

VIDA Projects Fall 2020

Doing civic engagement work in the time of Covid-19 is very different, but we think it can be great for keeping you having a sense of connection and purpose in these hard times. Some of the projects below are straightforward. Some ask you to show up and distribute food or provide other forms of direct assistance. The advocacy and campaign projects all have virtual options, such as phone banking, letter writing, and attending virtual advocacy meetings. Others will require you to use a bit more initiative and take some leadership to make a project happen. We hope that you are able to find the right project for your interests. VIDA office staff will be around to guide you on how to do your project if you decide to do something that requires more leadership and initiative than you are used to exercising. You might want to do a project at a team with some classmates so you can have someone to talk it through with.

The pages below are organized into the following categories:

Advocacy and Organizing

Election Work: a) Getting People to Vote and b) Campaign Work

Direct Services

On-Line service

Advocacy and Organizing:

HEFAS is an educational student resource center and program that provides educational resources, reduces financial stress, and creates a safe learning environment for all students with an emphasis on undocumented/ AB-540 information. HEFAS is dedicated to helping students build their leadership skills, promote social change and advocate for higher education! Our vision is to provide students, parents, educators, and staff the tools to empower students regardless of their status and the barriers that may exist. --

Volunteers will: help support some of the online services HEFAS will continue to provide for the immigrant community.

Contact: ab540hefas@gmail.com deanza.edu/vida/hefas

De Anza Renters' Rights

Join a movement to fight back against skyrocketing rents, unjust evictions and displacement of tenants! Housing is a human right! Participants will attend meetings and join some of the most influential non-profits in San Jose in spreading awareness, gathering votes and convincing city council members to approve measures to stabilize rents in San Jose and make the Silicon Valley affordable to live in.

Volunteers will: Canvass and petition, attend housing related meetings, meet with council members, come out to rallies, participate in workshops and much more!

Contact: darentersrights@gmail.com

Students for Environment and Equity at De Anza (SEED)

SEED aims to help transform De Anza and the surrounding area's policies and laws in order to ensure that clean air, land, water, and food are accessible to all inhabitants in our community. We intend to do this by educating and growing sustainability/ eco-friendly awareness on campus by hosting workshops and working to amend current De Anza practices to minimize the environmental impact of our students. We believe that the time to act is now, to ensure not only the success of current students but for the success of future students to come.

Volunteers will: Help advocate for environmental policies to take place at De Anza and the surrounding area by promoting petitions, making classroom announcements, network with local environmental leaders, attending weekly meetings and any SEED endorsed events such as marches and protests. Volunteers at any level of expertise and majors are welcomed and encouraged to participate

Contact

environmentaljusticeDASEED@gmail.com

SIREN is the largest immigrant rights organization in Silicon Valley, they service the community through 3 different components: 1. Legal Services 2. Policy Advocacy 3. Community Organizing. Ideal volunteers should have a strong interest in learning about immigration law, immigrant rights, and policy. Position could involve working with local elected officials on strengthening protection policies for immigrants in Santa Clara County.

Volunteers will: Help with outreach and citizenship/DACA free workshops and more! Great opportunity for immigrant students, or children of immigrants. Spanish or Vietnamese language preferred but not required.

Contact: jeremy@siren-bayarea.org

De Anza Racial Justice Group

Details to come

Find a Cause

Find a cause you care about and research who is doing what on that cause, and find a way to help. You can spread the word through social media, do fundraising through your networks, reach out to

politicians, and asking friends and classmates to do the same. You can work with the VIDA office via Zoom for support and to have your hours verified.

Contact: kaufmancynthia@deanza.edu

Work on a Policy

Find a policy goal that you care about and then do a political campaign. There is so much in the world that is in flux right now and governments are doing a lot. It is actually a great time to advocate for things related to Covid 19: an end to evictions, paid time off, unemployment insurance, investment in a Green New Deal, better health care, unemployment benefits for undocumented people, access to health care for undocumented people, releasing people from immigration detention camps, moratoriums on foreclosures or turning off water and utilities, etc.

