

Main Street

Project

Focusing on the Future of Rural America

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The Main Street Project Issues Rural Civic Engagement Survey *Survey Designed to Assess Needs During Upcoming Elections*

MINNEAPOLIS—The Main Street Project today announced the results of their regional rural civic engagement survey in preparation for the upcoming 2008 Presidential elections.

The Main Street Project, a grassroots initiative designed to increase political participation in rural areas, created the survey as a way to learn what organizations are planning to do to draw rural voters, and where they needed support for their efforts. The surveys were sent to a variety of organizations that work with communities of color in Minnesota and Iowa.

Among the respondents, the majority, 87.5 percent, indicated plans for voter education in an effort to drive people to the polls, with 75 percent using voter registration to encourage their membership. Assistance was requested with training and specific strategies for mobilizing rural voters--something that voter outreach coordinators said is both exciting and crucial to their efforts.

“The responses are very exciting and indicate that since the 2004 elections, rural organizations have continued to stay involved in civic engagement activities and remain committed to a strong voter turn out in their communities,” said Amalia Anderson, Project Director, The Main Street Project. “Additionally, it’s exciting to see so many organizations ready for Spanish language trainings and materials as well as working with the Latino community. Our civic engagement program is committed to culturally competent community building in all communities and to see this level of interest is exciting.”

For copies of the survey questions, please click the link below

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rVEsDLA0ucE3auPikS4wyw_3d_3d

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Main Street Project is a grassroots public policy and cultural organizing initiative that works to document the economic challenges facing people in rural communities, give voice to their hopes and aspirations, and the tools to create change. Main Street Project works with individuals, agencies and community-based organizations to support innovative approaches to community organizing, rural economic policy, sustainable development and capacity building. Through education, training, and cultural organizing, we help rural constituents develop non-partisan, civic-engagement strategies and to build and sustain community-based leadership.