

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES HOUSTON

WE MAY HAVE
WON, BUT
OUR WORK IS
FAR FROM
OVER.

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"My generation is constantly asked why we are so political, why we're always angry about some issue or another, but they forget that from the time that we are 4 years old, adults are more willing to teach us how to hide from school shooters better than they are willing to pass sensible gun violence prevention policies.

With the 2020 election, we saw a 700% increase in youth turnout nationwide this year, and we carried our new President-Elect to victory. Never forget it is my generation who will have to live with the repercussions of this election for the rest of our lives. We phone banked, text banked, distributed hundreds of multilingual pamphlets to minority-majority communities, hosted voter education workshops, vote tripled, poll-worked, marched, and rallied to defend our democracy and ensure that we elected a president who would understand the epidemic that is gun violence. But we are not done.

The young people have won, yes, but winning the election was the first step, we have so much work to do to ensure that every single person in America is free and can live without fear. We need leaders who understand the terror of hiding from an active shooter, and how to combat it. We must win the Senate races in Georgia, we must donate to BIPOC organizers on the ground who are the most impacted by election results, and we must remember what is at stake. No 4 year old should have to hide under a desk again."

- KATHLEEN HOANG, E.D.



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTION'S
MESSAGE**

WHAT'S MFOLH BEEN UP TO?



With the presidential election in November, this time of year was especially spooky! Voting is one of the most important civic duties we have as Americans, and for many of us here at March For Our Lives Houston it was our first time going out to the polls. On Friday, October 30th, in an effort to highlight the grave nature of the election and shed light on the effects of inaccurate voter turnout, we hosted a silent vigil, art build, and projected onto city hall the horrors of not voting in this critical election—which will be the culmination of the tireless work of youth activists through the past four years.

VOTER WORKSHOP

As this November's critical election began rolling around, our work at March For Our Lives Houston was all the more important. Especially as a group of youth activists, many of us voting for the first time this fall, being knowledgeable about our community is essential. To provide this much-needed knowledge, on Saturday, October 24th, we hosted our very own Voter Workshop! In our very LAST event before the November Elections, we went over all of the election and voting FAQs, drafted a plan to vote, filled out sample ballots, and equipped everyone (voting age or not!!) with the knowledge to make our votes count!

