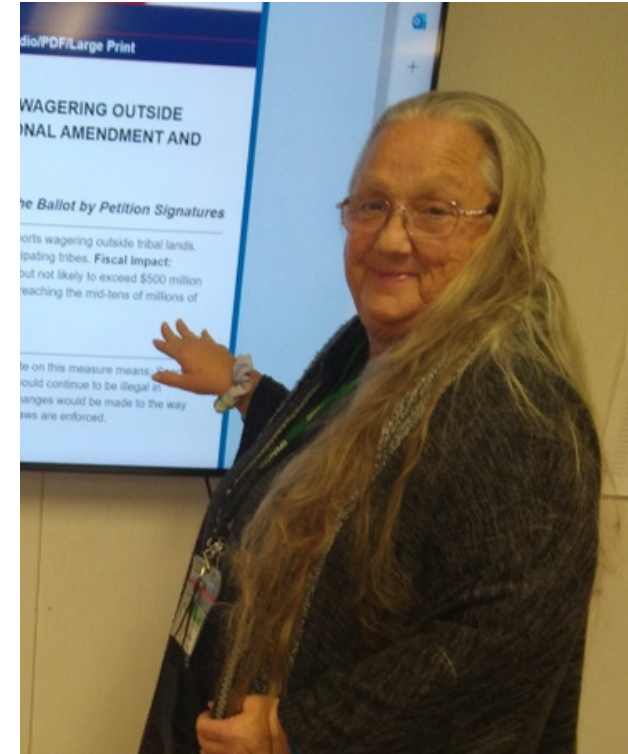


YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

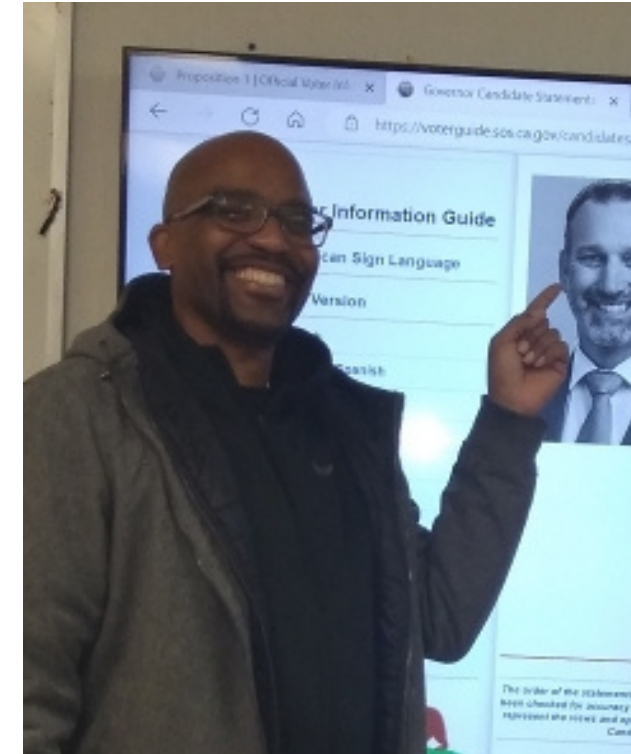
PROBATION HELPS YOUTH VOTE IN MID-TERM ELECTIONS

“A lot of (the youth) when they left the room said, ‘Please tell everybody thank you for this opportunity.’ They wanted to make sure that everybody, from the registrar on down, knew that they were thankful they were given this opportunity, because it’s an experience they will never forget.”

– Carole Macarthur, Senior Community Health Worker



Carole Macarthur, Sr Community Health Worker



SYTF Supervisor Michael Bacon

When the polls open on Election Day, every citizen over the age of 18 can cast a vote. It is a civic duty that defines our nation as a democracy and a right that gives us a say in how the country is run.

As part of the probation department’s annual Voter Registration Drive, eligible youth can vote in our camps and halls. Probation Education Services (PES) register youth throughout the year, then eligible youth may cast their ballot during election season. Once their registrations are submitted, the Registrar-recorder’s office determines which youth are eligible to vote.

