The countdown has begun to the most consequential midterm election in a generation.

The current assault on our system of checks and balances is silencing the voices of millions of Americans and obliterating their influence. State Voices is committed to using all its resources to restore power to its rightful owner: the people.

The State Voices network of state tables is working tirelessly to register every eligible voter, organize Get Out The Vote drives, call and text every constituent, and knock on every last door. We’re pushing out educational materials, forging new partnerships and new connections, and doing whatever it takes to make sure everyone’s voice is heard. We have many state stories to share in this report, from first-time voters to hurricane relief and from providing child care on Election Day to publishing online, nonpartisan voter guides.

But we have some numbers that speak volumes:

• In anticipation of this election, our 23 state tables and their partners have collected well over 600,000 voter registration applications.

• We have moved $1.7 million to our state tables so far in 2018.

• And we’re forging ahead toward our goal of reaching 5 million voters from underrepresented communities.

We are grateful for the support that has helped thus far, but there’s so much more to do. And the work doesn’t end on November 6. We go right back to work on November 7, fighting for a democracy that is inclusive, accessible, and representative of the multiracial, multicultural diversity of this country.

We appreciate your support as we work toward Election Day 2018 and beyond!

Alexis Anderson-Reed, Executive Director
CALIFORNIA / SAN DIEGO

For our ‘Make it Better, VOTE’ campaign—our largest ever—Engage San Diego is supporting numerous groups in a variety of voter engagement efforts. These groups are working in seven languages with low-income families, youth, women, and African-American, LGBT, Latinx, AAPI, and immigrant communities. Justice Overcoming Boundaries is reaching out to 10,000 mostly Latinx voters in Escondido through doors and phones. United Taxi Workers of San Diego is running an outreach project to connect with drivers and their families from hard-to-reach (particularly immigrant) communities. After a successful primary effort, Viet Vote will once again work with Mid-City CAN to target Vietnamese speaking voters in City Heights. The Center on Policy Initiatives will work with table members to overlay their field outreach efforts with a digital contact structure. And Engage San Diego will be running a relational organizing experiment using Hustle, the text-based outreach application, targeting mostly young voters of color. All of this infrastructure and capacity-building represent investments for future efforts.
COLORADO

It’s the final stretch for voter registration! We’re bound and determined to meet our goal of 70,000 registrations in 15 of our biggest counties, with a special emphasis on registration in communities that have historically been underrepresented. Two programs of interest: 11 network partners are participating in the Membership Education and Turnout Program (MET), in which groups commit to a layered program of mail, calls, and text messages, using best practice messaging to ensure turnout. New this year is the texting component. The Pikes Peak Equality Coalition—a coalition of nonprofits based in Colorado Springs—aims to hand-write 10,000 postcards.
FLORIDA

