

Four days after Election Day, thousands celebrate at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C. after news outlets called the Presidential Election for Democratic nominee Joseph R. Biden Jr.



EVERY VOTER COUNTS

ON NOVEMBER 7, 2020 AMERICA ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT.

20 YEARS AGO

“20 years ago, I came down right after the election, and it’s why I had to be down here in 2020. I know how close this election might be. Twenty years ago it was 537 votes and I keep that with me: 537 votes.

“Black voters were disenfranchised and could have made the difference, which means that their voices weren’t heard. Florida has always been on my radar because I know how it works down here and how invidious it was. So I had to come back. I wanted to be here at the 20-year marker to help out.”

JUDITH BROWNE DIANIS

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Judith Browne Dianis (right), Advancement Project National Office Executive Director, engages with early voters at the North Dade Regional Library polling station in Miami Gardens, Florida. On October 31, 2020 we hosted Parade to the Polls, a nationwide celebration of our power to vote, and worked with partner organizations on the ground throughout the east coast.

2020

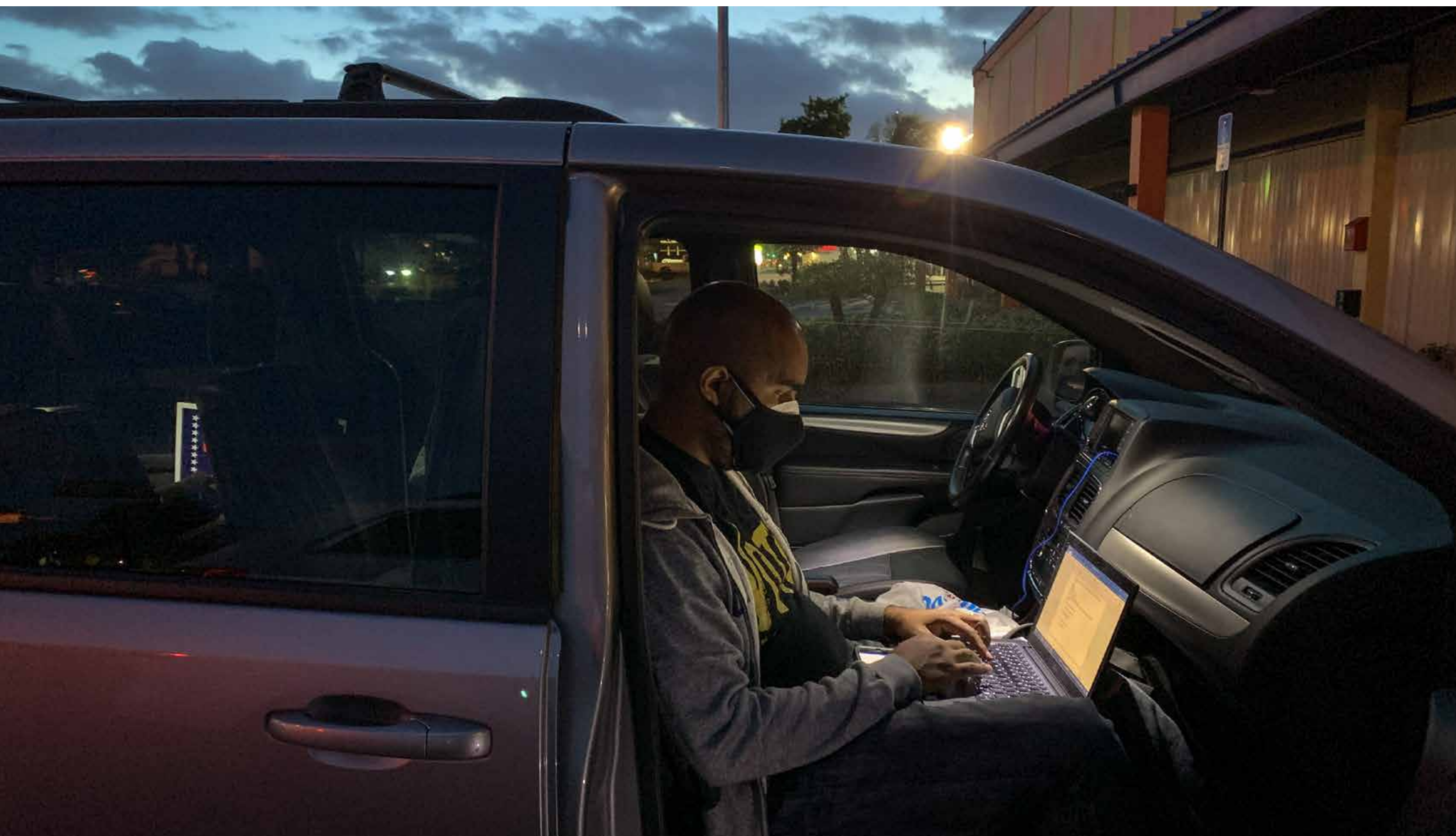
“There’s always been barriers to the ballot. But they are new as it relates to immigrant communities and Black and Latinx communities, in that it was illegal for many of these communities to have access to the ballot just two generations ago at most.

