



For Immediate Release: July 28, 2020

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FRRC Awarded Grant for Voter Mobilization

July 28, 2020 — Today, the [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) (FRRC) announced that it has received a grant of \$1 million from Vote Your Voice, a collaboration between the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. The grant will further FRRC’s efforts to register, educate and mobilize voters of color in Florida, particularly in the most heavily incarcerated areas across 35 counties.

“We are fully committed to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions,” said Desmond Meade, Executive Director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. “This is a pivotal moment, and all voices must be heard. We are honored to have been recognized for the work we do, and we greatly appreciate the support of Vote Your Voice.”

The Vote Your Voice initiative has pledged up to \$30 million to support nonpartisan, nonprofit voter registration, education and mobilization efforts through 2022 in five southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi. The program builds on the SPLC’s ongoing voting rights work to enable every citizen in the Deep South the opportunity to have their voice heard at the ballot box. The goal is to reach constituencies that historically and currently face barriers to voting, focusing on returning citizens, those who have been purged from voter rolls and infrequent voters of color.

“We are filled with hope when we see the high impact work on the ground of FRRC,” said Southern Poverty Law Center President and Chief Executive Officer Margaret Huang. “Our goal is to combat the resurgence of state-sponsored voter suppression that is especially targeting communities of color. We must end tactics that include blocking rights restoration efforts, eliminating polling places, scaling back early voting, instituting onerous voter ID laws, and limiting access to voting by mail and other measures. By supporting this vital work in Florida, we continue to honor the legacy of all of the civil rights leaders who came before us.”

Said Clare S. Richie, public policy specialist with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta: “We are committed to strengthening civic voice for our most precious right as a U.S.



citizen, our right to vote. America is at a point of reckoning and we appreciate the role FRRC is playing, especially to ensure voters of color who have currently and historically faced barriers, to have their voice heard and counted."

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FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety.