



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT

EVERY VOTE MUST COUNT LET'S KEEP THE POWER ON!

DETROIT (August 7, 2018) – The Detroit Branch NAACP has received several complaints regarding power shortages at various polling locations. This has resulted in machines being unable to function properly and individuals not being able to cast their ballots. Polling locations identified in Detroit are McKenzie Middle School, Zion Chapel, Woodbridge Elementary, Gompers Elementary, and Lasky Recreation Center. We have also received reports from the city of Dearborn regarding Nowlin Elementary and Howard Elementary schools.

This is unacceptable and must not create further apathy among the citizens in their effort to exercise their voting rights. This situation further demonstrates the need not only for updated machinery and technology, but to maintain as an alternative updated and available paper ballots. The assurance of a paper ballot in circumstances like this can help re-affirm to the voter that their vote will be counted. When one considers the challenge in getting people to the polls, there must not be any obstacle, stumbling block, or barrier that will prevent their access to the ballot.

We have also had complaints about a failure in communication to voters of polling location changes. We are aware that notification has been provided to some voters but there are others who were not notified until today. In the effort to notify voters of location changes one method may be the issuance of a new voter registration card. This card could help identify to each citizen their precinct and polling location, in preparation for upcoming elections.

We urge everyone to remain in line and remember as long as you are in line at 8:00 p.m. you have the right to vote. If there are any further issues regarding voting and access to the polls, please call the Detroit Branch NAACP Voter Protection Hotline at (313) 664-2424 or the branch at (313)871-2087.

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