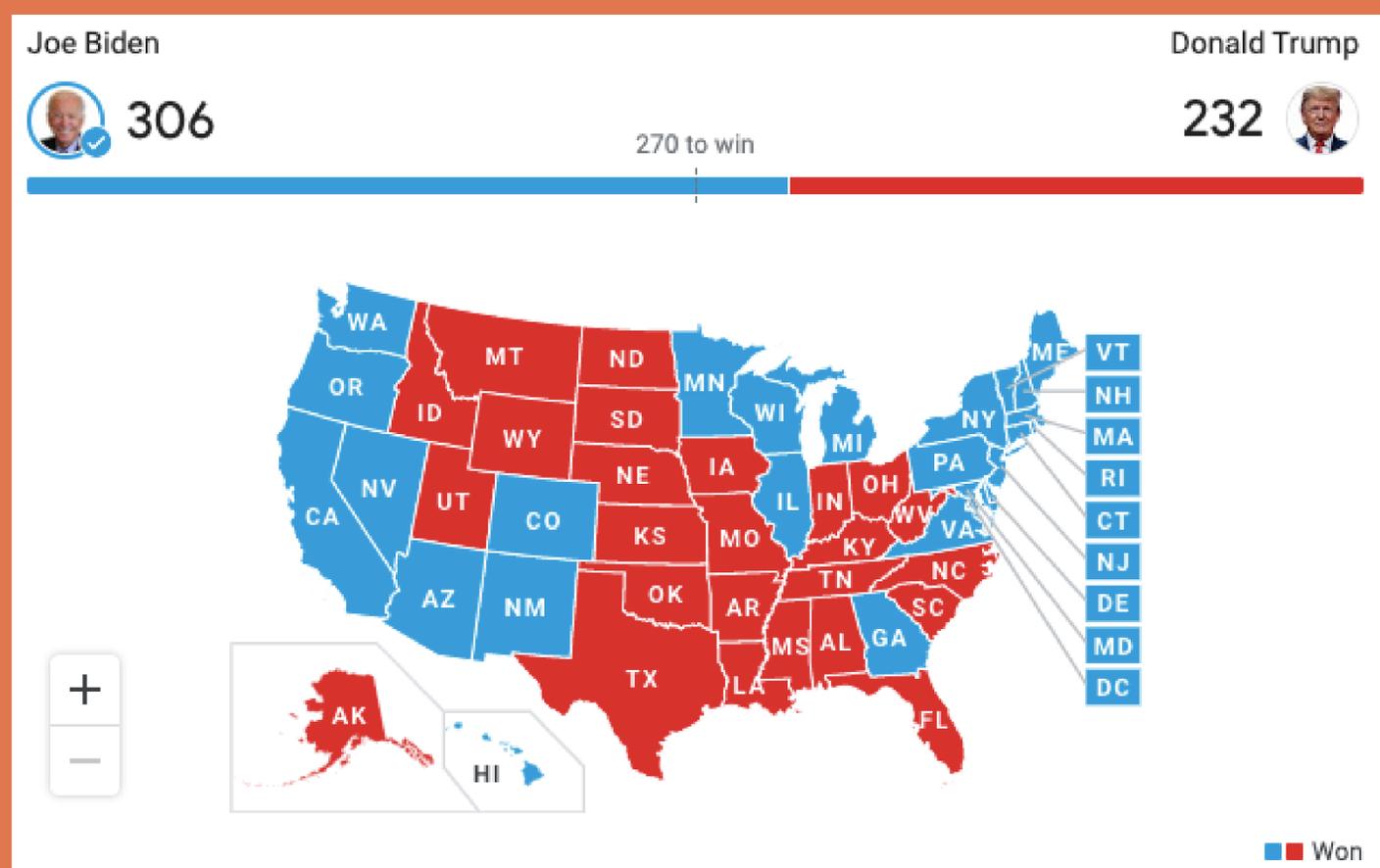
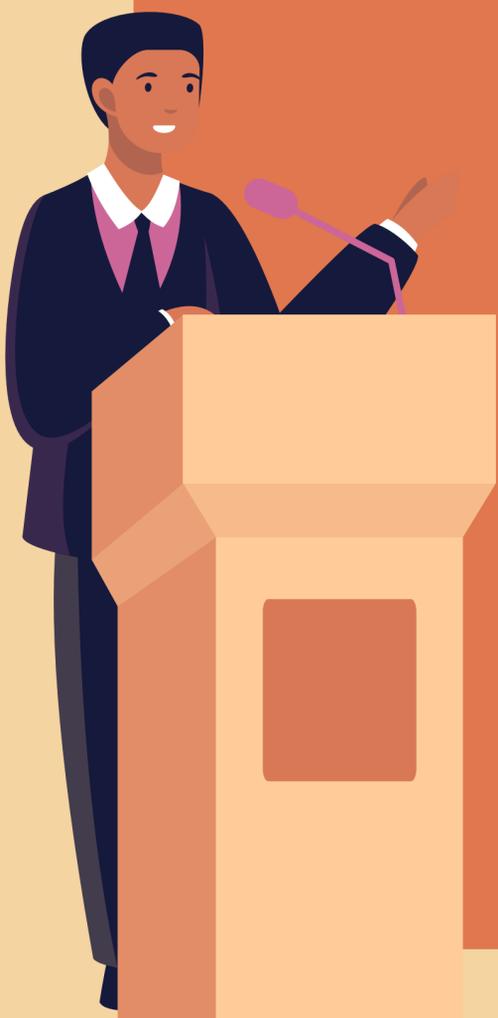
HAUNT THE POLLS



THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL 11.03.2020 ELECTION

On November 3rd, 2020, the United States Presidential Election was held throughout the country with early voting, as well as mail-in voting, leading up weeks before the official election date.

