



Greg Landsman
Councilmember

January 14th, 2022

MOTION
Civic/Voter Engagement

We move that the Administration conduct a report into the feasibility of implementing the following recommendations from the Urban League on improving civic and voter engagement:

1. Paid time off for City employees to vote (during the early voting timeframe or on Election Day).¹
2. Accessible transportation to vote for voters who need it (eg. for financial reasons, disability, etc.).
3. Implementing an improved communications/outreach plan that ensures all Cincinnati voters have access to accurate information regarding voter registration and civic engagement process; including but not limited to:
 - a. A 'Mobile Vote Center' initiative, spearheaded in partnership with the BOE, in order to engage hard-to-reach neighborhoods (similar to the traveling 513 Relief Bus, an effort which has proven to be very effective in bringing resources to people), and
 - b. Written resources —e.g. official mailers or flyers — and/or digital resources — e.g. updates to the City website to include more voter information, or innovative modes of communication like video and social media outreach — and more.
4. Piloting the use of City buildings as polling locations, in order to increase places voting is accessible.

The Administration is also welcome to include any additional ideas or recommendations for improving civic and voter engagement outside of the above in this report.

STATEMENT

On National Voter Registration Day in September of this year, Jasmine Coaston presented several recommendations for how the City of Cincinnati could improve our civic and voter engagement to members of the Major Projects Committee (on behalf of the Urban League). Considering the voting

¹Should include an update on Ordinance 0105-2015 (authorizing the City Manager to "take all necessary action to initiate negotiations with all of the City of Cincinnati's recognized bargaining units representing City employees to provide for a recognized City of Cincinnati holiday on Election Day of each year for all such represented employees" and to "take all necessary action to provide non-represented City employees with an Election Day holiday..." on what actions have been taken to negotiate, and how those negotiations have gone.

City of Cincinnati



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participation of Cincinnati voters in local elections still hovers between a meager 20-30%, it is critical we look into possible initiatives or improvements that could nurture a more civically engaged city culture.

We can, and should, play a key role in educating citizens about the voting process and encouraging increased engagement in it. As a nationally recognized leader on issues of civil rights, urban advocacy, and political engagement, the Urban League's recommendations for Cincinnati should be honored; the Administration should conduct a report into the logistical feasibility and potential of enacting these reforms in Cincinnati.

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