



Protecting the vote, then protecting the count

Our voter protection program comes full circle

In our electoral organizing work, we are continually learning about the nature of our Democracy, and using these lessons to help protect it. Below is a scene from the TCF Center (Cobo Hall) in Detroit on Nov. 4, where poll workers diligently verified and counted Michigan residents' ballots.



This year, MOSES Action ran our **largest digital voter engagement program** to date, protecting the vote at every step of the way. In the interest of safety during the pandemic, we adapted our traditional canvas program to reach voters remotely through phone banking, text messaging, social media and the OutVote app.

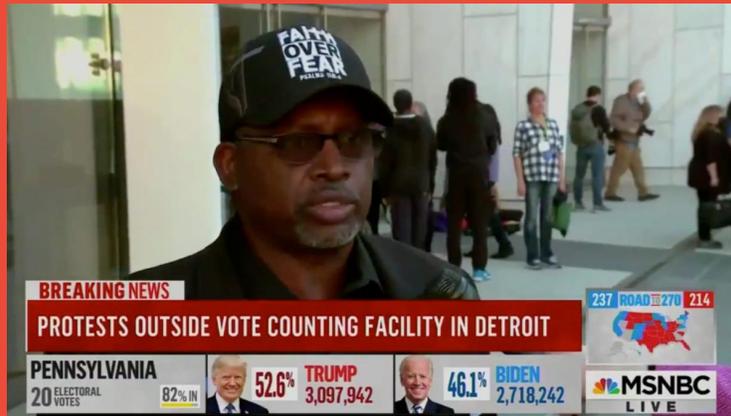
We helped Michigan residents connect their values to the voting process through voter education; guided them in making detailed plans for casting their ballots in this unprecedented COVID-era election; and supported them in carrying out their plans.

As anti-democratic protesters attempted to stop the ballot counting process, we quickly mobilized 15 leaders to the TCF Center (formerly Cobo Hall) in downtown Detroit to become certified as poll challengers. In this role, we were able to observe the counting process and everything that goes into verifying and counting ballots.

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Most importantly, we helped to counter the efforts of those who were there in

an attempt to disqualify thousands of valid ballots.



Rev. Steve Bland, senior pastor of Detroit's Liberty Baptist Church, is a leader with MOSES. He spoke outside of the TCF Center on Wednesday Nov. 4 about his experience as a poll challenger working to protect the vote.

We won't sugarcoat our experience - the intimidation directed at the non-partisan ballot counters created an environment that was tense at best, and outright scary at times. ***But our leaders found strength in the deep importance of this work, and we were able to see the process of protecting the vote come full circle.***

We honor the work of the ballot counters in Detroit on Wednesday - most of them Black Detroiters - who risked their personal safety and health to fulfill the promise of Democracy in Michigan this week.

Today, we feel energized knowing that we have deepened our knowledge of what it takes to protect our voting rights. **We are better organizers because of it!**

Get Involved!

Leader Testimonial: Judith Johnson

"I was grateful to be in the room and to witness the essence of democracy and civic engagement and to help ensure that every vote was counted. Detroiters voted like they knew that their democratic freedoms depended on it because it did.

However, I also felt I was experiencing dueling realities, I was locked in a room with democracy, but anarchy was pounding on the glass doors demanding to come in to stop the counting, and it was scary because I didn't know if they would succeed with their mission.

I appreciate the poll workers, election officials, monitors, election challengers and the police officers, who stood firm while every vote was counted."

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