Four days later, on November 7th, 2020, Democratic candidates Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris were announced President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, respectively with Joe Biden acquiring 306 electoral votes and over 80 million votes.



THANKSGIVING & NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY: THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND



Commonly known as "Thanksgiving," November 26, 2020, marked the 400th anniversary of the now-infamous Pilgrims voyage to present-day Massachusetts. The widely known narrative is that Native Americans welcomed the Plymouth Pilgrims to America, taught them how to live in the new lands, and held a feast to celebrate the season's harvest.

Today, Americans learn to use this day to celebrate gratitude and express appreciation for loved ones and the good things in life. However, this account from the European side is extremely misleading, and unlike the stories we hear in school, Natives did not willingly concede to colonialism. For Native Americans, "Thanksgiving" is a reminder of the start of genocide and cultural erasure.

1637 PEQUOT MASSACRE

When Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth in 1620, the Wampanoag leader Ousamequin did reach out to the English at Plymouth to establish an alliance. However, intentions were for protection against tribal rivals. Additionally, while the two groups did share a meal, harvest feasts were already a part of Native traditions; this wasn't something that the Pilgrims "taught" Natives. This alliance became strained in the following years by exploiting resources, slave raiding, land expansion, and the spread of diseases by Europeans.

In 1637, over 700 men, women, and children of the Pequot Tribe had gathered for their annual Green Corn Festival, an annual ceremony to celebrate the beginning of the yearly corn harvest. After celebrations, English and Dutch mercenaries surrounded sleeping Natives and ordered them to come outside. Indigenous people who followed commands were shot or clubbed to death while women and children who sought refuge inside log houses were burned alive. Massachusetts Bay Colony governor John Winthrop declared "A Day Of Thanksgiving" as a day to celebrate their "victory" in battle and slaughter of over 700 Pequot people.

To continue this "winning streak," colonists and Native allies continued to attack and destroy villages, subjecting women and children over 14 to slavery and murdering the rest. Europeans forced captured Natives onto the ports of New England in boats. The massacres and raids continued, and "thanksgiving" feasts were held after each successful attempt. George Washington proposed a single day per year to celebrate a "day of public thanksgiving and prayer." The idea was set in stone once Abraham Lincoln announced Thanksgiving as a national holiday on October 3, 1863.



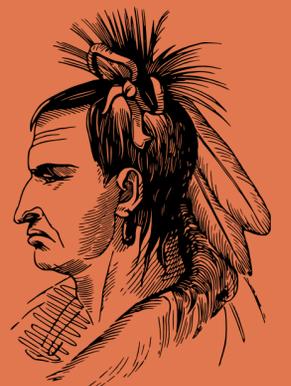
RESOURCES FOR MORE RESEARCH

The extent of Indigenous persecution in the United States during the country's formation expressed in this article is relatively minimal. We hope you use this information as a starting point of research to inform yourself of the erasure of extensive crimes committed against Native Americans.

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered to protest annually on Thanksgiving as a "National Day of Mourning" to bring awareness and reflect on the injustices Native Americans have faced since colonial arrivals. Our responsibility as current-day Americans is to inform ourselves of the tragedies behind this holiday.

As you continue to (safely) gather with your families during the holiday season, here are some works written by or in collaboration with Native and Indigenous people to help guide your continued unlearning of the whitewashed narrative:

- *This Land Is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving* - By: David J. Silverman
- *The First Thanksgiving: Separating Myth From Fact*
By: Ruth Hopkins
- *As A Native American, Here's What I Want My Fellow Americans To Know About Thanksgiving* - By: Corinne Oestreich



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TEXAS HOUSE BILL 1236

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Tragically, the roots of campus shootings are in Texas. The first campus mass shooting in America occurred at a public university in Texas, when a gunman shot and killed 16 people, and injured 31 more from the clocktower at the University of Texas at Austin.