“We’re at the first point in American history when over 62 million eligible voters are Black and Latinx, with 32 million of those eligible voters being Latinx. It is the first time that 18 million eligible voters are Black women. Similarly, it’s the first time when over 20 million voters are naturalized citizens. We see for the first time that no national office can afford not to engage the Black, Latinx, or naturalized communities.”

JORGE VASQUEZ

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE
POWER AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

FROM **HARVARD POLITICAL REVIEW**, “MEET THE FELLOWS: AN INTERVIEW WITH JORGE L. VASQUEZ, JR.”
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 22, 2020.



“We’ve seen states close polling locations, purge voter rolls, enforce strict voter ID requirements, and impose exact match signature requirements amidst the coronavirus pandemic. These voter suppression strategies are aimed at keeping Black and Brown voters and the poor from casting a ballot.

“Working with our partners on the ground, Advancement Project National Office is combating these tactics and ensuring every voter can vote in a free, fair and safe election.

“Our partners look to us because we are on the ground with them. We could easily be in our offices comfortable right now. No, it is an election, and we are out there on the front lines. We are out there with our partners. We are out there providing the support that our community needs.”

At 6:10 am on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Power and Democracy Program Director Jorge Vasquez works from his car outside the New Florida Majority office in Plantation, Florida.

ELECTION 2020

Advancement Project National Office is leading a group in developing narratives about voting and voter suppression. We partner with bold, movement- and strategy-minded visionaries and doers who are in the forefront of removing barriers to the ballot before Election Day and fighting to restore voting rights to overly criminalized populations.

Importantly, we are also pioneers in the fight to eliminate these wrongs once and for all by establishing a national right to vote. We have been on the front lines of fights for voting rights because access to the ballot gives communities of color power and self-determination in the matters that impact their lives.

For Election 2020, we had more than 15 staff on the ground for weeks in key states like Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania working with local partners including New Georgia Project, New Florida Majority, New Virginia Project, Dream Defenders, and Lehigh Valley Stands Up. Together we turned out the vote, monitored the polls, ensured voting access, and celebrated our collective power.

**“VOTING IS OUR SUPERPOWER; IT
OFFERS A DIRECT OPPORTUNITY TO
INFLUENCE HOW OUR COMMUNITIES
ARE TREATED BY THE CRIMINAL
LEGAL SYSTEM.”**

NSE UFOT

NEW GEORGIA PROJECT
CEO





“I became a U.S. citizen in high school and what I remember very strongly is being proud to take this step, make this journey with my family and being proud to be able to officially call myself an American.

“I also remember the long nights that I spent preparing myself and my family to pass the naturalization test. I also remember the oath of allegiance to the Constitution and to defend this country against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

“When I think about the work that I do as an organizer and as the head of the New Georgia Project, I very much think about the Nse who was a green card holder. I think about the country and the communities that welcomed me, embraced my family and gave us a home. I think about the decisions that we make about the roads, the water that we drink, the air that we breathe, the quality of the schools. I am an Atlanta Public School graduate. I graduated from Georgia Tech. I am a product of Georgia’s public schools. It is with pride every Election Day to cast my vote, to make decisions about what I want my community to look like, what I want our state to look like.”

