

# AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS (A-PLUS)

In memory of John Robert Lewis, a Champion for Voter's Rights

Sunrise: February 21, 1940 – Sunset: July 17, 2020

**GET OUT THE VOTE!**  
**IT'S YOUR VOTE. IT'S YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**

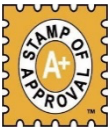


## A-PLUS GUIDE TO GETTING OUT THE VOTE

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) initiatives play a pivotal role in mobilizing and empowering voters, making it the culmination of all our Civic Engagement efforts. It is the busiest time of every election season, and it is critical to our success. You have one deadline: the closing of the polls on Election Day. Plan your schedules accordingly and make the necessary arrangements to exercise your democratic right. The deadline will not change. You are either prepared or you are not. You cannot run a little behind schedule. The effectiveness of the campaign lies in its flawless execution, as every aspect must work harmoniously to motivate, educate, and mobilize voters.

## OFFICIAL NATIONAL A-PLUS PUBLICATION

This Standard Operating Procedure was revised on January 23, 2024, by the National Vice President of Retirees Subcommittee consisting of Camille Wider, National Vice President of Retirees, Billy Anderson, A-PLUS Founder Eastern Region, Floretta Reed, A-PLUS Founder Southern Region, Henry Gibson former National President 2015-2020, Debra Clayton, National Chairman of the Board and Director Eastern Region, John Banks, Eastern Region.



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**Purpose: Increase the number of Americans taking part in 2024 Local, State and National Elections.**

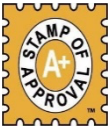
### **Why is it important to vote?**

**To get the right to vote, there were many demonstrations, sit-in's, marches, boycotts, and pickets. People of all races gave their lives to make it possible for the privilege to vote. African Americans won this right in 1965. Prior to Civil Rights/Voting Rights Act, African Americans, and women, had little say so in what happens politically. In the past, there were poll taxes and literacy tests and many obstacles that prohibited us from having a voice in our society.**

**America is again at a critical turning point, with critical issues facing our country such as the Supreme Court 6-3 decision to curb affirmative action in higher education ending a four decade precedent that allowed colleges and universities to broadly consider applicants' race in their admission process and ending nearly 50 years of the constitutional right for a woman's right to choose (Roe v. Wade), Foreign Policy, Part A Medicare will begin running deficits again in 2025 – drawing down the trust fund until it depletes in 2031, Social Security reducing benefits by 2034, Environmental Protection (global warming), Immigration Reform, Budget Appropriations, Common Sense Gun Reform, January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on democracy (insurrection) and so many more serious issues. We need to make sure we participate and elect those that will act in our best interest.**

**Elections have been won (or lost) by slim margins. When we vote, we send a message to elected officials that we are politically active but most importantly that we care about what is happening in our communities. Most of us will vote in the National election and especially in Presidential elections, but we are most impacted by our local and state elections.**

**The states' rights have become more powerful. Governors and mayors are determining our financial and wellness status with their choices. This crisis has shown us just how important the decisions our local and state officials make impact our daily lives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many states changed voting processes impacting the way we vote. It is important that we stay abreast of any changes that will adversely impact communities of color. In 2013,**



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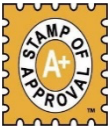
key parts of the Voter's Rights Act of 1965 were struck down by the Supreme Court. One of the main provisions that changed was the oversight of all voting by the federal government and the redistricting of congressional districts. Since that change in 2013, approximately 1700 polling places were closed. 750 were in Texas alone, followed by Arizona with 320 and Georgia with 214. Closing 1700 polling places means longer wait time and having to travel further to get to a polling place to vote. States have the largest impact on our right to vote and we need to be conscious of what the issues are in each of our communities.

The effects of voter suppression, whether overt or subtle, have far-reaching consequences on the democratic process, affecting marginalized communities, diluting representation, and undermining the principles of equality and fairness. By implementing restrictive voter ID laws, reducing early voting periods, or closing polling stations in minority neighborhoods, these communities face barriers that restrict their access to the ballot box. Gerrymandering allows politicians to redraw district boundaries to favor their party. By suppressing the votes of certain communities, policymakers can be held less accountable for their needs. As a result, policies that address critical issues such as healthcare, education, and social equity may be neglected or favor those in power.

The Supreme Court has made it easy for billionaires to own our legislative system. We will be back where we were prior to 1965 if we do not stay woke to the things happening around us. The system is trying to discourage us by making it difficult to participate in the process, however, because of our history, we know how to overcome, and we must overcome. We cannot become hopeless and let things happen. We must elect a President that will nominate sensible persons to the federal judicial system and to the Supreme Court that render decisions based on our laws, not political affiliations or personal gain.