Here is some general advice for doing a political campaign (but VIDA can help via Zoom!):

1. Find a goal that your thing is achievable, like helping to pass some sort of a bill that a larger group is already working on.
2. Do research to find out what others are doing on the issues and to learn about the issue.
3. Pick a target, someone who has influence over the thing you are trying to impact who you think might listen to you. Politicians are always the most responsive to the people they represent. See list of elected officials below.
4. Develop arguments to influence that politician.
5. Get others to also contact them with that message. You can get others via your social media networks, asking students in other classes, doing an online petition, writing a letter to the editor of a paper and more!
6. For help developing a strategy you can use Leading Change Chart at <http://www.deanza.edu/vida/LeadingChangeChart.png>

Contact: kaufmancynthia@deanza.edu

Election Work:

Up to November 3rd, there are MANY ways to get involved with elections. VIDA posts election engagement opportunities as they are given to us. Having them listed does NOT imply an endorsement from VIDA.

Getting People to Vote and Protecting Democracy

Public Policy School/Voter Registration Drive

VIDA and the Political Science Department created the Public Policy School (PPS) to teach students about the policymaking process, to train them in public advocacy, and to empower them to advance community interests. Under the supervision of political science professors, students put their public policy advocacy skills to work at the local, state, and federal level. PPS interns are committed to engaging in the nitty-gritty of the policy-making process, which includes research, policy analysis, meeting with legislators and staff, and building coalitions of support for policy ideas.

In Fall 2020, PPS will focus on voter registration and voter education. We're looking for volunteers to help us raise awareness of the issues and candidates, and to tap into people's political power! We'd love your help!

Contact: PPS intern Ananya Bapat, ananya.p.bapat@gmail.com

Protect the Vote (<https://protectthevote.net/>) "If you agree that every eligible voter deserves to have their voice count, you can take action from home or in person by serving as a nonpartisan Election Protection volunteer."

Reclaim Our Vote (<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup>)

Ongoing voter suppression and voter list purging have been disenfranchising millions of eligible voters -- especially voters of color. Reclaim Our Vote works in those voter suppression states. Our volunteers inform and mobilize voters of color to make sure they are registered and they know how to get a ballot and vote. It is a nonpartisan campaign of the nonprofit 501(c)3 Center for Common Ground.

Vote Forward (<https://votefwd.org/>)

Sending a Vote Forward letter is one of the easiest things you can do to increase turnout. It takes two minutes and one stamp, and meaningfully increases the odds that the recipient will vote. A concrete action you can take, no matter where you live, to get unlikely-to-vote fellow citizens to the polls.

Power the Polls (<https://powerthepolls.org>) "is a first-of-its-kind initiative to recruit poll workers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters."

Choose Democracy (<https://choosedemocracy.us>) is "helping regular people all across the country get ready to take to the streets if it becomes necessary after the November election. We're collecting lessons from people who have stopped coups, tactical advice, and distributing handbooks and materials to prepare people."

Campaign Work:

Faculty Association Political Action Committee (FA PAC):

Join with the FA PAC student interns and other members of the FHDA community to fight for community college students, staff, and faculty. The FA PAC is the political arm of the faculty union (the Foothill-De Anza Faculty Association), an independent labor union representing full- and part-time district faculty.

Since 2012, FA PAC interns have fought for, and won, increases in the minimum wage, massive increases in funding for community colleges, and strong political representation in our state legislature, and policies and funding for affordable housing. Interns have organized training workshops and advocacy trips involving hundreds of students, have participated in legislative lobbying and other grassroots political advocacy work, and have achieved substantial gains for community college students by participating in electoral campaigns.

In Fall 2020, the FA PAC will do voter registration, education, and mobilization for critical ballot measures (including 15 and 16) and candidates supportive of community college funding and democratic control centered on real student and faculty/staff needs. Join us! We would love your help!