Nse Ufot, New Georgia Project CEO, poses for a picture after early voting at the Metropolitan Library polling station in Atlanta, Georgia on October 28, 2020.



Georgia's population is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. Over the past decade, the population of Georgia increased 18%. The New American Majority – people of color, those 18 to 29 years of age, and unmarried women – is a significant part of that growth. The New American Majority makes up 62% of the voting age population in Georgia, but they are only 53% of registered voters.

“We don’t just register people, just to have registrants. We want them to become not only voters, but super voters,” says Nse Ufot, New Georgia Project CEO. “When we see a need, we fill it. Offering this much needed resource to communities around the state is just one way our organization is working to ensure that all voters are able to participate in the electoral process.”

Under her leadership, The New Georgia Project has registered nearly 425,000 Georgians to vote.

FROM NEW GEORGIA PROJECT WEBSITE

New Georgia Project Voter Protection Director Kiddada Grey (left) and Chief of Staff Alex Burch (right) virtually coordinate with their team of staff and volunteers mobilized across the state of Georgia to ensure every vote is counted in the state.



As early voters wait in line, a voter drops off their ballot at the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections polling station in Macon, Georgia on October 28, 2020. More than 4 million Georgians voted, a 57.3% turnout rate of registered voters.



“I came to vote today because it’s important. I’m not just voting for myself. I’m voting for my kids, their kids whenever they have kids, and their kids’ kids. A lot of stuff need to change that I don’t like that is going on right now. So I had to get out and vote. I had to teach my son that it is important for him to vote because I don’t want him to end up like most people of color have ended up like lately.”

ERICA BROWN (Right)



“If you feel like forget this, I am going to give up (and not vote), keep in mind, that’s one less vote to getting those who don’t deserve to be in office any longer out. That’s one less vote to have your voice heard. That’s one less vote for health care. That’s one less vote to end poverty. That’s one less vote to combat blight. That’s one less vote to combat police brutality. If you feel like that’s worth giving up, keep in mind, you’re also harming yourself and your family. Don’t give up. Voting is easy, despite what people are saying and these horror stories being shared. At the end of the day, it doesn’t cost you your life just to vote. But unfortunately, it might cost you your life not to vote on certain issues.”

CHRISTOPHER BERRY

Early voters wait in line at the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections polling station in Macon, Georgia on October 28, 2020. More than 2.6 million Georgians participated in in-person early voting.



Voters participate in early voting at the North Miami Public Library polling station in North Miami, Florida on October 30, 2020. More than 8.9 million Floridians voted, a 63.8% turnout rate of registered voters.



**“WHAT WE’RE SEEING WITH THOSE
EARLY VOTING LINES IS THAT
PEOPLE ARE SAYING, WE’RE NOT
CHOOSING [BETWEEN HEALTH AND
THE RIGHT TO VOTE], WHAT WE’RE
CHOOSING IS TO HAVE A VOICE IN
THIS DEMOCRACY.”**

JUDITH BROWNE DIANIS

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM **MSNBC: AM JOY WITH JOY REID**, “VOTING RIGHTS DEFENSE FOR 2020 ELECTIONS DISCUSSED BY EXPERTS.”
AIRED OCTOBER 17, 2020.



“I came down to Florida because I couldn’t let it happen on my watch that the voters are disenfranchised – and just want to do everything you can because people are counting on you. People you don’t know are counting on you. This is why we do the work. We do it for them. We do it for our country and I can’t sit in an office or at home in the Washington, D.C. area and just hope that everything turns out OK. I’m one of those people who have to be on the ground with the voters, with our partners, making sure things are smooth. I’m too anxious and nervous to be sitting at home today. So I decided to get on the road in a pandemic. It is what I do.”

JUDITH BROWNE DIANIS

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“I thought it was important for me to vote today because I’m 18, so it’s my first time. I thought there is a lot on the line with this election and I feel like it is my individual responsibility and my civic duty to go out and try to make a difference if I can. I felt like there were a lot of issues on the table. I’m a Black woman. I feel like that alone is a lot that stands for why I voted today.”

