



Advancement Project: Know the Rules and Regulations of New Jersey's Voting Requirements

11/1/2005 2:52:00 PM

To: State Desk, Political Reporter

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The following was released today by Advancement Project regarding the rules and regulations of New Jersey's voting requirements:

There is no uniform standard on how states should handle provisional ballots. Some states allow provisional ballots to be counted even if they are cast in the wrong polling place, but at least 16 states, including New Jersey, throw the ballots out if they are filed in the wrong precinct. Voters are often not informed that they are in the wrong precinct and that their vote will not be counted.

From polling hours, to rules regarding provisional ballots, to delineating who may and may not go into the booth with the voter, every state has its own set of regulations on voter registration and casting a ballot. The problem is not just that most voters have no way of knowing their rights -- but in many cases, even the volunteers at the polling places are unsure and may give misleading or wrong information.

Every registered voter in New Jersey has the right to:

- Inspect a sample ballot before voting;
- Ask for and receive instructions on how to operate the voting machine or mark a paper ballot;
- Ask for and receive instructions on how to cast a provisional ballot if their name is not on the list of voters or if they are required to provide identification and did not bring it to the polls. If voting by provisional ballot voters should be given a telephone number for the "free access system" which will tell them whether their vote has been counted;
- Vote a provisional ballot if the voter registered by mail for the first time in their respective county and did not provide identification at the time of registration or did not bring it to the polling place (voters have up until the close of business the second day after the election to get ID to the county commissioner of registration to ensure that their vote will be counted); if the voter provides a current address for their county of residence and valid photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows their name and address, they may vote on the voting machine;
- Vote by emergency paper ballot if the voting machine is broken and cannot be repaired in a reasonable length of time;
- Ask for, receive and vote another paper ballot if the paper ballot is spoiled or defective;
- Cast a ballot if they are in line when the polls close;
- Be assisted by a person of their choice if they have a disability or need help reading the ballot (your employer or an agent of your employer, an officer or agent of your union or a candidate on the ballot for this election are not allowed to provide assistance); and
- Vote free from intimidation by election officials or any other person.

Election Day is the great equalizer -- it is the one day where if all was right in our democracy, it would not matter if a person is rich, poor, black, white, educated or not, we all would have the same amount of power. On Election Day, Advancement Project will be in communities throughout New Jersey to ensure that the voices of those who seek to be heard through exercising their right to vote on Nov. 8 are not stifled.

Advancement Project's core purpose is to develop, encourage, pioneer and widely disseminate innovative ideas and models that inspire and mobilize a broad national racial justice movement so that universal opportunity and a just democracy are achieved.

The organization was founded on the principle that structural racism can be eliminated and a racially just democracy may be attained through multi-racial collective action by organized communities. Advancement Project's founding team of veteran civil rights lawyers and communications experts have established an organization that informs community organizing with careful legal analysis and strategic communications campaigns. They develop community-based solutions based on the same high quality legal analysis and public education campaigns that produced the landmark civil rights victories of earlier eras.


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