

UU Civs Annual Report 2020-2021

Submitted by Co-Chair Joanie Parker (joancparker@gmail.com)

UUCivs was founded as **UU Indivisible** in 2017, and played an important role in mobilizing Washtenaw County to pass Proposition 2 and end partisan gerrymandering.

UUCivs was renamed in early 2020 and grew into a team of 54 volunteers to get out the vote in traditionally excluded communities in Washtenaw County and Southeast Michigan, plus in our own UUAA congregation. We worked through partnerships with non-profits including ICPJ, League of Women Voters, ACLU, local food banks, etc.

- UUCivs held over 47 in-person events despite Covid-19 (with precautions).
- UUCivs created and staffed a voting helpline for six months, making sure anyone with a phone could get individualized voting support. That system was also used by the League of Women Voters on their printed materials.
- UUCivs trained activists from other networks on Michigan laws and procedures for voter registration, absentee ballot applications, and support in voting.
- UUCivs co-founded the **Voting Access for All Coalition (VAAC)** to advance voting access for those impacted by the criminal justice system. VAAC is a notable legacy from UUCivs' 2020 effort.

Cumulatively, UUCivs reached over 9000 households between May and November 2020, the majority of which were economically disadvantaged or households of color.

UUCivs fundraised a total of \$18,000, including \$3800 from individual contributors who gave through UUAA, and \$3000 from UUAA's Social Justice Council, plus UUAA provided in-kind support like photocopying and Zoom.

In 2021, UUCivs has refocused on civic education around three key areas: (1) combatting disinformation; (2) constructively engaging with people we disagree with; and (3) supporting voting rights and fair elections in Michigan. UUCivs' work with VAAC also continues as a major part of securing voting rights for those impacted by the criminal justice system.

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