In 2016, Texas became one of 8 states to allow concealed campus carry, allowing the concealed carry of handguns by licensed gun holders on all public colleges and universities, but Texas House Bill 1236 could change that. This bill allows public colleges and universities to prohibit individuals from carrying handguns on 1) campus, 2) at the site of an activity sponsored by the institution, and 3) in a vehicle owned by the institution. Texas House Bill 1236 was introduced by Representative Vicki Goodwin and Representative Rafael Anchia. In March of 2019, the bill was left pending in committee.

Several reputable studies suggest that the increased presence of firearms on campus leads to increased violence. A John Hopkins study found that increasing gun availability in campus environments could make far more common acts of aggression, recklessness or self-harm. A 2016 study by the Citizens Crime Commission in New York City found that between the 2001-2002 and 2015-2016 school years, 437 people were shot in 190 college campus shooting incidents. People with guns on campus are also more likely to shoot themselves or their peers than they are to shoot an assailant in an act of self-defense.

With Texas House Bill 1236, public colleges and universities will have the choice to prohibit concealed carry on campus and make their students safer.

Tell us about yourself. What are your pronouns? How old are you? Where are you from? What else are you involved in?

"Howdy newsletter readers! My name is Mandy (she/her), I'm an 18-year-old Los Angeles kid who moved to Houston during kindergarten. I'm a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin, but I'll be attending school remotely for 2 semesters due to our government's amazing COVID-19 response. To distract me from my anguish, I've recently joined the Houston Youth Climate Strike! Exciting!"

How did you hear about MFOL? When and why did you decide to join?

"I heard about MFOL through Kathleen, one of Houston's executive directors, who I am unfortunate enough to call my friend. During the beginning of quarantine summer, she started bullying me into joining MFOLH. I decided to give in to the peer pressure because I wanted to test out what a completely youth-led org could do without the restrictions of adult administration (answer: we do so much more)."



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



What's your role in MFOLH? What aspects are you involved in?

"As secretary of the creatives committee, I provide support with all of our endeavors, including activism campaigns, audio/video projects, & merchandise creation. I also maintain a stranglehold on the committee's organization, which means writing call agendas, updating project trackers, and my personal favorite, reaching out to members to facilitate their incredible work."

Describe your experience in MFOLH in one word.

"Sexy."

Describe your favorite experience in MFOL.

"When I first joined MFOLH, I was overwhelmed by all the strangers, so my plan was to keep to myself and do my work. However, through the many game nights, office hours, and impromptu 3AM Discord calls that I've joined over the past 6 months, I've found myself genuinely making new friends. And despite my introversion, I can confidently say that I've never had more fun bonding with a community than I have during quarantine, solely because of MFOLH."

Why are you passionate about GVP?

"GVP intersects many aspects of my life that I care about: feminism, disability rights, racial justice, and more. Being a GVP activist means learning about and advocating for so many other causes, because no matter how different my experiences are from my fellow organizers', we are all affected by gun violence."

What's your favorite part about GVP work?

"Since it's mostly run by students, GVP work has an inherently rebellious vibe that I adore. It makes me feel like a baddie, but like, a baddie with a good cause."

What advice do you have for anyone interested in activism?

