



ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
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March 16, 2021

On April 6, St. Louis will choose its 47th mayor. Historically, turnout for these April elections is low, especially among minority voters, but turnout from the 2020 elections allowed us to witness the capabilities of our community to make a change. Voting in this year’s spring elections may look a bit different, but it’s never been more important to make our voices heard.

The St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) is working with local neighborhood groups to foster local democracy. In order to carry out our mission, we are currently pushing get out the vote (GOTV) efforts in St. Louis to encourage participation in the 2021 General Municipal Election.

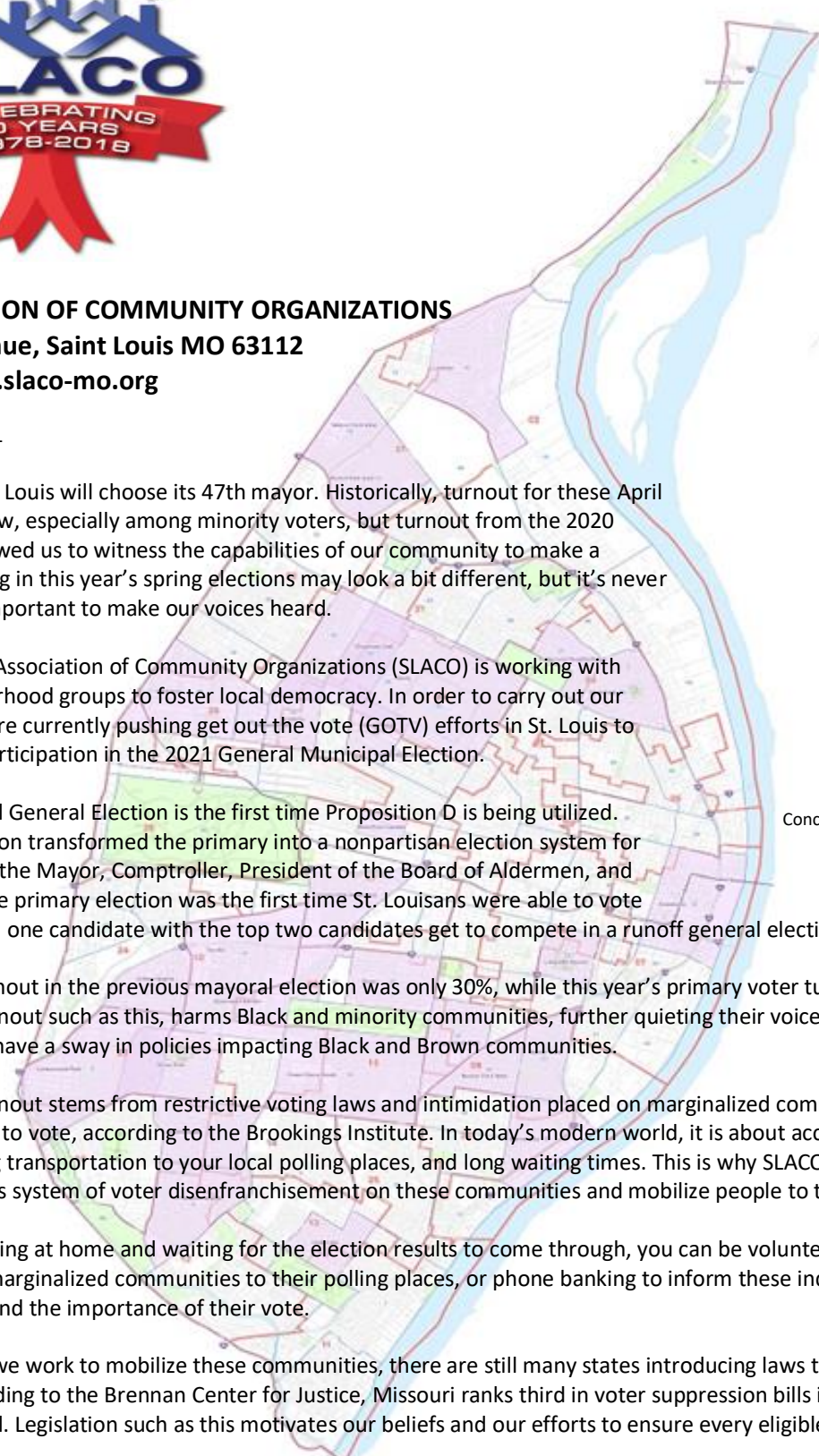
The Municipal General Election is the first time Proposition D is being utilized. This proposition transformed the primary into a nonpartisan election system for the offices of the Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Alderman. The primary election was the first time St. Louisans were able to vote for more than one candidate with the top two candidates get to compete in a runoff general election in April.

The voter turnout in the previous mayoral election was only 30%, while this year’s primary voter turnout was 22%. Low voter turnout such as this, harms Black and minority communities, further quieting their voices as the majority continues to have a sway in policies impacting Black and Brown communities.

Low voter turnout stems from restrictive voting laws and intimidation placed on marginalized communities when they show up to vote, according to the Brookings Institute. In today’s modern world, it is about accessible polling hours, getting transportation to your local polling places, and long waiting times. This is why SLACO is determined to combat this system of voter disenfranchisement on these communities and mobilize people to the polls.

Instead of sitting at home and waiting for the election results to come through, you can be volunteering to drive voters from marginalized communities to their polling places, or phone banking to inform these individuals about the election and the importance of their vote.

However, as we work to mobilize these communities, there are still many states introducing laws to suppress voters. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, Missouri ranks third in voter suppression bills introduced at the state level. Legislation such as this motivates our beliefs and our efforts to ensure every eligible voter has the



St. Louis MO:

- Academy/Sherman Park
- Benton Park
- Benton Park West
- Better Bevo Now
- Chain of Rocks
- Clifton Heights
- Downtown
- Downtown Dutchtown
- Fairground
- Holly Hills
- Hyde Park
- Kingsville
- Kingsway East
- Kingsway West
- Lewis Place/Visitation
- Lindenwood Park
- Marine Villa
- North Hampton
- North Pointe
- Revitalization of Baden
- Shaw Neighborhood
- Skinker DeBaliviere
- Southampton
- Southwest Garden
- S.P.U.D.
- Tower Grove East
- Tower Grove South
- UCM
- Walnut Park East
- Walnut Park West
- West End Neighbors
- We Live Here – The Ville

East St. Louis, IL

Concerned Citizens of Precinct #12

opportunity to vote. SLACO is registering voters, educating St. Louis communities, and organizing transportation to get voters to the polls. Voters have a right to vote without restrictions.

If you want to voice change about our city and how it is governed, the best way to do so is to vote on April 6.

Therefore, we're partnering with Neighborhood FORWARD, an organization that serves to be the collective voice for vulnerable populations and marginalized communities and is working to reinvest in our communities to ensure Black and Brown voters are heard.

Alongside our partner Neighborhood FORWARD St. Louis, SLACO is among the company of excellent organizations working on local GOTV efforts. We are posting on social media about volunteer opportunities and answering questions voters might have. We will continue our efforts to ensure all eligible voters can get to the polls and exercise their right to vote and to foster democracy in the St. Louis area and Missouri.

SLACO does not endorse any candidate during this election, but we do endorse getting out to your polling place and voting. Voting is a human right and SLACO believes everyone has the right to take part in their civic duty of choosing who represents them. We can do this St. Louis. You have a voice that will be heard, and you can raise that voice by voting in the April 6 election.

Sincerely,



Kevin B. McKinney, Executive Director
St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO)