Contact: FAPAC intern contact: Jeffrey Kaspro, fapacintern.kaspro@gmail.com, (650) 919-4829
Volunteer sign up: [FA PAC Volunteer Form Fall 2020](#)

Jake Tonkel for San Jose City Council District 5

Contact: <https://jake4d6.com/meet-jake/>

Sierra Club (through their electoral arm: <https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/>) offers textbanking, phonebanking, and letter-writing to swing state voters, and is one great way to elect Democrats while building political power for the climate justice movement.

Flip the West

FTW works with organizations in conservative states to involve volunteers from liberal states to flip the senate

Contact: flipthewest.com

Trump Campaign:

Contact: <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Republican State Leadership Committee:

Contact: <https://rslc.gop/>

Next Gen America (<https://nextgenamerica.org/volunteer/>) lets you sign up to text swing state youth voters – sign up for one or more set time slots.

Direct Services:

Sacred Heart Community Service brings our community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley. Through a comprehensive array of community organizing committees, mutual support programs, and resources, the SHCS community is working together to improve our lives. Our vision is a community united to ensure that every child and adult is free from poverty.

They are taking in volunteers to work with the food pantry, distributing food and clothes throughout the community as well as financial assistance to help families impacted by COVID-19. Their volunteer hours are Monday-Thursday from 9am to 4pm.

Contact: <https://sacredheartcs.org/volunteer/>

South Bay Mutual Aid is a coalition of community organizations (Serve the People San José, Silicon Valley DSA, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Anakbayan, Rapid Response Network, South Bay Community Land Trust), students, workers, and community members organizing a mutual aid fund.

They are coordinating food and supply drop offs to people's front doors during the COVID-19 quarantine. Please use this form if you would like to make deliveries or donations.

They are prioritizing folks who are sick, disabled, quarantined without pay, elderly, undocumented, queer, Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color -- including those displaced from the South Bay in near by areas.

Contact: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VDRra0HatJM8jjQ6GpmO4dHgQCkPG6M7I-zg27xhVYg/viewform?edit_requested=true

Opening Doors 2020 is now accepting volunteers to assist with our temporary outdoor meal program during the COVID 19 crisis. Only (1) hr of service required. Help keep the food safety network open for our most vulnerable population in the St.James Park Corridor.

They are also accepting donations of masks, water, juice, hand sanitizer, lysol, vinyl gloves, sanitizing wipes, paper towels.

Contact: info@od2020.com <https://www.od2020.com>

Online Service

Zooniverse is a research focused platform. Volunteers can pick from a variety of projects focused on different topics such as arts, climate, history, medicine and so on. Working alongside professional researchers, volunteers will create new discoveries, datasets useful for wider research, and publications.

Website: <https://www.zooniverse.org/get-involved>

Contact: contact@zooniverse.org

Voces: While staying at home, you can volunteer for Voces. Voces has recorded over 1,270 interviews of oral history. Volunteers watch interviews on YouTube and help clean up the transcripts. Voces will provide you with unedited transcripts in a Word document and you will email back an edited transcript with timestamps.

What you need :

1. Do you have broadband access to watch the YouTube interview?
2. Do you have Microsoft Word or another text-editing program to edit the transcript?

Not necessary but Voces would like to know:

1. Do you use Google Form? (another way if editing the transcript)
2. Can you read/edit Spanish?

If you're interested in volunteering, email Voces your answers to those four questions at voces@utexas.edu

Further suggestions for on-line community service:

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/articles/9-places-to-volunteer-online-and-make-a-real-impact>

Finding Your Elected Officials

How to find and contact your San Jose council members and mayor:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/city-council>

If you live outside of San Jose do an internet search on your city council. For example a search on "Cupertino city council" turned up this link: <https://www.cupertino.org/our-city/city-council/city-council-members>

How to find and contact your state representatives:

<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/>

How to find and contact your federal representatives, senators and the president:

<https://whoismyrepresentative.com/>

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm or also

<https://democracy.io/#!/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>