GENESIS GILLES



“I took two flights, it took me eight hours to get here today – I just wanted to make sure my vote counted. I wasn’t playing with the mail. I wasn’t playing with absentee ballots. I wanted to make sure my vote counted.

It was very important for me to vote in this election, it was an unconscious decision for me. This time in history really showed me that it does matter who is in power. We hear about checks and balances and how not one person has too much power, but really they do. You can see how just one person has a great amount of influence over our lives. It is time for us to take that power back.”

KHRISTYLN BELLAMY



“I’m a Returning Citizen. I voted just a couple days ago for the first time in nearly 20 years. When people ask me why voting matters, I just need to tell you what it was like when I got to go in that voting booth. I got to feel like a full citizen of my community again for the first time. I got to feel like I matter.

I spent so much time, like so many of us, feeling like I’ve been kicked to the curb by society, that my voice doesn’t matter, that other people get to make the decisions in our local communities. And so when I got to go in that voting booth after the passage of Amendment Four that gave me the ability to vote again, it was an extraordinary experience and I cannot wait for Returning Citizens all across the state of Florida to have that same experience.”

NEIL VOLZ

FLORIDA RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition Free the Vote tour bus arrives at the North Dade Regional Library in Miami Gardens, Florida on October 31, 2020 as part of our Parade to the Polls event. “[I]n the face of this pandemic and all of the obstacles and the uncertainty about registration,” said Desmond Meade, Executive Director of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, “we were still able to register over 87,000 Returning Citizens since the passage of Amendment 4.”

FROM **DEMOCRACY NOW!** “VOTING ACTIVIST DESMOND MEADE ON RE-ENFRANCHISING PEOPLE & WHY ‘EX-FELON’ IS A DEHUMANIZING LABEL,” PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 13, 2020.

**“THERE’S SOMETHING SACRED
ABOUT A PERSON FEELING LIKE
THEY’RE PART OF SOCIETY, LIKE
THEY’RE A HUMAN BEING, LIKE
THEIR VOICE MATTERS.”**

DESMOND MEADE

FLORIDA RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM **60 MINUTES OVERTIME** “FLORIDA DENIES AMENDMENT 4 ADVOCATE DESMOND MEADE FULL PARDON.”
PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 27, 2020.





“I believe in the beauty of my people. I do this work because I love Black people and I love our resilience and I love our perseverance. I love our culture. I love that we’ve come through so much and we keep keeping on,” says Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director of Advancement Project National Office. “So for me, I need to be out with my people and my people, means Black people, but my people also means, our partners.”

Judith Browne Dianis (right), Executive Director of Advancement Project National Office, listens to Desmond Meade, President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, strategize future plans on board their Free the Vote tour bus on October 31, 2020.

Voters participating in early voting wait in line outside Lantana Public Library polling station in Lake Worth, Florida on November 1, 2020. More than 4.3M Floridians participated in in-person early voting.



Voters participating in early voting wait in line outside Main Library polling station in West Palm Beach, Florida on November 1, 2020.



**“WHETHER IT’S AN ARMED POLICE
OFFICER PATROLLING A POLLING
PLACE OR JUST HAVING A POLICE CAR
WITH LIGHTS BLARING IN FRONT OF A
POLLING PLACE, ALL CAN SERVE AS A
FORM OF VOTER INTIMIDATION AND
CERTAINLY CAN HAVE A CHILLING
EFFECT, PARTICULARLY IN BLACK AND
BROWN COMMUNITIES.”**

GILDA DANIELS

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE
LITIGATION DIRECTOR

FROM **THE APPEAL**, “FLORIDA ACTIVISTS FLOOD POLLING SITES WITH VOLUNTEERS TO COMBAT VOTER SUPPRESSION.”
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2, 2020.

A Palm Beach County Sheriff is parked outside the Main Library polling station in West Palm Beach, Florida on November 1, 2020.



A Palm Beach County Sheriff is parked outside the Main Library polling station in West Palm Beach, Florida on November 1, 2020.

