



The Voting Process

By: Valerie Moore, Communications and Young Adult Team Member

It is always an exciting time to exercise your voting rights! Before going to the polls, you must take steps to become registered. First, to register as a voter in Texas, you must be a citizen of the United States, at least 17 years and 10 months old at the time of registration, and 18 years old by election day, and register in the county in which you reside. Additionally, you must not be convicted of a felony, or if you are a felon, you must have completed all of your punishment, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or probation period, or you must have received a pardon. You must not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

Now that you have determined your eligibility, you must register to vote to cast your ballot on election day in Texas. You can find a Voter Registration Application on epcountyvotes.com. They are also available at any U.S. Post Office, the Department of Public Safety, El Paso Public Libraries, Texas Health and Human Services Commission offices, and any local high school. Review the application carefully, fill it out, sign and date it, and mail it to the voter registrar in your county or drop it off by the Voter Registrar's office at least 30 days before every election. After you apply, a Voter Registration Certificate (your proof of registration) will be mailed to you within 30 days. Check your certificate to ensure all information is correct. If there is an error, make corrections and mail your certificate in an envelope to the Voter Registrar's office immediately.

All voters who register to vote in Texas must provide a Texas driver's license number or personal identification number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. If you don't have such a number, give the last four digits of your social security number. If you don't have a social security number, you need to state that fact. Your voter registration will become effective 30 days after it is received or on your 18th birthday, whichever is later. Your registration must be effective on or before an election day to vote in that election. If you move to another county, you must re-register in the county of your new residence. Please visit the Texas Secretary of State website, www.sos.state.tx.us, or www.votetexas.gov for additional election information!

Young Adult Mixer

Friday, 26 April | 7 pm - 9 pm

**The Davenport Social Club
140 Montecillo Blvd. Suite C1**

The Impact of Young Voters

By: Sierra Archibald, Young Adult Chair



Young voters play a crucial role in shaping our political landscape. As the leaders of tomorrow, our votes hold immense power to influence various social and economic issues. Our voices call for change on pressing matters such as inequality, climate change, healthcare, and economic disparity.

We're not passive spectators but active participants in politics. Our ideals and passion drive us to advocate for justice and equity. Through our engagement, we can influence policymakers and legislative priorities, especially with our adeptness at using social media to amplify our messages.

However, barriers like voter suppression and apathy still hinder full participation. Communities and educational institutions must break down these barriers and encourage youth involvement. By nurturing informed discussions and active participation, we pave the way for a more inclusive democracy.

Ultimately, the impact of young voters extends beyond elections. Our choices today shape the policies and society of tomorrow. Recognizing and supporting our potential is crucial for creating a future marked by progress and collective prosperity.

Challenging the Status Quo: The Buchanan v. Worley Case and the Fight for Civil Rights*By: Tephania Hopper, Communicatio Chair*

The Buchanan v. Worley Case, also known as the Louisville Segregation Case, was a significant legal battle that took place in 1917. The case centered around William Buchanan, a black man who had purchased a home in a predominantly white neighborhood in Louisville, Kentucky. Buchanan's white neighbors were not accepting of his presence in their community and took legal action to force him out of his home. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recognized the importance of the case and saw it as an opportunity to challenge the legality of segregation in the United States.

The NAACP legal team argued that segregation was unconstitutional and violated the Fourteenth Amendment, which guaranteed equal protection under the law for all citizens. They also argued that the Louisville city government had no right to enforce segregation laws, as they were not authorized to do so by the state of Kentucky. The case eventually made its way to the Supreme Court, where in 1917, the court ruled in favor of Buchanan and the NAACP. The court declared that racial segregation in housing was unconstitutional and that the city of Louisville had no legal authority to enforce such laws.

The Buchanan v. Worley Case was a significant victory for the NAACP and the civil rights movement as a whole. It was a pivotal moment in the history of civil rights in the United States as it set an important legal precedent that would be used in future cases challenging segregation and discrimination. The case highlighted the critical role that organizations like the NAACP played in the fight for civil rights and equality. It showcased their legal expertise and dedication to the cause, and their unwavering commitment to justice.

NAACP EL PASO BRANCH LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

**Carl Dwyer | President Unit 6175
NAACP Membership Years: 4**

Occupation: Retired Command Sergeant Major after serving 31 years in the United States Army as a Chief Clinical NCO, followed by three years as the El Paso County Veterans Services Director. Currently, he is the Director of the Veterans Resource Center at El Paso Community College.

What inspired you to join the NAACP El Paso Branch Executive Board, and what motivates you to continue serving in this role?

After serving for more than 30 years in the military my desire was to continue to find ways to serve within my community. I did not join seeking to become the President; I joined to try and give back. Working with the local branch of the NAACP affords me the opportunity to work with like-minded individuals who are looking to do more than just talk about making things better. They are willing to step up and take action. El Paso is a great community and a great place to live. However, we do have challenges just like any other community, and I wanted to be a part of "doing something" about those challenges. I always say, "Be the Change that you want to See!" In the last few months seeing the number of young people that are joining is truly exciting. If we want to work for a better future, it is going to take us all working together, and the younger generations are bringing fresh ideas and new ways of thinking to our branch.

How do you see the local and National NAACP's role in advancing civil rights and social justice in today's society?

Since becoming active in the NAACP, I have learned that the priorities at the National and State level may not always be the priorities that we face at the local level. This is why it is extremely important for our Branch to grow our membership so that together our voices and our priorities can be communicated to the State and National Level. I also understand the frustration that some may feel at the local level when it seems that our voices are not heard by higher leadership. However, we must not let this stop us from acting at the local level to do what we can to make things better and to achieve our mission. Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color. This year will be pivotal. When it comes to civil rights and social justice, we have the unique ability to secure more wins than anyone else. The issues that affect our community will make or break how we continue to thrive in this country. Locally one of the biggest goals that we have is to increase the number of voters in our community that turned out to vote. Recently we had just over ten percent of registered voters come out and vote. We must do better than that if we want to see things change. **Out Votes are Our Voices!**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 20 April | General Membership Meeting
- 26 April | Young Adult Mixer
- 24 May | NAACP El Paso Branch Founders Day
- 6-8 June | Texas Democratic Convention
- 13-17 July | NAACP National Convention
- 17 August | Freedom Fund Banquet

The oldest NAACP Branch in Texas est. in 1914.

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