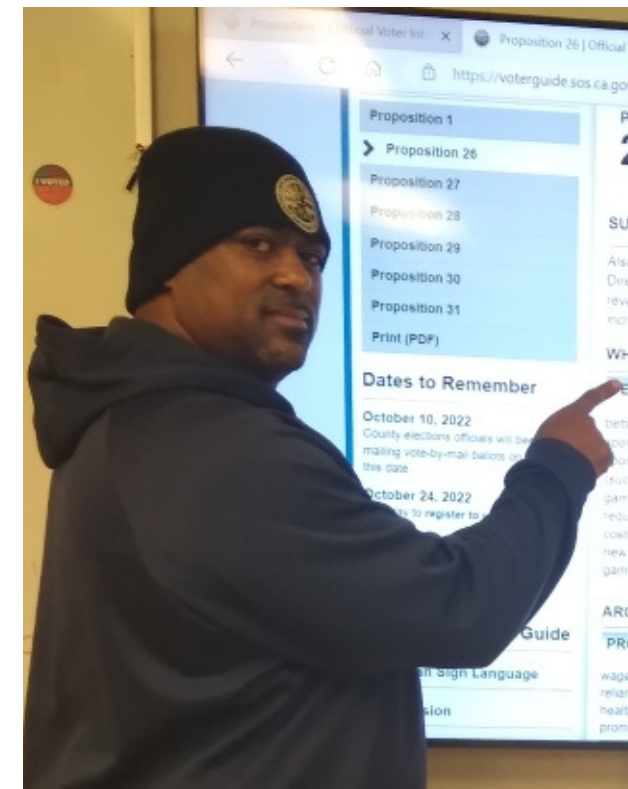
This past election, Probation Education Services assisted 43 youth in casting their ballots. PES staff were available to assist with registration, provide youth with voter guides and ballots, and answer any questions the youth may have.

This year there were several races that were interesting to our youth. “They were really excited about the gambling initiatives and the tax raise on the marijuana growers, and tobacco. Those were the ones they were really highly interested in,” said Senior Community Health Worker Carole Macarthur, who assisted the youth at Barry J. Nidorf juvenile Hall. The LA County sheriff’s race also piqued the interest of the many first-time voters. “They didn’t even know that they could vote for sheriff,” said Ms. Macarthur. “And then one of them didn’t want either candidate, so he put his own name in there!”

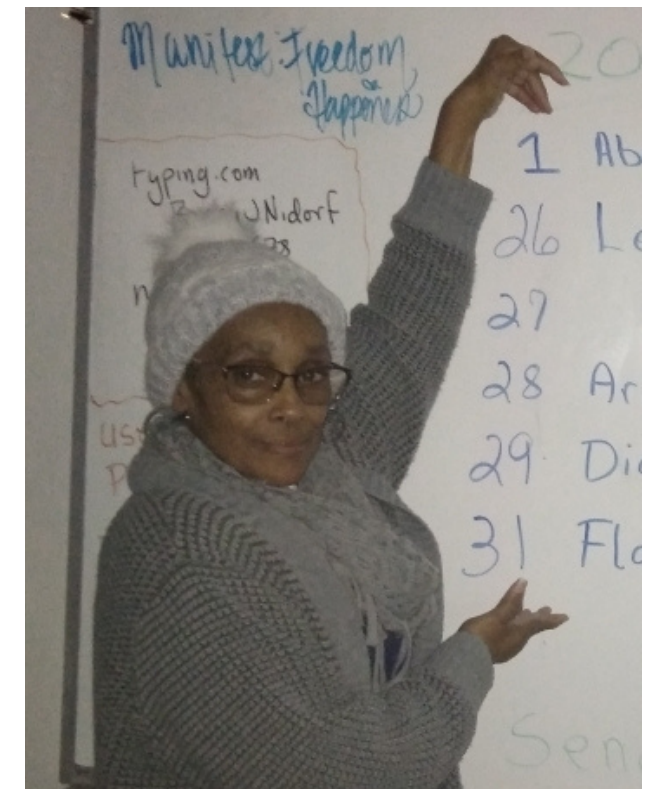
To celebrate the great voter turn-out, Probation Education Services is hosting a post-election discussion/pizza party on December 16th for the 27 Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall youth who participated. Voter turn-out among the other camps and halls youth was also positive with eight youth from Camp Joseph Paige, six from Dorothy Kirby Center, five from Camp Kilpatrick, three from Central Juvenile Hall, and one voter from Camp Afflerbaugh taking part in the election.

Congratulations to the youth who stepped up and participated in the democratic process. Also, thank you to the Probation Education Services staff for overseeing the process and officers from the camps and halls. Informing the youth about their civic duty is an important part of the rehabilitative process.

A special thanks to Supervising Analyst Rahman Williams, who pushed to make this happen, DSO Fields, and DSO Thompson’s support and organizational skills, making sure everyone who registered to vote was escorted to and from the Voting station. Renee Thomas CHW, Melodie Reid CHW and Julia Avila CHW, and the wonderful TEAM Barry J Education Services crew who always come through for their students. Each took their time explaining the Propositions, candidates, and measures to the students. Voting was a big success because of the people mentioned above.



DSO Edward Thompson



Renee Thomas Community Health Worker