## WHO DO WE TARGET?

First, we need to set the example by making sure we exercise our rights to vote. Next, we need to engage our families and friends, church members, barbers, beauticians, and others, making sure we have discussions and educate everyone. We should encourage everyone we encounter to exercise their voting rights. It is critical that our young people register to vote when they become eligible. Reach out to all citizens to vote.



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Educate people about the new requirements to vote in your state. We also need to let people know about absentee voting, early voting and prepare them for the long lines on November 5, 2024.

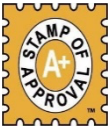
Younger vote has the potential to be extremely influential in this country. Key issues in every election increasingly relate to the concerns of students and younger voters between the ages of 18 and 32. College debt and lack of high paying jobs have dealt crippling blows to the financial future of many young voters. Though unemployment rates have declined, and some millennials may have found their footing in a new economy, policy changes and reform in areas affecting college students, such as debt forgiveness and healthcare remain crucial issues. Remind the younger voter that choosing a president, senator, and other elected officials affects their future. Adulthood brings many new challenges like student loans, marriage, buying a house, paying their own health insurance, and/or starting a business, all of which could radically change their perspective on political and social issues. In addition, an unfair and unjust judicial and penal system leaves young voters disenfranchised and less likely to vote. While they can't predict who or where they will be in four years, they can be sure the political officials elected to office and the policies they implement will impact their lives.

## HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE OUR PLAN?

Prepare talking points such as [Why You Should Vote](#) (see attached flyers) which can be used for your churches and community centers. Also, use all social media outlets, include email blasts, neighborhood meetings/homeowner's association, sporting events and family gatherings, etc. The most effective way to involve people is door to door canvassing. Work with other groups to organize and maximize your efforts. Start canvassing in May. Personal conversations are the best way to engage others. We must learn to talk and listen to each other to make changes.

## ACTION PLAN FOR THE CHAPTERS AND REGIONS

Each chapter will use the Vice President of Retirees or designee to research the local issues in their city/state. Issues such as:



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- What are the voting requirements for your area? Check the Secretary of State website.
- When does absentee voting start and end?
- When does early voting start and end?
- Has there been any polling place changes?
- What is the difference between absentee ballot vs. mail in ballot?
- What are the important issues in your city/state that are on the ballot?
- Where do the politicians on the ballot stand on those issues?
- Be aware of receiving erroneous information regarding elections, such as Artificial Intelligence messaging addressing all the above.

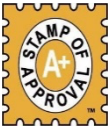
Check to see if your polling place locations have changed. This is done frequently and without notification.

Start in May, continuing thru October, communicating the following steps:

- Getting people registered to vote.
- Research the Voting Requirements: This will give people time to take the necessary steps to be able to vote.
- Communicating using the flyer on absentee voting information; when does it start, when does it end.
- Communicating using the flyer for the early voting period if allowed in your state; when does it start, when does it end and the locations for early voting.
- Utilize the Partnership Plan with African American Postal League United for Success, where we partner with other organizations, churches, etc. (see attachment).

In September up to November Elections:

**Continue to use every means necessary to reach as many people as possible about voting.** Be able to discuss the issues, know what impact the issues will have on daily lives, such as protecting our Democracy, Voter Rights, Medicare and Medicaid, Abortion Rights, Immigration, Economy and Inflation, Common Sense Gun Reform, Social Security, local environmental concerns (clean water, food safety), etc. For information on candidates in your state and local areas use local resources such as League of Women's Voter Guides or the internet by simply typing in your zip code and ask, "Who are the candidates running for



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office to represent my area?" Google and other search engines will normally have all the candidates running for office listed and the office they aspire to.

Use the generic handout/flyer that is a part of this package to input state and local issues and distribute them via email, text, or handout to all people/places possible. They should have the most dominate national/local issues listed. The local chapters can make any changes they feel necessary based on their local conditions. There are three flyers:

- One for Absentee Voting
- One for Early Voting
- One for Get Out The Vote

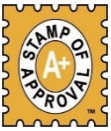
All the handouts/flyers will be on our A-PLUS National website (Resources tab) for you to download and make the changes needed.

Utilize the Partnership Plan with African American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS) and work with all organizations that have **Get Out The Vote** initiatives. This should be a chapter initiative for your community, Fraternities, Sororities, Churches, and many other civic organizations are working in this area, so work with them.

