

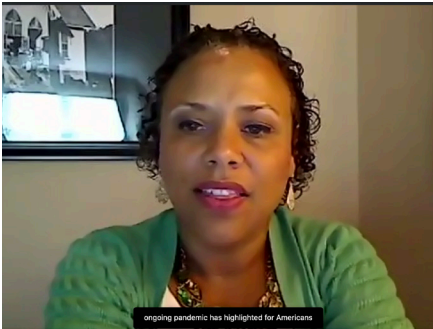


VIRGINIA ORGANIZING

News from the Grassroots

August/September 2020 Issue 94

Grassroots Gathering 2020 at Home



We're hearing from participants that the online version of the Grassroots Gathering was a great success! More than 150 people joined us for the opening and closing sessions and the week of workshops.

We were fired up by Dr. Janice Underwood, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the Commonwealth.



Get your Rights Restored!

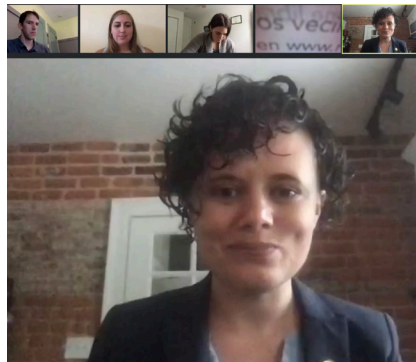
The deadline to apply for restoration of voting rights, if you want to vote in the November election, is September 23. If you have a felony on your record and are free from any term of incarceration and/or supervision, apply online: <https://www.restore.virginia.gov/>.

Recently Daniel Grimes with NBC29 interviewed Harold Folley, now with the Legal Aid Justice Center, about the upcoming deadline. As Virginia Organizing's Charlottesville organizer, Harold worked for many years to make the process of restoration of rights easier.

(Watch a short video of her speech on our Facebook page: VirginiaOrganizing.)

Senator Mark Warner and Delegate Sally Hudson also joined us, and Senator Tim Kaine sent his congratulations by video.

We paid tribute to the founding board members, leaders, and staff who have all given so much to the growth and



effectiveness of Virginia Organizing over our 25 years of grassroots work for justice.

We even managed to hold our traditional talent show in a very untraditional way!

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Watch the 25th Anniversary video on our YouTube channel: VOPVideo.



For our closing celebration of 25 years of organizing for justice in Virginia, Jay Johnson sent us out with the question, "What kind of light do you want to be?" She said, "Get about the business of being that light...at the next Grassroots Gathering I want you to be able to share what you did to be that light."



VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3

WHAT TO KNOW FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

- **DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION IS OCTOBER 13**
 REGISTER ONLINE:
[HTTPS://VOTE.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV/VOTERINFORMATION](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation)
- **REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT BY OCTOBER 23**
 COMPLETE ABSENTEE VOTING REQUEST ONLINE OR BY MAIL
[HTTPS://WWW.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV/CASTING-A-BALLOT/ABSENTEE-VOTING/](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/)
 TURN IN ASAP - MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 7 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 3
- **VOTE 45 DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY WITHOUT AN EXCUSE (SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 31)**
 VOTE IN PERSON AT YOUR LOCAL REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3

VIRGINIA

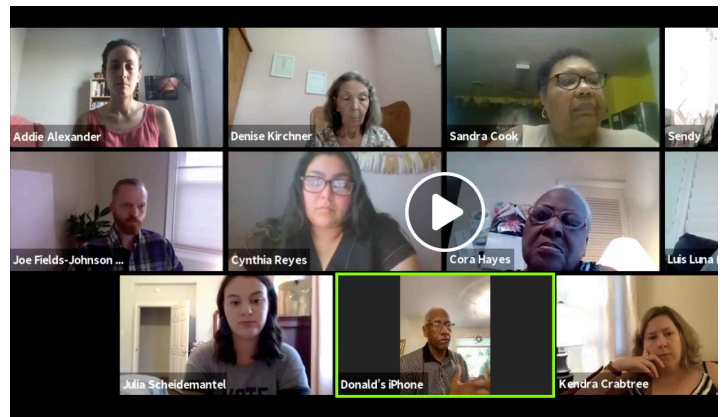


Save the Music!

The Front Porch in Charlottesville and local radio station WTJU will be holding a concert on September 30 at 8 p.m. to raise funds for Virginia Organizing. Watch on Facebook and donate to support local music and community organizing!

To donate for us, mention Virginia Organizing:

- 1) <https://frontporchville.kindful.com>
- 2) @Frontporchville on Venmo
- 3) Text GIVE to 434-204-2070



Roundtables with Reps!

In August the Newport News Chapter held a teleconference with Rep. Bobby Scott to discuss Covid relief and increased funding for Medicaid and Medicare.

The Richmond Area Chapter held another on Zoom with Rep. Donald McEachin to ask him about relief funds denied to immigrant families, environmental justice, and other issues. Both legislators want to see Medicaid and other needed funding increased in Congress.

The Eastern Shore Chapter held a roundtable with Rep. Elaine Luria to ask her how she will address the need for stimulus relief, voter protections, education funds, racial justice and equity, and national policing issues. Watch the McEachin and Luria roundtables on our Facebook page.

Take Action!

Contact your Members of Congress and urge them to ensure that Congress passes a COVID-19 relief bill that includes a boost to SNAP before it adjourns for the elections.

The final COVID-19 relief package must:

- boost SNAP maximum benefits by 15 percent, which would help all SNAP households;
- increase the minimum monthly SNAP benefit from \$16 to \$30; and
- suspend SNAP time limits or administrative rule changes that would cut benefits.

Local Chapters and Areas Served:

Charlottesville/Albemarle County, Danville, Eastern Shore, Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, Fredericksburg, Lee County, Lynchburg, Martinsville/Henry County, New River Valley, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Staunton/Augusta County/Waynesboro, Suffolk, Washington County

On Campus: Virginia Highlands Community College, Emory and Henry, UVA Wise, JMU, EMU, UVA, NSU, ODU, VT, Radford, Virginia Wesleyan, TCC, UMW

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