



OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED

**VOTER REGISTRATION,
EDUCATION AND MOBILIZATION
PROGRAM**

VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND MOBILIZATION (VREM)

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SECTION 1

1.1 PURPOSE

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated strongly believes in ensuring the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and eliminating race-based discrimination as it relates to voting rights. Because of this commitment and the significant impact that can be made through the magnitude of resources and outreach in our Brotherhood, it is essential to increase focus on political awareness by educating voters and emphasize the importance of voting in economically disadvantaged communities. Expectations will be to produce education programs that will result in a well-informed, motivated, and mobilized force of voters to increase voter turnout.

1.2 BLACK MEN VOTE- “ONE MILLION BLACK MEN VOTE FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS”

According to Black Demographics, there are 21 million Black men in America, approximately 48% of the Black population. In general, Black men have less faith in the American voting system. It is believed that voter suppression, lack of inclusion in the political process, and political agendas that do not align itself with Black issues are reasons for poor voter turnout among Black men.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has joined the other four fraternities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council to intentionally increase the level of engagement of black men in the electoral process. The leadership of the respective Fraternities are as follows: Dr. David E. Marion, Grand Basileus, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Dr. Willis L. Lonzer, III, General President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Reuben A. Shelton, III, Esq., Grand Polemarch, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Chris V. Rey, JD, International President, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and Sean D. Housen, Sr, Grand Polaris, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

1..2.1 FATHERS AND MEN OF TOMORROW

The following statements are intended to promote meaningful political action by Black Fathers, Father Figures and Men of Tomorrow;

1. He is registered to vote based upon his current address.
2. He assures that each eligible member of his family is registered to vote based upon their current address.
3. He understands voter registration eligibility criteria including identification requirements.
4. He reads, understands, and discusses the Sample Ballot/Voter’s Guide with eligible family members well before Election Day.
5. He votes in all local, state, and national elections.
6. He understands the procedure for voting an absentee ballot.
7. He votes an absentee ballot if unable to make it to the polls on Election Day and

encourages family members to do the same.

8. He knows and confirms his voting poll location well in advance of Election Day and encourages family members to do the same.

9. He assures transportation to the voting polls for eligible voters in his family.

10. He participates in political activities in his geographic area.

1.3 MILESTONES

ACTIVITY	DATE
UPDATE VREM PLAN	May 1, 2022
Complete District Responsibilities	June 30, 2022
Each Chapter develop a Community Engagement Plan to include Registration Goals	May 15, 2022
Roll-out Engagement Plan	June 1, 2022
Each Chapter complete voter education goals	October 30, 2022

1.4 PARTNERSHIPS

<u>Stakeholder</u> Organization, Group or Individual	<u>Potential Role</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Strategy</u>
NAACP	Identify locations for holding voter registration events	Ongoing	NAACP will be a data resource to support identification of voter registration locations
Divine Nine	Increase voter turnout	During Election Cycle	Share education videos, and workshops
League of Women Voters	Communication and outreach	Ongoing	Enlarge social media network to include Millennials, and Latinos
Vote411	Help voters find polling places/ review online voter guides	On going	Use Vote411 as a guide to assist voters to find their polling place and build their own voter guide
Power the Polls	Recruit a wave of poll workers -- to ensure a safe, secure, healthy and fair election for all voters.	On going	Recruit Omega men and community members to serve as Poll workers

SECTION 2

VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND MOBILIZATION PLAN

2.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Community and Civic Affairs / Social Action International Committees

1. Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization Committee will serve as advisors and a resource across districts.
2. Produce / distribute GOTV information and data highlighting basic laws for voting and voter registration.

B. Districts

1. Each District Representative should ensure all chapters are engaged in participating and meeting goals.
2. Each District Representative shall appoint a Committee Chairman for Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization.
 - a. Each District VREM representative shall compile a list of chapter members voter registration status.
3. Establish a base/ core team to ensure effective communication and implementation.
4. Each District Representative and District Chair should review voter registration laws for their respective states.

C. Graduate Chapters

1. Graduate Chapters will share information on a continuous basis with Undergraduate Chapters on voter registration, education, and mobilization events.
2. Each Graduate Chapter will have a point of contact or representative for Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization.
 - a. Chapter representative should obtain training from their local election commission on completing and submitting voter registration applications.
 - b. Chapter representative should report status of registered voters within the chapter.
3. Establish partnerships with local organization(s) to leverage expertise within these organizations.
4. Graduate Chapters are encouraged to partner with NAACP, Power to the Polls, and other organizations to maximize registration and voter turnout.