One of the most important things you can do is to support your candidates financially. Make some personal sacrifices. There will be big money coming from all sources; we should not allow the money to be the deciding factor.

On Election Day, make sure you vote and are prepared to stand in long lines if necessary. Take annual leave if you must. Call all your family, friends and associates and make sure they have voted. Volunteer to take people to the polls through the churches and other organizations. In some states you can find out who has voted by precincts. Utilizing this tool, we have the ability to check in with everyone to make sure they get to the polls to vote. Many of our members work the polls on Election Day and some of you are poll captains. Make sure you communicate relevant information to your local chapters.

Chapters, please contact your Vice President of Retirees or your Regional/Chapter President, if you do not have the information needed to fill out the flyers below. Almost all the information you need can be found at <https://www.vote.org> or <https://www.vote411.org>.



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On these sites you can check your registration to vote, you can register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and get election reminders. Your most reliable source remains your local voter registration office to ensure you have the current information. All states are different.

Many states kept in place limited hours at voter registration offices, limited the early voting timeframes and have also discontinued early voting. When voting by mail, make sure you put the correct postage on the return envelope and return **THE FORM 14 DAYS IN ADVANCE**. It is urgent that you follow the printed instructions. Check the Secretary of State website in your state for any updates.

# ABSENTEE VOTING

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Many risked and some lost their lives for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. What will you do to help?

- Reasons to vote (your right, your duty)
- List any national issues, such as National security, Immigration, Social Security reforms, Medicare/Medicaid, Gun Reform and tax reforms
- List any state issues, such as minimum wage, education, taxes
- Supreme courts appointees
- List City issues, such as housing, traffic, public education, crime
- Include when absentee voting starts (add date) and ends (add date). You may request your ballot from (where), telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Check the Secretary of State website in your state. **Follow the instructions and return the ballot the same day. Put 2 stamps or more on the return envelope.**

Please vote early, you can find your polling place and times at your county election board on the following websites, <https://www.vote.org> or <https://www.vote411.org>



# EARLY VOTING

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What will you do to help?

- **Reasons to vote (your right, your duty)**
- **Determine if your state has early voting**
- **Continue voter registration drives**
- **Ensure voters are registered at their current address and determine where your early voting location will be**
- **Identify the voting location and check the hours open for early voting**
- **Verify the ID requirements for your state**
- **Review sample ballots with voters, if possible**
- **Communicate the difference between voting early and absentee voting/voting by mail**

# “GET OUT THE VOTE”

## TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE POLL

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What will you do to help?

- Get people registered to vote
- Take a loved one to the poll
- Offer to drive neighbors, elders and people with disabilities to the polls
- Partner with other organizations (church/religious groups, NAACP, Urban League, Fraternities, Sororities, etc)
- Encourage young people to vote
- Remind people of registration deadlines, poll locations and times
- Engage in conversation regarding national, state and city issues affecting you
- Utilize social media, phone calls and door to door canvassing to remind voters the importance of voting and how they can cast their vote
- Emphasize **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

# **Partnership Plan**

## **with African American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS)**

The mission of A-PLUS GET OUT THE VOTE PLAN is to increase voter registration, voter turnout and stimulate civic participation by educating community leaders and organizations and the public about voter registration rules, regulations, and best practices.

Working together we can increase voter turnout in the upcoming election through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives.

### **Partnership Goals:**

- 1. Increase voter registration**
- 2. Increase voter turnout by election day**
- 3. Raise awareness about the importance of voting and civic engagement**

### **Partnership Roles and Responsibilities:**

- 1. Voter registration drive volunteers**
- 2. Door to door canvassing and other education**
- 3. Assistance with getting people to the polls**
- 4. Social media and outreach**
- 5. Recruitment and train volunteers to register people to vote**

### **Management and Operations:**

- 1. Coordinate with partners regularly to discuss progress, challenges, and next steps**
- 2. Decision making will be collaborative, with input from all partners**
- 3. Volunteers will be available to oversee various operations and coordinate activities**

### **Exit Strategy:**

- 1. A-PLUS will be committed to the partnership until Election Day**
- 2. Following the election, A-PLUS will work with partners to evaluate the success of the campaign and discuss future collaborative opportunities**

This partnership plan outlines the goals, responsibilities, and expectations of partners in the Get Out the Vote campaign. By working together towards a common goal, as partners we can make a significant impact on voter turnout and civic engagement in our communities.