To bring the fun back into voting, the Florida Table, in partnership with #VoteTogether, is hosting 250 “Party at the Polls” events across the state. Taking place over the two weeks of early voting and on Election Day, the festivities range from college campus concerts to street festivals and “lunch and learns.” We’re proud to report that, as of today, Florida is more than 80% of the way to meeting its goal of 350,000 voter registration cards, and 3 of our 11 partners in this effort have exceeded their goals. Florida ranks second in the nation for overall percent-to-goal in VR card collection. We have also re-granted over half a million dollars in funding to partners for their GOTV efforts for both the primary and general election.
ProGeorgia has several exciting engagement strategies for the midterms. We are running an innovative and promising program, the **GOTV 2018 Child Care Collective Experiment**, to determine if providing free childcare at early voting locations will increase turnout, particularly among women of color. In addition, we are working directly with domestic violence shelters to provide child care on Election Day to help the women in those shelters exercise their right to vote. Also, this cycle we are looking to **expand the reach of our registration and GOTV efforts by targeting rural and coastal Georgia in addition to our work in metro-Atlanta.** On National Registration Day (Sept. 25), we—along with various table partners—hosted a voter registration fair at a park in Atlanta, featuring games, music, live radio simulcast, medical check-ups, snacks, prizes, and voter registration canvassers; the event was filmed for future use. And we are trying out a peer-to-peer texting platform that allows us to quickly and effectively reach voters via text message.
Engage Idaho is working at a fever pitch as we countdown to November 6. We are working with two partner organizations, Conservation Voters for Idaho and ACLU Idaho, on a **statewide effort to register all eligible Latinx voters**. The program includes voter registration tabling and an Absentee Request Mail piece followed up by calls to inform Latinx voters of their rights if they choose to vote on Election Day instead. We are also working in concert with the ACLU and CVI to make use of their social media reach, running Know Your Rights ads along with digital messaging encouraging registration and voting.
Louisiana’s Power Coalition for Equity and Justice is particularly proud of its work with the Unanimous Jury Coalition (UJC). The issue of non-unanimous juries gives us a strong starting point to engage infrequent and unregistered voters across the state. It also provides an opportunity for our partners to tie criminal justice reform into the election cycle. PCEJ created and facilitated an organizing and data collection training curriculum for the statewide UJC field staff and volunteers. Working with partner organizations VOTE and VAYLA, there have been 40,000 nonpartisan contact attempts across the state, including all of the state’s AAPI voters. The Power Coalition and partners are providing the organizing skeleton and data infrastructure to support the c3 portion of UJC’s $2 million statewide campaign. The data, physical, and human infrastructure we are building in 2018 puts us ahead of the game for statewide elections in 2019. We are also coordinating a statewide calendar of events, voter registration events, phone banks, and canvasses.
We’re excited about the work of Maine Equal Justice (MEJ), which is launching a "health care voter" education and mobilization effort (“Your Vote: Your Health. Mainers Need More Affordable Health Care. Not Less. Be a Health Care Voter”). MEJ co-chaired the successful 2017 ballot measure campaign to pass Medicaid expansion and is now leading the legal battle to force implementation of MaineCare for 70,000 eligible Mainers. They are leveraging their ongoing organizing efforts by making sure that everyone who took action or signed a postcard in 2017 is registered to vote and getting to the polls in 2018. We’re working with them via in-district organizing and digital outreach, putting our new Digital Strategist to work and adding new c3 voter mobilization capacity. This kind of c3 registration and mobilization (outside of the LWV’s outstanding registration efforts) is an exciting development for Maine.
After playing a key role in winning Automatic Voter Registration, the Fight for $15, and comprehensive paid family and medical leave, the Massachusetts Voter Table is pivoting toward building a statewide voting bloc of the New American Majority, starting with an organizing training with Wellstone Action. Working with longtime coalition members as well as new partners, we are deepening our base in 14 cities with substantial communities of color and expanding our geographic reach to three new gateway cities. Ahead of two highly contested district attorney primary elections, MVT and its partners reached over 20,000 voters and had over 4,200 conversations about policing and mass incarceration. We are convening partner organizations, allies, and local stakeholders to discuss the 2020 Census, and will lead a campaign for state funding for community-based organizations to educate their members about the census. In addition, we are coordinating organizations for a long-term housing justice strategy to stop displacement and build the power of our communities. Finally, we are bringing together organizations that prioritize different issues to bring transparency to the statehouse and change norms about accountability ahead of the next legislative session.
Michigan Voice is working hard this election cycle to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities across the state are heard. Our partners have launched a very robust voter registration drive in hopes of securing approximately 33,000 new or returning voices. Our social media and messaging campaign consists of new and engaging tools, with our “Felons Can Vote in Michigan” poster going viral across the state. We have launched our GOTV effort in Urban Power Link communities across the state and are continuing to educate voters through our Political Education Assemblies. Partners and volunteers will work the polls on Election Day to ensure that every vote counts through our Election Protection program. Now more than ever, we are determined to leave no power on the table this election cycle in Michigan!
MINNESOTA

Minnesota Voice is putting together a GOTV effort for the final 96 hours before the polls close on Election Day, with the goal of knocking on doors and making phone calls to over 150,000 voters in communities of color. We are providing the infrastructure for effective volunteer recruitment so organizations can plug in without worrying about the logistical details and volunteers have an exciting experience working with a broad cross-section of organizations. Our mission is to increase turnout in historically underrepresented communities (youth, people of color, low-income, unmarried women) and to increase the share of votes from these communities to amplify their political voice beyond Election Day. Our goal is to identify and remove any barriers to voting, work with 35 partner organizations, make 80,000 contacts, and have 50 percent of 2017 first-time voters return to the polls in 2018. We will also work with Common Cause MN on a nonpartisan election protection program. Voters can call the 1-866-OUR-VOTE hotline to report issues at the polls, and volunteer poll monitors will be deployed to problematic polling locations.
MISSOURI

