



Jackson to embark on statewide tour

Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to spend 5 days pushing registration, voting

By Tenisha Waldo
The Post and Courier
Saturday, September 8, 2007

Get out the vote

Civil rights activist the Rev. Jesse Jackson, state and community leaders and representatives from the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will be advocating for voter registration at 7 p.m. Sept. 18 at the International Longshoremen's Association Hall, 1142 Morrison Drive.

If you go

To register to vote:

Download voter-registration forms from www.scvotes.org, fill them out and address them to the county voter registration office, or register in person at these election offices:

- Charleston County (4367 Headquarters Road in North Charleston; 744-8683).
- Berkeley County (6 Belt Drive in Moncks Corner; 719-4056).
- Dorchester County (201 Johnston St. in St. George; 563-0187).
- Colleton County (115-A Benson St. in Walterboro; 549-2842).

Who can vote:

To be eligible in South Carolina:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.
- Be a resident of South Carolina, the county and precinct.
- Not be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent.
- Not be in any public prison from a conviction of a crime.
- Have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws or if previously convicted, have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole, or have received a pardon.

Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to spend 5 days pushing registration, voting

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is coming to town soon with the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to advocate for voter registration.

His visit to Charleston on Sept. 18 will be the second-to-last stop on the coalition's Voter Education Tour for Jobs, Peace and Justice, a statewide bus tour Sept. 15-19 that will begin in Spartanburg and wrap up in Aiken.

Jackson will join state and local leaders at 7 p.m. at the International Longshoremen's Association Hall on Morrison Drive in Charleston.

The civil rights activist plans to discuss a variety of issues, including the findings of a recent study that shows minority borrowers here face the greatest risk nationwide of receiving more-expensive mortgage loans than whites.

"It's true all across the state," Jackson said Friday. "Charleston, of course, has the mortgage foreclosure rate that is among the top in the country."

The purpose of the bus tour is to inspire residents to follow pertinent issues and become politically involved by voting. It will stop at a dozen cities across the state, including Greenville, Columbia and Orangeburg.

Charleston City Councilman Wendell Gilliard, who is a co-host for the local event, said he hoped Jackson would help motivate residents to not only register but actually go to the polls in January.

Too much focus has been on the individual presidential candidates, he said, and not enough is done to rally people to vote. "If you don't go out and vote, then what good is it to be registered?" Gilliard asked.

Reach Tenisha Waldo at twaldo@postandcourier.com or 937-5744.

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