

PIA ELECTS TO HELP PENINSULA RESIDENTS REGISTER THEIR POWER THROUGH VOTING

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In the aftermath of our recent election it may seem that there is little that we can all embrace. Many communities are deeply divided and even people of faith find little common ground. Yet as members of PIA and PICO we have much to celebrate as we reflect on our success in registering new voters and increasing turnout on the November 2nd election day.

Leaders from PIA and our sister PICO organizations who form the PICO California Project recognized voting as a potent tool to expand the power of our local organizations. From August until November 2nd, PIA leaders, and their counterparts throughout California, worked hard to increase voting in communities where voter registration and turn out were historically low. At PIA, we worked to reach new voters in our member congregations. In the city of East Palo Alto, where the least number of people vote, per capita, on the Peninsula, PIA leaders created a supportive process and dispelled pervasive misinformation about voter eligibility. As a result, by November 2nd, more than 100 new voters were registered in East Palo Alto alone. In addition, leaders called over 1,7000 households in East Palo Alto, Redwood City and Mountain View to bolster voter turnout and build support for state proposition 72 which would have provided health insurance for most workers in California.

We can all be proud of our work to increase the power of previously disenfranchised voters and to increase the ability of our local organizations to bring long-term solutions to the problems facing our communities by bringing out those who personally suffer the consequences of local problems to vote for those who will make a positive difference in their lives.