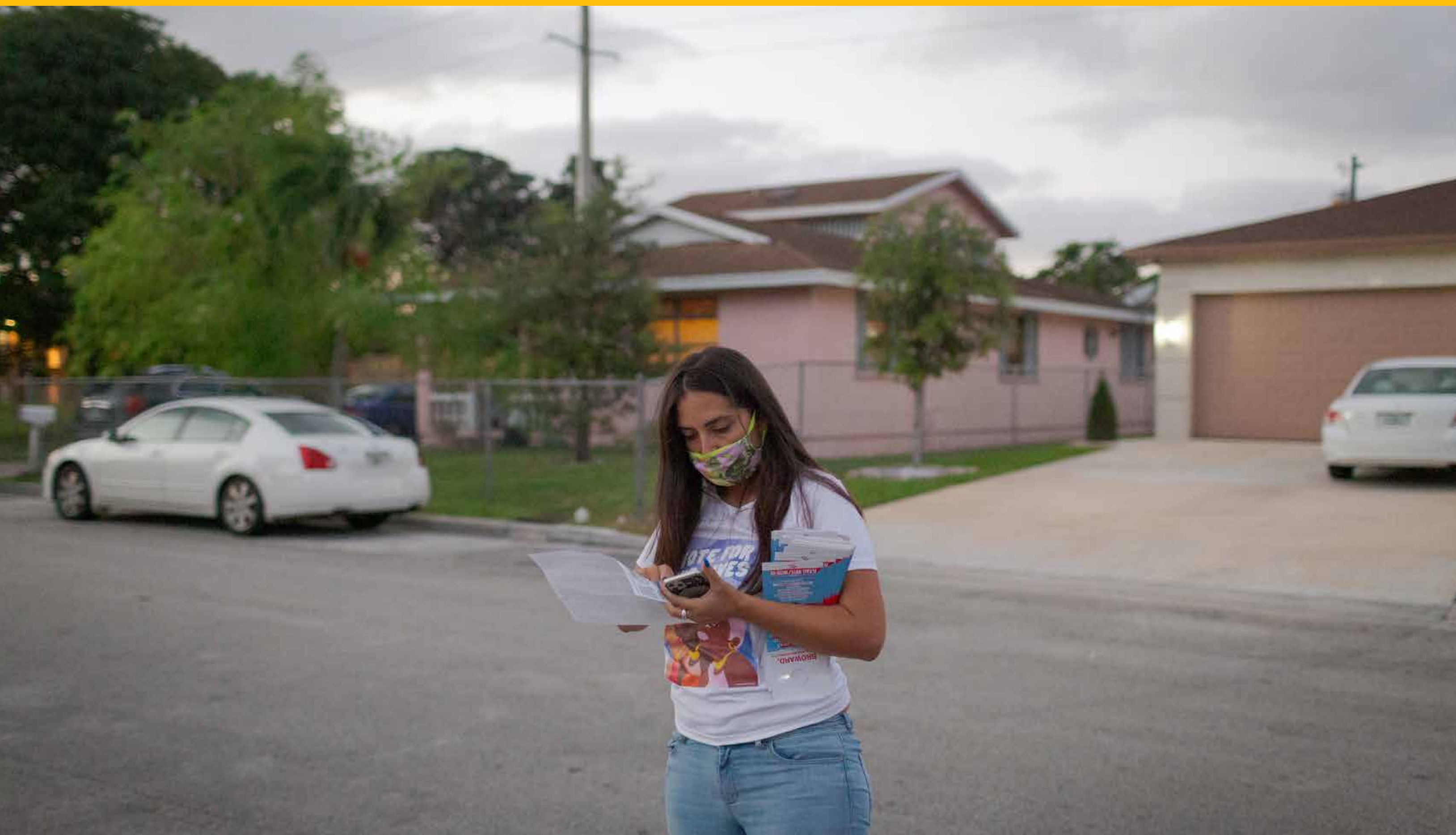




“In my role as a South Florida Lead Organizer for the New Florida Majority, we recognize the voter suppression and the disenfranchisement that happens all over, not just in the state of Florida, but throughout the country. So it depresses me that people have to stand in line for long hours. It depresses me that people have to make sure that they have a certain type of ID when their driver’s license places have been closed, or they might not have the right paperwork in order to get their driver’s license in order to be able to vote. It depresses me when your signature can be off by a line and your ballot could be drawn out. There’s a number of things that people have been using throughout the years in order to suppress the vote. That’s why we try to make sure that we’re educating people on what you need to do.”

