

George Can't Breathe, but We Can Vote

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalism embraces the principle of the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

WHEREAS, Unitarians and Universalists have recognized the power of the ballot in their support for women's suffrage, voting access, marriage equality, stewardship of the earth, immigrant rights and ending discrimination against the LGBTQ community and most recently our trans-brothers and sisters;

WHEREAS, the UUA has launched an initiative, UU THE VOTE, to engage our neighbors, educate our communities, mobilize voters, and rally around key ballot initiatives;

WHEREAS, protest has the power to awaken the indifferent, bring light to injustice and clarify the need for change, and protest in itself is not sufficient to bring about change. Real change comes when the power of passion is expressed in the power of the ballot;

WHEREAS, UUs affirm and promote the words and deeds of prophetic people who challenge us to confront structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1957 said, "Give us the ballot and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passage of an anti-lynching law; we will by the power of our vote write the law on the statute books of the South." "Give us the ballot and we will transform the salient misdeeds of bloodthirsty mobs into the calculated good deeds of orderly citizens.";

WHEREAS, wider access to the ballot has been achieved by a generation before us, but now it is endangered due to overt suppression which is another form of injustice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association, its congregations and their members are urged to:

- Support the UU the Vote initiative by volunteering your individual and congregation's time, talent and treasury to this initiative;
- Engage your congregation's Social Justice ministry to implement programs that specifically support registration and get out the vote initiatives in your communities;
- Make a public statement on your congregation's website, social media platforms and physical roadside presence regarding UU advocacy for voter rights and get out the vote initiatives;

- Advocate for voter access by making your congregation's resources available to non-partisan organizations/multi-faith communities to set up voter registration booths at social justice rallies in your communities;
- Identify local partner organizations dedicated to voter rights and amplify their impact by recruiting your congregation's and other faith community members to support their actions;
- Educate your community on voter suppression tactics such as purges of voter registration rolls, consolidation of voter locations, reduction of early voting access, partisan gerrymandering and restrictions on college student votes by writing letters to your newspapers, posting on your Facebook and other social media platforms;
- Lobby your local, state and federal law makers to ensure access to voting is expanded and protected;
- Engage your local media (print, radio and TV) by inviting reporters to cover your events and;
- Personally commit to vote in primary, runoff and general elections.