Best Practices for Initiating and Maintaining Community Relationships

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Language Access for Voters Summit
June 6, 2017



About FELN

• The Fair Elections Legal Network (FELN) is a national, nonpartisan election reform organization whose mission is to remove barriers to registration and voting for traditionally underrepresented constituencies and improve overall election administration through administrative, legal, and legislative reform.



Benefits to Community Partnerships

- Enhance the involvement of language minority communities in elections
 - Leads to higher voter turnout
 - Success in the ability of voters with limited English proficiency to cast a ballot that is counted
- Better integrate staff time + resources to focus on language issues for the long term



Creating + Fostering Community Relationships

Community Organizations:

- DO:
 - Schedule meetings well in advance of Election Day
 - Take stock of the issues in your community + suggest ways to fix
- DON'T:
 - Enter meeting in a defensive or antagonistic mindset because the needs of your community aren't currently being met
- Things to think about:
 - Can you offer translation services?
 - Recruit bilingual poll workers
 - Goal of meeting is to WORK TOGETHER



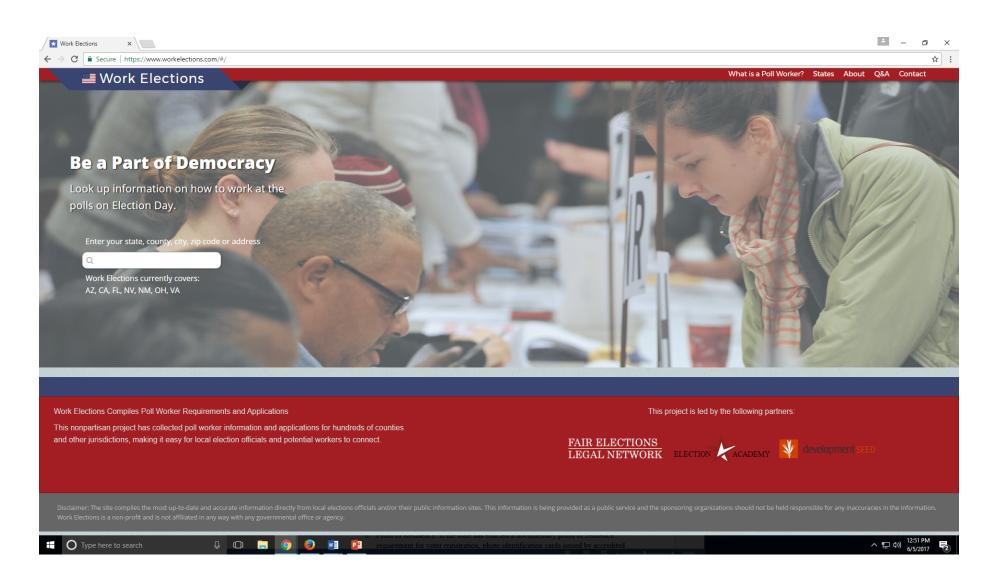
Creating + Fostering Community Relationships

Elections Officials

- Utilize the expertise of the community
 - Assessing voter's linguistic abilities + where resources are needed
 - Source translations from community
- Consult regularly with the community
 - Be proactive communicate election info early + often
 - Utilize community partners as a trusted source of election information



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