D. Undergraduate Chapters

1. Each Undergraduate Chapter will have a point of contact or representative for Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization.
 - a. Each chapter VREM representative shall compile the status of registered voters within their chapter.
2. Engage college students to communicate voter registration and education events using campus events and social media. (Social Media may be preferred option for communication for chapters impacted by virtual learning environments.)
3. Undergraduate Chapters are encouraged to partner with NAACP, Power to the Polls, and other organizations to maximize registration and voter turnout.

2.2 Voter Registration

The Fraternity will register or validate registration for **250,000** people, with a particular emphasis placed on “Black Male” registrants. Chapters in select cities with the highest number of voter disenfranchisement amongst Black men will work collaboratively with community partners to register more African American voters. Each District will register roughly **21,000** black men. Chapters will establish a voter registration goal for key geographical areas to meet their respective District’s goal.

As a result of the corona virus pandemic (COVID-19), election procedures, polling locations and dates may have changed on a state-by-state basis. Chapters will contact state and county board of elections officials to obtain accurate election day information to share with their communities. For an extensive list of voter resources, finding polling places, and registering to vote, please visit www.vote.org.

- A. Each Chapter will sponsor at least two (2) voter registration drives to capture unregistered voters, with specific emphasis on Black male voters and economically disadvantaged communities.
- B. Each Brother should volunteer two (2) or more hours per month in support of voter registration.
- C. District /Chapters should secure public service announcements that is used for our target population to advocate voter registration, education, and mobilization. Also, include social media, churches, nonprofit organizations, and fellow fraternities and sororities.
- D. Branding and Marketing Initiatives
 - 1. Vote First (Promote Black men be the first to vote in 2022)
 - 2. Couples Vote - where Black men take their wife to vote
 - 3. Father to Son Vote - where Black men take their sons to the polls
 - 4. Take Your Father to Vote (promoting Black men to get their father registered to vote and take him to vote)
 - 5. Cook-out and Vote (families come together to cook, eat, and discuss voter registration and voting)
 - 6. Target registration where you find groups of Black men (barbershop, parks, churches, fraternity meetings and large gatherings)
 - 7. Ask fraternity and sorority celebrity personalities and influencers to produce PSAs
 - 8. Participate in phone banking activities

2.3 Voter Education

Each District/Chapter will work to educate voters on critical issues in the electoral process, candidates, as well as public policy issues. Chapters are encouraged to incorporate the following action steps:

- A. Sponsor virtual candidate forums to educate the public about candidates.
- B. Educate the community on voting procedures particularly in the areas of absentee voting through your local election board.
- C. Partner with local organizations that monitor public policy issues.

- D.** Utilize social media to educate and inform voters of their rights and responsibilities.
- E.** Identify community and political leader(s) that will influence community support for voter education and turn-out. Groups may include, but not limited to NAACP, Urban League, Project Vote, Rock the Vote, Nonprofit Vote, and League of Women Voters.
- F.** Each chapter should hold education workshops that include instructions for new voter registration, and making updates to voter registration records, e.g. (change in name or change in address).
- G.** What do we want to hear from a Candidate?
 1. Health care (specific issues like mental health, prostate cancer, diabetes, and heart disease)
 2. Closing the wealth gap
 3. Criminal Justice Reform (expunging records, child support debt and restoring voting rights for felons)
 4. Closing the skill gap
 5. Legalizing marijuana
 6. Housing
 7. Creating safe environments for young Black males
 8. Police Reform

2.4 Voter Mobilization / Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

District/Chapters will use their resources to establish carpools to help get voters to the poll and volunteer to serve as poll workers. District /Chapters will also execute the following:

- A.** Participate in canvassing, door knocking, and dissemination of information.
- B.** Work with local churches and community-based organizations to mobilize voters to the polls.
- C.** College and Alumni work closely together to mobilize students and get them to the polls.
- D.** Volunteer to serve as poll workers on election day.
- E.** Coordinate phone banking efforts to encourage voters to turnout.
- F.** Connect with State and County boards of Elections.

2.4.1 Poll Workers

Poll worker shortages are an ongoing challenge, 2022 will be no exception. Omega Psi Phi is partnering with Power to the Poll to recruit Poll Workers and we are encouraging brothers to become poll workers.

- A.** Chapters are encouraged to register poll workers as outlined below:
 1. Large Chapters – 20 Poll Workers
 2. Intermediate Chapters – 15 Poll Workers
 3. Small Chapters – 10 Poll Workers
 4. Undergraduate Chapters – 5 Poll Workers
- B.** Chapters are encouraged to promote the need for additional poll workers in the community and assist in getting the recruited poll workers trained.