Following a massive primary victory for working families with the defeat of the “right to work” Proposition A, MOVE (Missouri Organizing and Voter Engagement) member organizations are now driving a large-scale voter engagement program to win on critical ballot initiatives this November. We’re working to raise the minimum wage through Proposition B and to reform redistricting while getting big money out of politics through Amendment 1. Across faith, farm, labor, Black liberation, environmental, and women’s healthcare organizing, we are mobilizing volunteers and talking to hundreds of thousands of voters across every region of the state. With voter programs poised to build long-term multiracial movement power while delivering key victories this fall, we’re confident this cycle represents a turning point election for Missouri and the potential of the Midwest.
MONTANA

Voting season in Montana begins in earnest on October 12th, when vote-by-mail ballots go out. We estimate that two-thirds of all ballots cast this year will be by mail. This means nearly an entire month of GOTV for our partners. A number of communities on or near Indian Reservations have satellite voting locations that serve as elections offices in rural areas, so partners conduct GOTV here, as well. Our partners are trusted messengers in their communities and play a critical role in increasing civic engagement in Montana. Although Montana is home to only about 1 million people, the vast distances between communities make this work challenging and time- and resource-intensive. This year our partners are using new and creative strategies to provide essential information to newly registered and first-time voters. Highlights of GOTV programs include a large-scale texting program, voter guides, pledge-to-vote cards, and posters on college campuses encouraging young voters to make sure their voices are heard this November.
The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table (NCET) has three GOTV coalitions, organized geographically. The first is based in Omaha, where eight organizations are contacting voters through door-to-door canvassing, direct mail, crowd canvassing, and voter registration in high-traffic locations. They are including Omaha Public Schools in their outreach and focusing on zip codes in predominantly Black and Latinx zip codes where voter turnout is historically low. The second coalition is based in Lincoln, Nebraska's second-largest metropolitan area. There, six organizations are going door-to-door registering voters and encouraging people to vote by mail. The third coalition comprises five table member organizations working to register voters in more rural areas, especially communities where there is a high number of eligible Latinx voters. The table is also running a voter registration experiment in Lincoln, testing the effectiveness of various voter registration methods: door-to-door canvassing, targeted digital advertising (by IP address), direct mail, crowd canvassing, and successful combinations of two or more methods.
Silver State Voices just released their annual Nevada Voter Guide (a joint project with Institute for a Progressive Nevada), which breaks down everything from ballot initiatives to candidates’ positions; it is their most ambitious voter guide yet, and is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean. We are on track to meet our voter registration goal of 105,000, via paper registrations as well as online registrations through Rock The Vote. We are running an SMS program to follow up with voters table partners have registered, and running an experiment on this program with the Analyst Institute. We have six GOTV partners, who are connecting with Latino, Black, and AAPI communities, and we are working with Institute for Progressive Nevada to launch their own digital ads, encouraging Latino, Black, and AAPI youth to vote. We’re helping the Faith Organizing Alliance with their “souls to the polls” program, which runs throughout early voting and Election Day; rides can be requested in English or Spanish. And for the first time, we’re running our own phone bank, talking to single white women about economic justice and healthcare and encouraging them to turn out.
NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Civic Engagement Table’s partner organizations are working hard to educate as many voters as possible. One organization, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, has reached out to more than 15,000 people of color in rural New Mexico to let them know about their campaign to invest in jobs and NM communities. Another organization, the New Mexico Dream Team, has been reaching out to New Mexicans all across the state, 30,000 in September alone! NMDT is asking New Mexicans to join their Live Unafraid campaign and to support investments in education, not deportation and the private prison industrial complex. These are just two examples of the amazing work our table partners are doing here in New Mexico.
This is a story about the youngest intern from The New York Civic Engagement Table’s program in a low income section of the city of Newburgh. It illustrates not only the obstacles we still have to overcome but also the reasons we are so committed to this work. Alex is 18 years old and jumped into the work with incredible enthusiasm. Walking home from school on Election Day, he was detained by police who claimed he had a gun. After recovering from this incident and making a complaint, Alex finally went to vote, only to find that although his voter registration had been received by the Board of Elections, the post office hadn’t delivered an important notice, so his registration hadn’t been completed. We drove Alex to the Board of Elections to fill out the required paperwork and get it notarized. We then drove to the courthouse, waited for the judge to see Alex in between cases, and waited again until the paperwork was ready. At the poll site, Alex was told he could only vote by Affidavit Ballot. But Alex demanded he be allowed to vote on the machine, according to the judge’s orders. At 8:30 that night, Alex was finally allowed to vote. For the first time.
When Hurricane Florence struck North Carolina, Blueprint NC was already at work with Eastern North Carolina leaders to address the unfair representation in the region. Post-Florence, we know that we need to address the disproportionate impact of natural disasters on communities of color as well as rural and working class communities. While the storm was powerful, systemic, decades-long disinvestment exacerbated its impact. To that end, we have launched the Eastern North Carolina Hurricane Florence Frontline Recovery Fund. All the funds raised will go directly to our trusted, on-the-ground partner organizations; they will provide immediate relief to communities while continuing advocacy and voter engagement/capacity-building work.

