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How Will The Next Mayor End Homelessness?

Vote For Homes Coalition To Hold Forum and Release Voter Guide on Housing, Jobs, and Services

[PHILADELPHIA] How will the next Mayor address Philadelphia's 27 percent poverty rate - the highest of the ten largest cities in America, and the unacceptable numbers of those experiencing homelessness and hunger that plagues our city?

Come find out at the Vote For Homes Real Solutions to Hunger and Homelessness Mayoral Candidates Forum on Thursday, May 7, 6:30-

8:30 pm at Broad Street Ministry (on Broad between Spruce and Pine Streets).

This Forum will be moderated by Cherri Gregg of KYW Newsradio and will include questions developed by advocates, homeless and formerly homeless individuals, and ex-offenders. Anticipated attendees will be 500 housing and service providers, shelter consumers, mental health and recovery program participants, advocates, and allies. Most candidates are expected to attend or will be represented.

Both the Vote For Homes Candidates Forum and the newly-released Vote For Homes Voter Guide are part of a strategy to ensure that candidates recognize that homelessness, affordable housing shortages, and food insecurity are critical obstacles for ensuring a better future for all Philadelphians. Vote For Homes will hold the next Mayor accountable for implementing real solutions based on his or her responses in the Voter Guide and at the Forum.

While issues of homelessness and poverty have barely been raised in the election campaign, they are the focus of this printed Voter Guide, currently being distributed throughout shelters and affordable housing programs and available online at www.voteforhomes.org. The Voter Guide features responses by mayoral candidates about how they will prevent and end homelessness.

There are approximately 990,000 potential voters in Philadelphia, more than 250,000 of whom live in poverty, are homeless, or live at the brink of homelessness, while this election will be decided by just a few thousand votes. The Vote For Homes coalition has targeted 120 shelters, soup kitchens, health centers, jails, and probation offices in the City of Philadelphia to ensure that they are educated, addressed, and included in the electoral process. This collective voice will be key to moving the candidates to speak to the 14,000 homeless, the 220,000 uninsured, and the one in 13 unemployed Philadelphians who will be voting on May 19.

The Guide and Forum were produced by the Vote For Homes coalition, a group of 50 organizations interested in issues of housing, jobs, and services for people living on low incomes. The Coalition has registered 16,000 voters and trained 300 volunteers to register and mobilize voters since 1999.

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