2.4.2 During Elections

- A.** Facilitate and support the coordination of transportation for voters to get to the voting polls.
- B.** On election day for general and primary elections, each chapter should provide a means for free transportation for voters to get to the voting polls.
- C.** Establish Voting Squads.
- D.** Work in collaboration with local stakeholders.
- E.** Non-partisan

2.4.3 Voting in the Age of Covid-19

District /Chapters will promote absentee voting and early voting. Chapters will emphasize the message to vote absentee or vote early.

2.4.8. Recommended Election Priorities

As the country prepares for mid-term elections, fraternities and sororities can facilitate access to the ballot box by providing their members and communities with necessary voting resources. To check your voter registration status, find your polling place, or explore absentee and early voting options, see Attachment II for Website links.

2.5 Strategically Elected Municipalities

NAACP is currently challenging legislation in the states of Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Michigan, and beyond, fighting back against Jim Crow 2.0 schemes aimed at stopping Black voters from making their voices heard. Omega Psi Phi stands strong in support of this legal action and remains ready for a call to action. Strategic calculations are not currently available. Once a plan is in place, more information will be forthcoming.

**SECTION 3
ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT I - GOALS and METRICS

GOAL	METRIC	DATE
Ensure each District has a VREM Chairman	District Representative: Appoint VREM Chairman and provide name/contact info to International Community & Civic Affairs Committee	May 1, 2022
Ensure each chapter has a VREM Chairman	Chapter Basileus: Appoint VREM Chairman and provide name/contact info to District VREM Chairman	May 1, 2022
Participate in voter registration training/partner with local organizations	Identify participation/partnerships with local voter registration activities	July 31, 2022
Develop and distribute Voter Education resource material	Provide examples of voter registration/education resource materials. Identify sources/type of distribution	August 31, 2022
All members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – Registered Voters	Chapters shall identify and report number/percentage of registered voters. Goal – 80%	November 1, 2022
Sponsor Voter Registration Drives	Identify when and where voter registration drives conducted. Goal – 2 activities, may be conducted in conjunction with other organizations	November 1, 2022
Chapter Voter Registration volunteers	Each brother to volunteer 2 hours. Identify percentage of brothers who volunteered a minimum of 2 hours. Goal – 50%-chapter participation	November 1, 2022
Omega Psi Phi to have a presence as Poll Workers (PW)	Goal – Identify names/number of Poll Workers by chapter. Large Chapters 20 poll workers Intermediate Chapters 15 poll workers Small 10 poll workers Undergraduate Chapters 5 poll workers	November 1, 2022
Sponsor Candidate Forum	Goal – Identify number of candidate forums; recommend chapters sponsor or partner with local organizations for at least 1 candidate forum activity	November 1, 2022

ATTACHMENT II
INFORMATION AND RESOURCE LINKS

www.vote.org

This website link will provide the following information.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

- A. Check your registration status
- B. If you are not registered to vote, go to vote.gov to find your options, which may include online registration depending on your state.
- C. States have different voter registration deadlines and requirements, so make sure you are registered well in advance of Election Day.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

- D. Early voting reduces long lines on Election Day, facilitates an easy voting process, and lessens the burden on election officials and staff.
- E. Work schedule, classes, and extracurriculars can make voting on Election Day difficult. By voting early, you can choose from a range of dates and cast your ballot when it's most convenient.
- F. Learn more about early voting in your state.

ABSENTEE/VOTE-BY-MAIL

- G. If you are unable to cast a vote in-person, you may be able to vote absentee. Rules and requirements for vote-by-mail vary from state-to-state. If you wish to cast a ballot in your home state rather than the state you attend school, this may be an option for you.
- H. If you vote-by-mail, we recommend that you turn your ballot in well before election day due to possible postal service delays.
- I. Learn about your options to vote-by-mail/absentee in your state.

POLLING PLACE LOCATOR

Find your polling place or vote center and its hours of operation. Due to COVID-19, some polling places have moved in an effort to accommodate social distancing. Check your assigned polling place prior to election day. In some cases, your college

or university may be a polling place; if you are from out of state or county and intend to vote in-person, be sure you are registered under your current address, i.e., if you are a student, your campus housing, not your home address.

OTHER RESOURCE LINKS

<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/voting-as-an-ex-offender/>

www.ACLU.org

www.FairVote.org

www.WhenWeAllVote.org

www.Vote411.org

www.BlackMenVoting.org

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression>

<https://blackdemographics.com/>

<https://blackpac.com/about>

<https://www.brennancenter.org/>

<https://www.kiyamamovement.com/#what-is-the-kiyama-movement>

<https://www.letamericavote.org/action/>

<https://www.lwv.org/>

<https://www.naacp.org/>

<https://nul.org/>

<https://www.spreadthevote.org/>

<https://www.vote.org/polling-place-locator/>

www.usa.gov/register-to-vote