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Tulsa Organizations Join Forces to Form “VIP: Voting is Power” Coalition
Coalition to host a kick-off event on August 22nd

Tulsa, OK, August 5, 2015 — In response to critically low voter turnout, fifteen Tulsa county community organizations have joined forces to create the “VIP: Voting Is Power” Coalition. The Coalition is committed to increasing voter registration and voter turnout in Tulsa County through education and shared best practices. The coalition will hold a community-wide Voter Registration Drive Kick-Off event on Saturday, August 22, 10:00am-12:30pm at Rudisill Regional Library.

“The VIP Coalition hopes to reverse the negative voter engagement statistics that plague our area and state,” said Mary Jane Lindaman, VIP Steering Committee chairperson. “Rather than continuing to wring our hands over the weak statistics for voter engagement, we have decided to do something to make a change and hope that other community members will feel this issue is as important as we do. We hope to empower the community with the knowledge that their vote matters.”

The August 22nd event is designed to empower community leaders and organizations to host voter registrations drives for their constituencies. The kick off will include voter registration training, sessions on how to overcome barriers to voter turnout and messaging for underrepresented populations, and opportunities to brainstorm innovative ideas for election reform. Presenters include keynote speaker Nick Doctor, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at the Tulsa Regional Chamber; Tulsa County Election Board officials; spoken word artists; a youth representative; and coalition member organizations.

Attendees who pledge to hold two voter registration events in 2015 will receive a Voter Registration Kit, with all materials needed to organize a registration drive, including a branded bag, registration application forms, pens, a “cheat sheet,” and other supplies.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the August 22nd Kick-Off. The event is free and participants may register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voting-is-power-coalition-voter-registration-drive-kick-off-registration-17210025650>. For more information, visit www.votingpower.org.

VIP Coalition Partners:

League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa, Coalition for the American Dream, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, A Third Place Community Foundation, YWCA Tulsa, NAACP Tulsa, North Star Neighborhood Development Association, Phoenix District, All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa’s Young Professionals

(TYPros), Neighbors Encouraging Other Neighbors (N.E.O.N.), Unity Moving Forward for Change (UMFC), Tulsa County Election Board, Church Women United, and the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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The mission of the Voting is Power (VIP) Coalition is to increase voter registration, boost voter turnout, and stimulate civic participation by educating community leaders and organizations and the public about voter registration rules, regulations, and best practices.