BERTISHA COMBS

NEW FLORIDA MAJORITY
SOUTH FLORIDA LEAD ORGANIZER



“In the 2016 election, I volunteered and canvassed. It was clear to me then that the stakes were high. When we lost that election, I think like many other people, I was heartbroken. That’s when I decided to leave the National Domestic Workers Alliance and so many sisters that I love to focus on my home state Florida. To focus on figuring out what it is going to take to advance in Florida where all of us belong and where we’re able to transform so much injustice into possibility.”

ANDREA MERCADO
NEW FLORIDA MAJORITY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“I CAME TO THE WORK WITH A LOT
OF RAGE AND A LOT OF ANGER
ABOUT INJUSTICES IN OUR SOCIETY.
BUT ANGER AND RAGE CAN’T
REALLY SUSTAIN YOU. SO I’VE
SETTLED ON LOVE, A LOVE FOR MY
COMMUNITY.”**

ANDREA MERCADO

NEW FLORIDA PROJECT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At 5:45 am on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis participates in a virtual meeting from her car outside the New Florida Majority office in Plantation, Florida.





“Elections aren’t just about making yourself heard; elections are about lifting up your community’s needs – about coming together to articulate a shared vision for a better future,” says Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director of Advancement Project National Office. “Tomorrow, we will vote to advance this movement – but our work won’t stop there. We’re looking forward to continuing to fight alongside you, shoulder to shoulder, to win justice and equality for all people.”

FROM **THE SOURCE**, “HERE IS EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED AS YOU HEAD TO THE POLLS TODAY.” PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 3, 2020.

At 6:24 am on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis (right) joins New Florida Majority Executive Director Andrea Mercano (left) to distribute voting literature in Broward County, Florida.

At 7:16 am on Election Day outside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Montessori Academy polling station in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Advancement Project National Office Power and Democracy Program Director Jorge Vasquez (left) and Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis (right) virtually check-in with colleagues monitoring other polling stations across Florida.



At 10:45 am on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis (left) checks in with the Florida for All Coalition voter protection team outside the Boys and Girls Club polling station in Pompano Beach, Florida.





At 11:16 am on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis arrives at the Pompano Beach Community Park in Pompano, Florida to monitor the polling station.



“You have to knock on door 100 with the same enthusiasm and energy you have with door number one. Everybody deserves your undivided attention. Everybody deserves the energy. So with that in mind, that just keeps me going. The mission is to make sure people are getting out to vote and making sure that they’re civically engaged.”

At 11:50 am on Election Day, Easton Harrison, Dream Defenders Squad Member, goes door-to-door to distribute voting literature and share information at an apartment complex in Broward County, Florida about where to vote.



At 2:25 pm on Election Day, Quayneisha Smith, Dream Defenders South Florida Regional Organizer, goes door-to-door to distribute voting literature and share information about where to vote at an apartment complex in Broward County, Florida.



“The partnerships we create on the ground with organizations like Lehigh Valley Stands Up in Pennsylvania inspire. The day-to-day, hour-to-hour effort that communities give, demands that Advancement Project shows up to engage meaningfully. At the moment of the election, months of organizing and action coalesced in Lehigh Valley. Despite the racism, the pandemic, the lack of resources, the community was able to build,” says Flavia Jimenez, Advancement Project National Office Managing Director of Operational Development and Leadership. “I was humbled, energized and committed to bring all we could to that organization. Speaking all of the truths and all of the facts to the entities of power. As John Lewis said, the vote is ‘the most powerful nonviolent tool we have.’ That is why we fight to protect and expand the vote for communities of color.”

At 2:36 pm on Election Day, Flavia Jimenez, Advancement Project National Office Managing Director of Operational Development and Leadership (left) joins Ashleigh Strange, Regional Organizer of Lehigh Valley Stands Up (in yellow) and speaks at a press conference in the parking lot of Resurrected Life Community Church, Inc. in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

At 6:10 pm on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis participates in a virtual meeting as she drives from polling station to polling station in Florida.

