

**DECLARATION OF ERIK CREW**

My name is Erik Crew and I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration. Under penalty of perjury, I declare the following:

**Personal Background**

1. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1981, and lived there until I was 18, when I went to college.
2. I received my B.A. in African-American Studies, with distinction, from Yale University in 2004. After graduating, I taught eighth grade math, language arts, science and social studies on the Southside of Chicago through Teach for America. I went on to become a department manager at a Barnes & Noble bookstore in Oakland, California, and then became the Director of Outreach and Education for the People's Grocery in Oakland, which advocates for food justice in urban communities.
3. I returned to Cincinnati in 2007 and worked part-time as a bookkeeper for my father's private practice. I also began volunteering weekly at Our Daily Bread, a kitchen that serves individuals experiencing homelessness and others who cannot afford a meal. The clients we served were predominantly African-American. I also began volunteering at the Ohio Justice & Policy Center.
4. In June 2010, I joined the Ohio Justice & Policy Center full-time to facilitate the ongoing implementation of the *Fussell v. Wilkinson* settlement concerning the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's provision of inmate medical and dental services.
5. I have long had a passion for helping those who are marginalized in our society, including those experiencing homelessness.

**Helping People Vote During Golden Week**

6. In 2008, I became involved in helping people register and vote, especially during Golden Week, the first week of the early voting period when people could register and vote at the same time.
7. One of my motivations to help people to register and vote during Golden Week was to dispel the misinformation that people with a felony record or who have been in the system could not vote. From my experience, I have observed that sometimes people with criminal records experience homelessness, and helping these marginalized people get the right information and to the polls was a big factor in my work during Golden Week.
8. I believed strongly in advocating for the use Golden Week, because from my experience in advocacy and social justice issues, I saw that it could help people who wanted to vote but had not registered, or were uncertain about the registration process.
9. Being able to register and vote at the same time helps people ensure that their vote will be counted, and that they will not run into any problems on Election Day, after the registration deadline has passed.
10. During Golden Week in 2008, I managed a group of volunteers of about 5-10 people. We would typically meet at a café that is close to where I lived and also close to the University of Cincinnati campus.
11. Some people wanted to help the college students – many of whom were first-time voters or had moved to Cincinnati and hadn't yet registered – register and vote during Golden Week.
12. My particular focus was on helping people of lower socioeconomic status vote, especially people experiencing homelessness. I felt like society often writes off people

experiencing homelessness on almost every level, which made it all the more important that they express their voice.

13. I believe that voting is important for those of lower-income backgrounds because while there are many things in life that feel outside of their control, voting and expressing your voice is one of the few and most important things that are in your control.
14. Being able to register and vote at the same time was especially helpful for people experiencing homelessness because of their more transient lifestyle, where their address might change frequently or they may have no address at all. Such individuals need to update their registration frequently.
15. During Golden Week, I would speak go to various organizations that provided direct services for people experiencing homelessness, and speak with the clients about the voting process. I would have a van waiting outside ready to take anyone who wanted to register and vote after my presentation.
16. For example, during Golden Week I went to Our Daily Bread towards the end of one of their meal times, and spoke to about 50-75 people about voting, and told them that even if they weren't registered, they could register and vote at the same time, and that we would be ready to take them to the Board of Elections. About five or six people from Our Daily Bread were taken to the Board of Elections to register and vote. I recall that we went back to Our Daily Bread a number of times during Golden Week, and every time I went, we took people to the Board of Elections to register and vote.
17. I also went to City Gospel Mission, a homeless shelter, and gave the same presentation. About eight people were there, and all of them wanted to be taken to the Board of Elections.

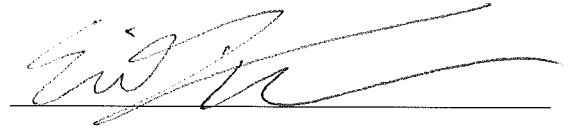
18. I also went to the Drop-Inn Center, another homeless shelter. There were about 20-25 people who were sitting out on the tables that we spoke with, and perhaps three or four came with us to vote.
19. During Golden Week, the registration lines were rather long when compared to the voting lines. Many people took advantage of the opportunity to register and vote at the same time, and many people – mostly African Americans – told me that it was helpful and easy.
20. The people experiencing homelessness that we took to the Board of Elections during Golden Week were predominantly African-American.
21. Without Golden Week, I believe that many people experiencing homelessness will be disenfranchised.

**Other Get-Out-The-Vote Efforts**

22. I also helped people from lower-income backgrounds vote throughout the early voting period. We had a designated pickup location at Avondale, a predominantly lower-income, African-American neighborhood in Cincinnati, and drove people to the Board of Elections at 12pm and at 6pm.
23. We picked the 6pm time slot for people who could not get out of work during the day.
24. I believe that about two to three people on average would show up to be taken to the polls.
25. We also provided transportation on Saturdays, but I recall that there was not as much turnout as we expected on that day.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 15, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Crew', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Erik Crew