

**OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES**

**2020**

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION

**Please standby.  
We will begin momentarily.**

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**Overcoming Common Obstacles  
to Voting**

*June 18, 2020*

# General Logistics



- We will allow for time at the end of today's webinar for questions. If you have a question, please use the Q&A box in your webinar browser.
- We will provide access to both a video recording and a copy of today's slides to all participants following the webinar.
- If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, please send an email to Brooke Schipporeit at [bschipporeit@nlihc.org](mailto:bschipporeit@nlihc.org).

# Agenda



1. Introduction
2. Notes about COVID-19 and the elections
3. Expanding Vote-by-Mail
4. Accessibility and Voting
5. Voting with a Prior Felony Conviction
6. Voter ID Laws
7. Upcoming topics for webinars and podcasts

# Presenters



**Joey Lindstrom**  
Field Director  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
@JosephLindstrom



**Dara Baldwin**  
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Center for Disability Rights  
@NJDC07



# INTRODUCTION

Automatic voting machine with privacy  
curtains, invented in Iowa, 1898  
Gift of Rockwell Manufacturing Company

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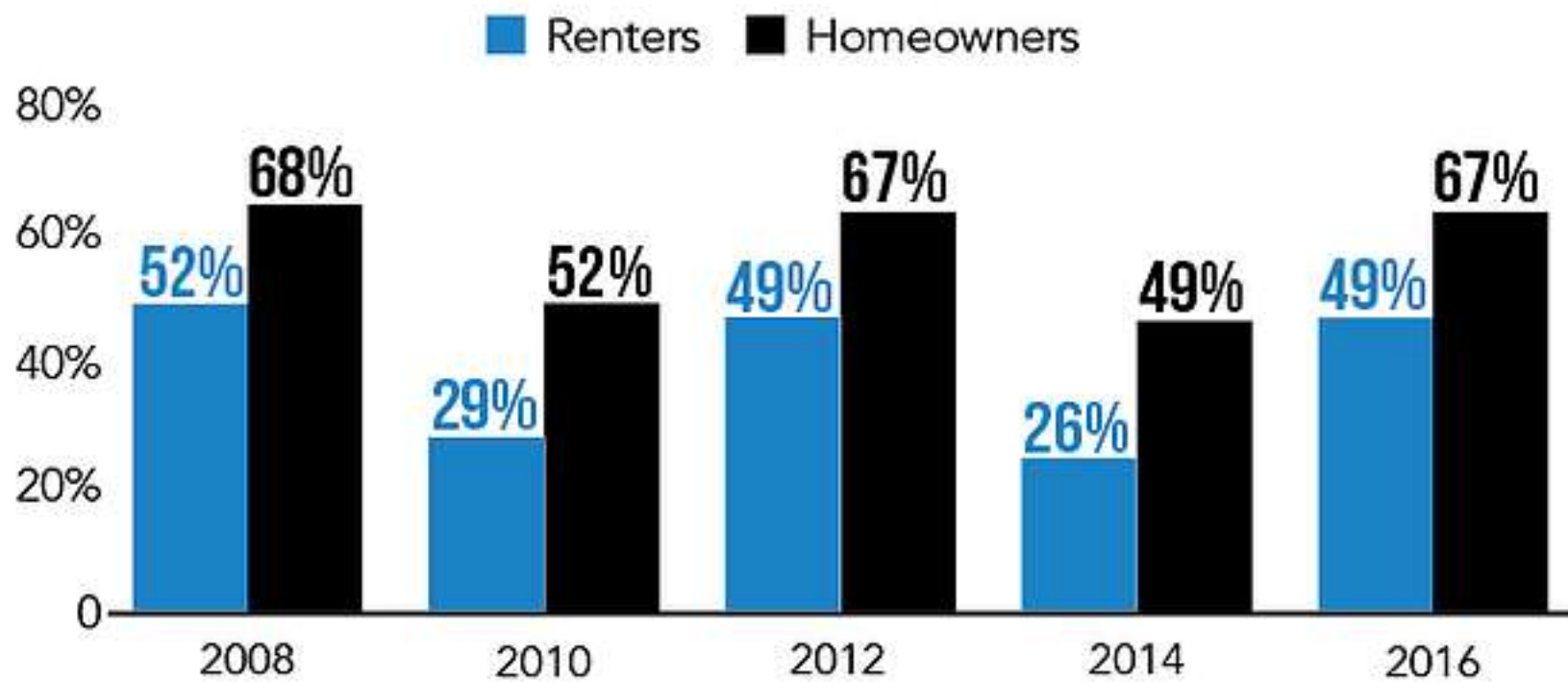
# Engaging Voters and Candidates



