Electors – The electors meet in each state and cast their ballots for president and vice-president. Each elector votes his/her own ballot and signs it. The ballots are immediately transmitted as follows: one copy goes to the President of the U.S, Senate (The Vice-President) – this is the copy that will be officially counted later. Copies go to each of the following: (a) the state's Secretary of State; (b) the National Archives and Records Administration; (c) the Presiding Judge in the district where the electors meet (this copy serves as a backup copy that would replace the official copy sent to the President of the Senate if it is lost or destroyed).
- December 23, 2020- Deadline for Receipt of Ballots – The electors' ballots from all states must be received by the president of the Senate by this day. (There is currently no penalty for missing this deadline). Question: Do states actually miss this deadline? Why?
- January 6, 2021 – Counting of the Electoral Ballots. The U.S. Congress meets in joint session to count the electoral votes. Total number = 538. Needed to elect: 50% (269) plus 1 = 270 electoral votes. The candidates are current President Donald Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden.
- January 20, 2021 – Inauguration Day – The President-elect is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. The candidates are President Donald Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden.



The Electoral College process in South Carolina

- Any certified party nominating candidates for President and Vice-President and any petition candidate for these offices must nominate a number of electors equal to the state's number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate (9 electors total in 2020).
- Each candidate for elector must declare which candidate for President and Vice-President he will vote for if elected.
- At least 60 days prior to Election Day the political parties and petition candidates file their electors' names along with their candidate declarations with the Secretary State.
- On Election Day, the names for candidates for President and Vice-President appear on the ballot. Votes for the President and Vice-President named on the ballot are votes for the political parties' electors or the petition candidates' electors.
- After the election, the State Board of Canvassers meets to certify the election. Certified results are sent to the Secretary of State.
- Electors must convene at 11:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December in the Secretary of State's Office. The electors then vote by ballot for President and Vice-President.
- Those elected must vote for the candidate for whom they declared. Any person selected to fill a vacancy in the Electoral College must vote for the same person for whom he is replacing declared. Any elector who votes contrary to their declaration shall be deemed guilty of violating the election laws of the State and upon conviction shall be punished according to law. However, the executive committee of the party from which the elector was elected may relieve the elector from the obligation of his declaration, when, in its judgment, circumstances shall have arisen which, in the opinion of the committee, it would not be in the best interest of the State for the elector to cast his ballot for such a candidate.



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**We may not have
chosen the time,
but the time has
chosen us.**

—JOHN LEWIS
Civil Rights Leader and Politician



2018 Congressional Black Caucus



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