

BCHS Meeting Minutes: Planning Meeting 8/15/2018

What are we planning today?

- Voter guides for the primaries
- Voter registration drives
- Voter education crash courses (2)
- Voter guides for the general election

Voter guides for the primaries:

- Primaries are on September 4th
- Want to at least get the state secretary, attorney general, and governor ones covered
- How do we distribute all that information once we've got it?
- What groups are we trying to reach for that?
 - James: been registering people to vote at shows, want to hand out this info there as well
- Best bet for Congressional races: make a simple voting guide for Boston and another one that covers District 7, maybe? (District 7 is Boston, Cambridge, Somerville etc. - basically everyone involved with BCHS but James, who's in Quincy aka District 8)

So what's going in these voter guides?

Federal level: what's contested?

- Legislative branch:
 - US Senator
 - For Republicans
 - US Representative (Congress)

State level: what's contested?

- Executive branch
 - Governor
 - For Republicans
 - For Democrats
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - For Democrats
 - Governor's Council
 - 3rd, 4th Districts
 - Attorney General
 - For Republicans
 - Secretary of State
 - For Democrats
 - Treasurer
 - Auditor
 - Register of the Deeds (Suffolk District)
- Legislative branch
 - State Senator (General Court)
 - State Representative (General Court)
- Judiciary Branch
 - Clerk of Courts:
 - Suffolk County - Civil Business (contested)

State Senate level: 25th Middlesex District (part of Cambridge), Suffolk Districts 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 (Boston)

- Also the District Attorney (Suffolk)

State Congressional level:

7th and 8th districts for Democrats
(the Republicans aren't even running anyone in those)

Task for James: call the office (unspecified) tomorrow and find out if you can bring a cheat sheet of candidate names and positions into the voting booth with you, because this is ridiculous

So, prioritizing: focus on the state-level stuff first

Formatting:

- Do we want to do a template? Plug in district number, candidate names, short blurbs?
- Think this year it'd have to be a multi-page thing - the main positions, then the Congress stuff, maybe photos of the candidates
- James mentioned something about last year's being morphed into a graphic, not sure what type of graphic or how that worked exactly, but is considering doing something like that again because that's a lot of information

Skipping topics: BU never got back to James on running a voter registration drive for their students, so... we may not be able to do that after all?

- I (Erin) want to ping TJ, see if he can help set up a registration drive at Emerson
- (I'm betting the lack of student involvement is part of the slow response time, though they may just be on vacation because it's August)
- Original idea was to have voter registration drives at three schools simultaneously, but that may not work at this point

Task for Erin: call Emerson / reach out to ask TJ to reach out to Emerson about running a student voter registration drive

- James will reach out to Northeastern

Crash Course Events:

- Reviewing at the PowerPoint James drafted
- We've got two dates booked at the Brazilian cultural center, but the original idea was to do an election crash course plus a ballot course plus a crash course on all the candidates; we don't have to do all that, though, apparently, because we can combine the two into one event without making it overwhelming.
- Initial feedback on the presentation:
 - Midterm Elections slide: may want to add "plus a bunch of state positions and other positions" to the federal-level stuff - it's mentioned in the verbal accompaniment but not spelled out on the slide itself.

- Voting:
 - Do we want to check if PO boxes are specifically excluded? Assume they must be.
 - Want to note that you specifically must vote at the polling place associated with your address - no stopping in at that other one that's closer to your work. This is why it's so important to keep your address up to date.
- Steps for voting:
 - 1. sign in with your address and name - don't need to have ID unless you're a felon, or sometimes a first time voter (this rule isn't always well enforced for first-timers)
 - 2. get given a ballot, walk over to the little booth, fill it out
 - 3. Walk to a different place, submit the ballot, they'll take it and record the data
 - 4. Sign out
 - 5. Get a sticker to show you voted
- Add info on reporting any problems at your polling place, or that they have to let you vote if you're in line when the polls close?
 - James: we'll add a Your Rights As A Voter slide (info tbd)
- What offices are up for grabs?
 - That explanation may be a bit long from a crash course standpoint - could split it into two slides on which offices are open and what those titles are.
 - Actually maybe a hand-out - think that might start bogging people down, and we really want to get through the whole thing with attention spans still active
 - Formatting: let's move the Federal Level heading up even with the State Offices one and change the bolding on the titles so it's easier to differentiate between headings and items
- The Issues:
 - "It's important to realize that if you have investment in any of (these topics), that there is change happening on a state and municipal level"
 - It's not just about who to vote for - lets you identify the people to go to with concerns about specific issues
- What Should You Do?
 - 1. Register to Vote! (we'll sign you up in the back)
 - 2. Find your polling place (the city will reach out once you sign up, but we can help too)
 - 3. Learn about the candidates (interchangeable with #2)
 - 4. Talk about the issues - what matters to you and
 - 5. Vote on November 6th
 - 6. Get engaged with your community!
- Break Time
- Ballot Questions:
- What is a ballot question?
 - (names for ballot questions vary by state)
 - They're a direct vote, instead of an indirect vote where you vote for a representative and they go and make the policy.
 - That would be the point I'd emphasize here
 - Takes a long petitioning process to get on the ballot - they tend to be hot-button issues for people, with a lot of emotive value
- And that's this finished, apparently

First impressions: not quite 15 minutes total run time at James overview speed, but will slow it down for the full presentation.

- Do we want a Q&A slide/period?

Another task: ask Secretary of State's office for more voter registration forms in Portuguese and English, because if we ask for them ahead of time they are free.

James:

- Don't think we need two events at the same place any more - can maybe move the one on the 29th somewhere in Allston or such where the punks can make it
- [Brief scheduling possibilities discussion, results pending]
- Anyway, the key dates are September 29th and October 13th

Task for Erin: ask Panera if they'd be willing to contribute some sandwiches for our local civics engagement group's voter information & registration sessions

- Two events, Sept. 29th and Oct. 13th at (still didn't catch the abbreviation)
- They're small events, not expecting more than 35 - 50 people per

Info Sheets: pick three things to research and then go from there

- Suggested that Erin start by looking at the Attorney General and Secretary of State races
 - Research and figure out who I support, then tell them why and show my work and that's who we'll recommend