*Our Homes, Our Votes* is NLIHC's voter engagement effort focusing on increasing voter registration and turnout among low-income housing renters and advocates.



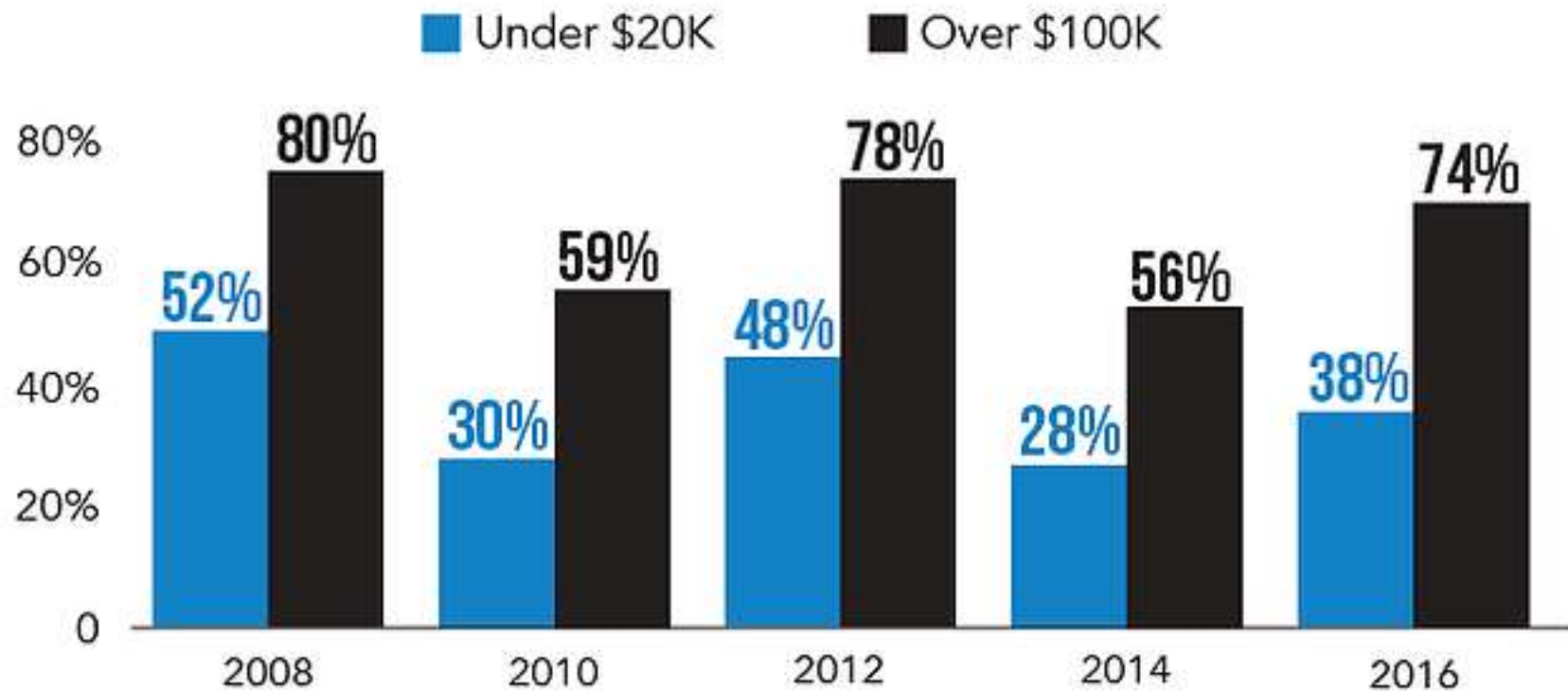
## U.S. CITIZENS WHO REPORTED VOTING IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS BY HOUSING TENURE (2008 TO 2016)