Blueprint has also developed an Eastern NC Post-Florence Civic Engagement Plan. We will re-grant funds to partners to research how NC and other states have responded to natural disasters near elections and advocate for mitigation strategies that could ease the burden on displaced voters. Partners have already begun GOTV calls to voters affected by the hurricane and in counties with high populations of voters of color. They plan to distribute absentee ballots to displaced voters while ensuring they know their rights, and are planning to combine “party at the polls” events with existing neighborhood clean-up and donation drives.
Ohio Voice is hard at work as this year's pivotal Election Day approaches. We are registering voters with six of our partners (Cleveland VOTES, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), League of Women Voters of Ohio, Northeast Ohio Voting Advocates (NOVA), Ohio Unity Coalition, and Ohio Voter Fund). It is our goal to gather 10,000 new registrants, focused on the New American Majority. We are also coordinating GOTV contacts for our fellow 501(c)(3) organizations, particularly in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Dayton. We are setting up Ohio’s election protection hotline and managing volunteers at polling places throughout the state.

Online and through community events, we are supporting Issue 1, a criminal justice ballot initiative. We are also hosting conversations with the Ohio Organizing Collaborative and Ohio Transformation Fund about Demos’s Race Class Narrative. Finally, in preparation for 2020, we are co-convening a Census Coalition.
19 Pennsylvania Voice partners are running field-based voter registration drives in 11 key counties. The state’s largest and fastest-growing communities of color live in these counties, so in keeping with the table’s mission, all partners are focusing on registering voters of color there. In addition to this fieldwork, our partners are also running mail and digital programming to register even more voters of color. Together, 23 partners have a collective goal of collecting 38,000 registrations.

Throughout the year, partners have also undergone training and coaching, specifically regarding the Rock the Vote voter registration app. The trainings have reviewed how to use the app and how to run quality control on app-generated registration data, a quality control system that Pennsylvania Voice piloted.
The Virginia Civic Engagement Table is supporting their partners’ electoral programs. **We’re organizing 20 parties with the League of Conservation Voters as part of their #VoteTogether initiative, including on college campuses and at nursing homes.** At the nursing homes, LCV will register residents and educate them about absentee voting, while campus parties will have rides to the polls. We are also working with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to support three voter protection centers and make sure voters have access to the polls on Election Day. We are training volunteers for each site to answer voter calls and troubleshoot problems. Our Technology and Field Manager is also assisting 10 partner organizations with GOTV plans, providing VAN support, and assisting with list matching and other data collection needs.
WASHINGTON

The Win|Win network has at least six network partners who will be using Hustle for their Get Out the Vote efforts. The table is supporting these partners as they use the peer-to-peer texting services Hustle provides. We are researching how to develop an in-language text program for our partners, either for this fall or in 2019. We have also launched a pilot digital campaign, specifically through Facebook, to test digital organizing as a method for re-engaging inactive voters.
Wisconsin Voices is busy registering, educating, and empowering new voters all over Wisconsin. Our goal is to get 40,000 members of the New American Majority (people under 35, people of color, and unmarried women) who have never voted before to the polls in November, so it's been All Hands on Deck. The table and our incredible partners are doing everything we can to mobilize voters for these important elections, and we are excited to see how Wisconsin will flourish with 40,000 new New American Majority voters.