

Look Ahead America's Georgia Initiative: Patriotic Souls to the Polls

Patriotic Souls to the Polls (PSP) is a project led by Look Ahead America to encourage patriotic religious leaders in the state's rural and blue collar areas to lead their followers to vote on the two Sundays preceding a General Election.

Currently, progressive churches in more urban areas dominate Sunday voting (typically referred to as 'Souls to the Polls'). This is for two reasons:

- 1. The ability to vote on Sundays in these counties because election offices are open.
- 2. A culture of progressive pastors leading their voters to the polling places.

Currently, approximately 149 counties in rural areas of Georgia are not committed to allowing Sunday voting in 2022, while 10 counties, primarily in more urban or progressive parts of the state, will have Sunday voting.

Look Ahead America believes that the lack of the ability to vote on Sundays and the absence of a culture among patriotic churches disenfranchises patriotic Americans of rural and blue collar background, and it is our mission fix it.

We will begin the PSP project in July of 2021 through the following initiatives:

Grasstops Network Building. We will build a community of religious and civic leaders at the local and state level who are supportive of this project to work together to change the laws and the culture to make Sunday voting in the more rural counties available and habitual.

County Commission Engagement. We will use our grassroot activist army (currently 88 volunteers in Georgia and growing) to educate county commissioners where Sunday voting is not currently permitted and encourage them to require the county's Board of Elections to make it available.

Religious Leader Education. We will reach out to pastors, rabbis, priests, and other religious leaders across to educate them on the importance of leading their followers to vote.

State Legislature Outreach. The state legislature could help with this initiative in two ways. First, they could require voting on Sundays just as they required voting on Saturday in the last voter reform bill. Alternatively, they could setup a grant for poorer counties to help cover the cost of opening their election offices on Sundays.

To help with our effort, please reach out to LAA's Georgia Director, Caroline Craze, at 470.647.9550 or at <u>caroline.craze@lookaheadamerica.org</u>.