



The Why

Healing the Vote is based on a simple fact: when communities vote, they have better health outcomes.

The evidence is clear that the link between voting and health holds at the individual, local, state, and national level. It holds even after accounting for differences in education, ethnicity, income, and race. The evidence is also clear that this link is more than coincidence – it is casual. As a result, the American Medical Association has recognized voting as a social determinant of health, the Association of American Medical Colleges is encouraging applicants to medical school and residencies to participate in voter registration, and healthcare providers are helping register voters in increasing numbers.

The data from those efforts show that healthcare providers are not just trusted but highly effective messengers, helping turnout voters at significantly higher rates than traditional forms of outreach. At a time when trust is fraying, such efforts are vital to building healthier, more inclusive communities.

The What

Enter Healing the Vote – a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative to inspire the next generation of healthcare providers to create healthier, more inclusive communities through civic engagement.

The How

Healing the Vote will recruit, train, and mobilize over 100 future healthcare providers from over 10 campuses across New Jersey to serve as trusted, nonpartisan messengers and help over 5,000 of their friends, families, and neighbors to vote by November 7, 2023. As part of our training, we will give them the support and resources to do this work with ease.

The History

Healing the Vote is inspired by an earlier effort known as Be Jersey Strong that recruited over 500 volunteers – two-thirds of whom spoke a second language with approximately 50 languages represented between them – to help over 12,000 New Jerseyans connect to coverage. At the time, it represented one of the largest and most diverse effort to connect the uninsured to coverage in the nation. This time, Healing the Vote is partnering with civic health organizations to ensure those same communities are at the table in our democracy.