Source: November 2006-2016 Current Population Survey data



## U.S. CITIZENS WHO REPORTED VOTING IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS BY FAMILY INCOME (2008 TO 2016)



Source: November 2006-2016 Current Population Survey data

# 83%

of the public agrees that elected officials are not paying enough attention to the cost of housing and the need for more affordable housing.



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# 76%

say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that has a detailed plan for making housing more affordable.

Source: Public Opinion Poll Feb 25-Mar 4, 2019 Hart Research Associates

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HOUSING IS THE WAY  
★★★★



# COVID-19 Response and Elections

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# Call to Action!

## COVID-19



**The Issue:** Additional resources are needed to mitigate harm from the COVID-19 pandemic

**The Ask:** Any comprehensive spending package should include resources to help ensure housing stability for low-income individuals and people experiencing homelessness.

- HEROES Act provides \$3.6 billion for state and local governments to administer elections

# Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act



## Senate Bill 3529

- Introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Ron Wyden (D-OR)
  - 36 co-sponsors currently, all democrats
- Ensures that all voters in all states have the option to request absentee balloting
- Requires at least 20 days of early voting in all states
- Provides \$3 million to Election Assistance Commission to begin implementing all requirements of the act

# Coronavirus and the elections



## Strategies:

1. Promote voting by mail
  - ACLU has a great resource available at <https://tinyurl.com/vdagfub>
2. Plan voter education events, candidate forums, and town halls as remote events
  - Scheduling for end of summer or early autumn are strong strategies
3. Make voters aware of online voter registration tools that can be accessed via phone or tablet

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# Accessibility Considerations and Elections

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# Accessibility and Voting



- Accessibility of all in-person polling locations
  - Zero-step entry
  - Parking for people with disabilities
- Disability is always a valid reason for a mail-in ballot
- Duties of polling locations to provide ballots for people with visual and hearing impairments
- Rights of personal aides and caregivers assisting voters with communicative disorders, intellectual disabilities, or developmental disabilities





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# Voting with Prior Felony Convictions

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# Voting for People with Prior Felony Convictions

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- Generally, a person with a conviction who has completed all parole and probation requirements is eligible to vote, but **THIS VARIES BY STATE**.
- States where all people with felony convictions are **PERMANENTLY** banned from voting are Virginia, Kentucky, and Iowa.
- Only two states allow people with convictions to vote while still in prison: Vermont and Maine.
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) maintains a great map resource at: <https://bit.ly/2t8ioyn>



# Voter ID Laws



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# Understanding Voter ID Laws



- Voter identification laws vary by state
  - A good, up-to-date resource can be found at:  
<https://www.voteriders.org/get-voter-id/>
- Court decisions have established that any state with voter identification requirements must have an identification form that is available at no cost
- Vote Riders is providing no cost assistance to voters who need help access voter ID
  - National Voter ID Hotline - 844-338-8743



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Questions?

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# Third Thursdays at Three Webinar and Podcast Series

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# Upcoming Training and Discussion Topics



1. The challenge of voting while homeless (July 16, 2020)
2. Voter Mobilization Part 1 – Early voting and vote-by-mail (August 20, 2020)
3. Voter Mobilization Part 2 – Protecting against voter intimidation (September 17, 2020)
4. Election Day! Getting Out The Vote (October 15, 2020)
5. Holding candidates to their promises (November 19, 2020)

**Other webinar recordings available at**  
**[www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/webinars](http://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/webinars)**

**It's never been easy.**

**Our commitment is unwavering.**

**Join us and amplify the voices of  
the poorest families in need.**

**OUR MEMBERS  
ARE OUR STRENGTH.**



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**JOIN TODAY  
[WWW.NLIHC.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.NLIHC.ORG/MEMBERSHIP)**



# Contact Us



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