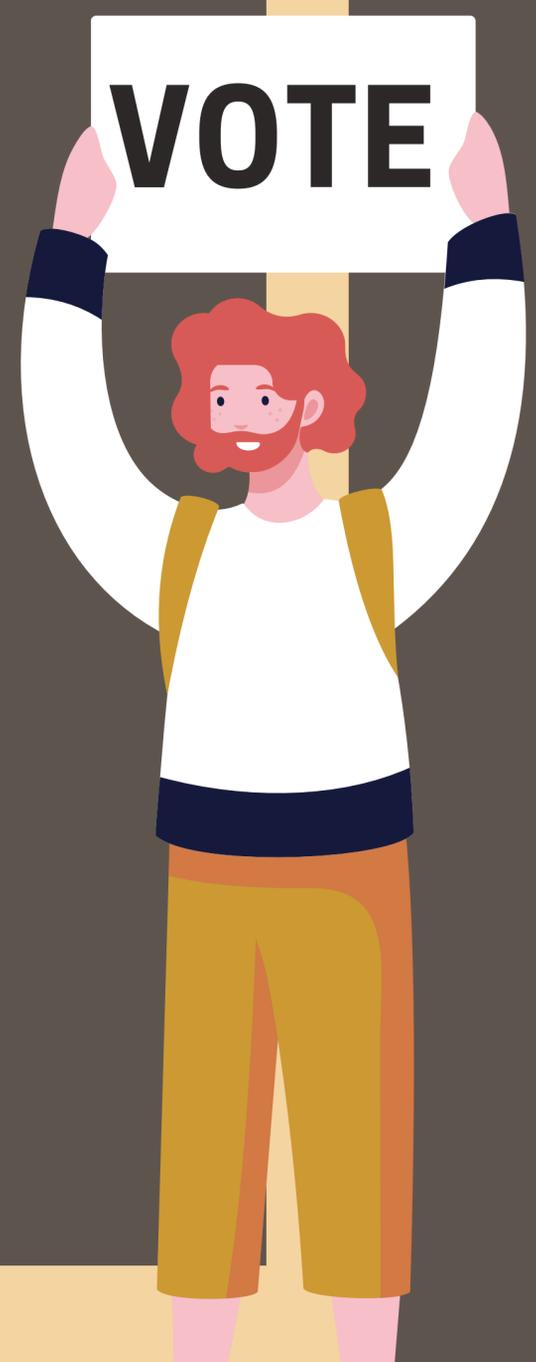
"If you don't know how to get started in activism, or if you're already somewhat involved but aren't sure how to best contribute, please reach out to the organizers in your community. If you don't know any activists, then find a local organization's contact info and email them. You can even DM MFOLH on our social media! We would love to help you. We need you here."



HELP THE GEORGIA RUNOFF RACES!!!

ACTION ITEMS

- **Vote Forward**: Write letters to Georgians to get out the vote
- **The New Georgia Project**: Help support by volunteering or donating to an effort to register and civically engage Georgians
- **Phone Bank** for the Georgia Runoff Race
- **Donate** to the Georgia Runoff Fund, all donations matched 300%
- **Reclaim Our Vote**: Send postcards, call and text Georgian voters



COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to rise as cases surge in our nation. As a member of society, it is our duty to adhere to COVID-19 precautionary measures.



**REMEMBER TO:
REMAIN 6 FT APART
FROM OTHERS AT ALL
TIMES.**

**WEAR A MASK,
ESPECIALLY WHEN
INDOORS.**

**WASH YOUR HANDS
IMMEDIATELY FOR AT
LEAST 20 SECONDS.**

**SOCIALLY ISOLATE
YOURSELF IF YOU HAVE
BEEN EXPOSED TO
COVID.**

TAKE A COVID TEST!

Harris County Public Health reports that as of November 23rd, 2020, there are 183,252 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Houston, with 2,398 of those being deaths.



**WEAR MASKS, SOCIAL
DISTANCE, OR STAY
AT HOME!**

NEW MERCH!



Classic Tee: \$16.99

Premium Tee: \$17.99

Crewneck: \$29.99

Hoodies: \$31.99

100% of the proceeds from the RBG design will be donated to ACLU Georgia, one of the primary organizations doing electoral work for the senate runoffs!

LIMITED EDITION DESIGNS AT DISCOUNTED PRICES UNTIL DEC. 2ND!

CLICK THIS [LINK!](#)

CONTACT US!

Gun violence does not always look the same; this issue includes mass shootings, suicides, domestic abuse, violence on our streets, and more. However, it is important to remember that minority communities are disproportionately affected by this violence. To combat such, it is our duty to fight against the oppression of these communities. For this reason, we not only advocate for gun violence prevention, but also LGBTQ+ rights, the BLM Movement, and others.



**Want to join the fight against gun violence?
Click the link below!**
<https://www.mfolhouston.org/join-us>



For more information, contact our Outreach lead,

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