

SOME FACTS ABOUT
NON-PARTISAN CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT ON
LONG ISLAND:

All findings are based on
Long Island Civic Engagement
Table (LICET) data.

- Voter registration rates have historically been lower in communities of color, especially in Latino communities. But civic engagement efforts seem to be working: Since 2012, LICET has submitted more than 15,000 completed voter registration forms.
- Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and voter education efforts across Long Island have been steadily increasing in the last few years. Through its GOTV efforts in the most recent election cycles, LICET contacted 50,000 voters in 2014 and 20,000 in 2015. Since its initial GOTV effort in 2011, LICET continues to increase participation of voters in immigrant and communities of color each year.
- For the 2015 election season, LICET conducted a GOTV experiment with 20,000 voters in Suffolk and Nassau counties. This experiment revealed a statistically significant increase of 1.3% in turnout relative to a control group of voters whom LICET did not contact.
- In April 2016, LICET ran a successful GOTV canvass during the presidential primaries and special elections for state legislative positions among 4,400 infrequent and moderately frequent voters of color and immigrant voters. LICET secured over 1,600 commitments to vote from this group, much higher than average for an April primary and special election in these communities.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM:

CREATING A CULTURE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN WORKING-CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS OF COLOR

Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and nonpolitical processes.

A morally and civically responsible individual recognizes himself or herself as a member of a larger social fabric and therefore considers social problems to be at least partly his or her own; such an individual is willing to see the moral and civic dimensions of issues, to make and justify informed moral and civic judgments, and to take action when appropriate.

— Thomas Ehrlich

Civic Responsibility and Higher Education

IN ANY DEMOCRACY nonpartisan voter engagement is a vital component of civic life and a fundamental way the electorate makes its voice heard. The voting population empowers itself by becoming educated about issues and candidates, developing leaders and grooming possible future candidates, and, for immigrants, becoming U.S. citizens in order to become fully engaged members of the electorate.

The Hagedorn Foundation supports work in Nassau and Suffolk counties that builds a non-partisan culture of civic engagement in disenfranchised and under-represented communities. The goal of the program is twofold:

- to educate and mobilize disengaged voters across Long Island;
- to ensure that the individuals who live in working-class communities of color are more fully represented in local elected offices.

In 2011, the Hagedorn Foundation formed the Long Island Civic Engagement Table (LICET), a coalition of organizations working to advance social and economic justice by transforming the culture of civic participation and government accountability on Long Island. LICET encourages civic engagement by:

- increasing electoral participation in disenfranchised communities;
- nurturing grassroots leadership in working-class communities of color;
- engaging Long Island residents in community organizing campaigns to advance issues related to social and economic justice;
- coordinating and promoting naturalization for eligible legal permanent residents.

LICET partners with many community organizations and offers groups across Long Island the opportunity to participate in trainings, including leadership training, electoral organizing training, and training about rules for nonpartisan advocacy and voter engagement work.



Members of LICET organizations and other volunteers call residents to encourage them to vote on Election Day.



Community members participate in a LICET training in Brentwood.

Since 2010, the Hagedorn Foundation has granted \$3.9 million to organizations working to create a stronger culture of civic participation on Long Island. Grantees working toward this goal include:

Alliance for Justice: Provides training to nonprofit organizations on the rules governing non-partisan advocacy and electoral work.

Center for Popular Democracy: Partners with LICET to help build the capacity of local organizations for electoral organizing.

Long Island Civic Engagement Table (LICET), comprising core organizations including CARECEN, Make the Road New York (fiscal agent), and New York Communities for Change: Engages in movement building and electoral and community organizing in working-class communities of color and immigrant communities in Suffolk and Nassau counties.