

Questions to and Answers from Daniel Kaseberg,

Civic Field Manager, Common Purpose

(from the May 30th OI Meet up and Check in Zoom meeting)

Questions from the chat room during the Saturday meeting

Daniel's answers are in red.

1. Question - What if I do not get a copy of my emails after I request one?

Please pass on your email to Kelly, who will pass on a list to Daniel. He'll take everyone's entries to get a total.

2. Question - Once you sign up, does anybody contact you to say you're ok or do you just assume and go to their site to start the work?

You can begin Step 2 immediately and do not need anything else from CP in order to get started.

3. Question – There was one article on research that mail in balloting will favor republicans. What is your response to this? I realize it was only one.

First, there is no strong evidence to suggest or reinforce a correlation between voting by mail and an increased advantage for either party. We believe that anyone can make the argument for either party being helped by mail in voting this November. As older and more conversation populations with more risk due to COVID should have greater incentive to take up voting by mail, it is also true that voting by mail helps reduce some of the socio-economic and cultural barriers faced by populations who may have more reason to vote progressive. I look forward to seeing how data can prove a relationship after 2020, but we're simply not there yet.

Second, although Common Purpose may have a track record of coordinating with more progressive organizations and campaigns, we maintain a strong commitment to the non-partisan nature of increasing access to the ballot. Our mission is to ensure that everyone can equally participate in our democracy, for when this occurs, we have more realistic and equitable representation at every level of government. We firmly believe that when more people have the right to vote, our ideals will follow, and we're not in the mindset of restricting an opportunity because it may pose an advantage to Republicans. We like to view this as an opportunity to help make right the decades of voter suppression that marginalized people across this country continue to endure.

continued, Daniel Kaseberg

4. Question – This may be far afield but how do the homeless vote?

This is an incredibly thoughtful question and one that requires a highly specialized answer depending on the municipality in question. Unsheltered people do have options for voting across America. I encourage you to read this material:

<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/special-circumstances/voting-and-homelessness/>

5. Question – How does an email, tweet, or phone call from outside their constituency help move them (states) to vote by mail?

At large it creates a sense of political pressure. Many elected officials offices accept public comment outside of their constituency and many offices do not screen calls and emails. We believe the sum total of these efforts over time will create a sustained political pressure and signal that the issue demands priority legislation. At the same time, we encourage you to mobilize your networks in the states in question.

6. Question – How have you been able to reach out to young voters and get them involved in CP including yourself?

CP has multiple programs, including CPNXT which targets millennial and Gen-Z voters. You can learn more about our programming and our commitment to educating and mobilizing America's next generation of citizens, leaders, and voters by visiting: <https://cpnxt.org/>

7. Question – Is Florida really a battleground state?

Yes, Florida is really a battleground state. Cook Political Report rates Florida a "toss up" for the presidential election. Joe Biden's success in Florida's presidential primary signals wide moderate support.

<https://cookpolitical.com/analysis/national/national-politics/latest-cook-political-report-electoral-college-map?>

continued, Daniel Kaseberg

8. Question – Will you please send out an email with states we longer need to contact, or just the ones to focus on?

Yes, we will send out emails with which states to focus on. Those emails come out weekly on Friday from daniel@cpnow.org

9. Question – Is Texas really a battleground state?

Texas may not be what you would consider a traditionally battleground state, although it is incredibly important at the national level. Harris County, Texas's largest county, has a higher population than 24 U.S. states. With all 150 state legislature seats open, multiple important U.S. House races, unpopular U.S. Senator John Cornyn seeking re-election, Texas is significant across the board. Texas will be reliably blue in every election after 2020 for a variety of reasons, but particularly it's upcoming flip to a "majority-minority" state. Cook Political Report rates Texas as "Lean-R".

<https://cookpolitical.com/analysis/national/national-politics/latest-cook-political-report-electoral-college-map?>

10. Question – Typically I am asked where I am calling from when calling in to legislators in our state. How are volunteers viewed by out of state legislators when Common Purpose volunteers call them from WA state?

Please see answer from question 5.

11. Question – I believe the states to focus on include Oklahoma, Kentucky, North Carolina, Kansas, Texas, and Maine. Will you please confirm this?

That is correct.

12. Question – Why aren't you using hashtag #VoteByMail on the twitter script?

We will incorporate that. Thank you.

continued, Daniel Kaseberg

13. Question - Are you looking for ideas for how best to accomplish your goals pertaining to voting?

You can feel free to send me an email anytime at daniel@cpnow.org

14. Question – How do we help make sure that all this hard work on vote by mail doesn't get blocked by republicans defunding the post office or infiltrating the post office and "losing ballots" like what happened in Wisconsin?

We are not taking any action on US Postal Service funding at this time, although that is constantly subject to change. We take additional action to outreach voters and absentee ballot chase (we did that in both recent Wisconsin elections). If you're interested and eager to join that work you can check it out at: <https://cpnow.org/nationalfieldwork>

15. Question – Why are you using a pdf? It is very hard to copy and paste from.

That is understandable, we initially tried sharing as Google Sheets document and found PDF worked best. This is of course subject to change and when we find a way to make things more accessible for our volunteers we will immediately implement it.

16. Question – What is CP's stance on ranked choice voting. Will you work on this next?

CP does not have a stance on ranked choice voting at this time.

17. Question – Can you remind us where to sign up for the project we discussed today?

You can get started on our 4 step process at cpnow.org/advocacy

continued, Daniel Kaseberg

18. Question – Will you please provide your contact info for our website?

For programmatic and strategic questions please reach me at daniel@cpnow.org and for technical and administrative questions please use volunteerhelp@cpnow.org

19. Question from Kelly – Is there a way that you can add a line on the sign-up form that indicates the volunteer is part of Olympia Indivisible, such as a box where they add OI so that we can make sure we are counting all of OI members contact work?

This is just one idea if you have a better way I loved to hear about it.

That is a great idea and I will run it by our digital team. Thank you.