At 6:30 pm on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis (window) and our organization's Florida Voter Protection Advocate Carolyn Thompson (seated) review reports of voter suppression across Florida outside the North Miami Public Library polling station in North Miami, Florida.





At 7:10 pm on Election Day, the Advancement Project National Office team works outside the North Miami Public Library polling station in North Miami, Florida.



“In Georgia, state leaders’ failure to invest in voting infrastructure in Black and Brown communities forced some voters to wait for 11 hours to cast their ballots during early voting. In Florida, the governor and state legislature have subverted the will of the voters and are requiring people with felonies in their past to pay all fines and fees, effectively barring people with felony convictions and low incomes from voting. And in Virginia, a small group of Trump supporters attempted to disrupt early voting at a polling location on the first day of early voting.”

FROM **THE HILL**, “SEIZE YOUR POWER – VOTE EARLY.” PUBLISHED OCTOBER 24, 2020.

At 7:54 pm on Election Day, Advancement Project National Office Power and Democracy Program Director Jorge Vasquez virtually joins the Harvard Black Men’s Forum to discuss what we did in Election 2020 and what our team saw on the ground.



“We saw people standing in line for up to 11 hours, the challenge of voter registration rules, the removal of polling sites and lack of drop boxes in Black and Brown communities. Our lawyers were on standby around the country, supporting election protection efforts and addressing issues as they came up. We must continue to galvanize and fight for free, fair and safe elections.”

FROM **BLACK NEWS ZONE**, “BLACK AMERICA VOTES: VOTER SUPPRESSION TACTICS DIDN’T DISCOURAGE BLACK VOTERS,” PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 6, 2020.

Advancement Project National Office Executive Director Judith Browne Dianis co-hosted The Sip Hour on November 4, 2020 to offer analysis on the incoming election results.

**THE FLORIDA FOR ALL COALITION
LED THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT
CAMPAIGN IN FLORIDA. IN 2020,
WE DID THE UNTHINKABLE, EVEN
DURING A PANDEMIC.**

**TOGETHER, WE MOBILIZED MORE
THAN 2 MILLION BLACK AND BROWN
VOTERS TO THE POLLS.**

WHAT'S NEXT?

For almost 20 years, Advancement Project National Office has fought voter suppression to ensure that all have equal access to the democratic process. In 2000, we were co-counsel in a case brought in Florida in response to the number of issues at the polls faced by Black voters. Our involvement led to the establishment of the first ever year-round election administration program – our Voter Protection Project. Over the years, this work has included beating back voter ID requirements in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and the monster voter suppression law in North Carolina. We recently finished trial in voter ID litigation in Missouri. In addition to litigation, we work with local groups to hold local election officials accountable through advocacy and communications.

Our Power and Democracy program builds upon our past successes in staving off voter suppression schemes (Voter Protection Project), while looking for opportunities to expand the electorate and power (Right to Vote Initiative). While we are always working to increase support for a robust democracy, especially through an affirmative right to vote, our specific goals include: defeating federal and local policies that make it harder to vote; holding local and state election officials accountable state by state; expanding the electorate through eliminating criminal convictions as barrier to voting and restoring voting rights to people with felony convictions.

Our theory of change and model means we are deeply involved in movement-based work aimed at blocking barriers to the ballot for voters of color and expanding access to the vote before Election Day, all year round and not just in election years.

Our democracy is under attack and now, more than ever, a strong progressive movement is necessary. Advancement Project National Office is ready for the challenge to build power locally to fight back.



“Diversity. It’s amazing when you see that 10% of all eligible voters are naturalized citizens. That’s huge. When we look at America’s largest voting block, we’re looking at 18 to 24-year-olds and individuals under 30. What we know about that voting block is that it’s diverse, and it believes in diversity and accountability. That provides so much hope for America. No matter how turbulent the times may seem, tomorrow for certain will be brighter because America is so diverse.”

JORGE VASQUEZ

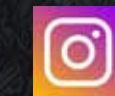
ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE
POWER AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

FROM **HARVARD POLITICAL REVIEW**, “MEET THE FELLOWS: AN INTERVIEW WITH JORGE L. VASQUEZ, JR.” PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 22, 2020.



EVERY VOTER COUNTS

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