



Civic Engagement Boot Camp

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

10-10:05 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Jessica Ruland O'Connor, MPP Program Director, Internships Hobby School of Public Affairs
10:05-10:55 a.m.	League of Women Voters of Houston	Katie Campbell Shumway Executive Director League of Women Voters Houston
11-11:55 a.m.	Community Engagement Programs and Relationship Building	Davis Mendoza Darusman Digital Media Manager Houston in Action
Noon-1 p.m.	Break for Lunch	
1-1:55 p.m.	Why the Youth Vote Matters	Tania Cora Voter Education Coordinator Harris County Clerk's Office
2-3 p.m.	Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar Training	James Lovell Voter Outreach Representative Office of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar

Speakers



Jessica Ruland O'Connor, MPP

Jessica Ruland O'Connor is the director of internship programs at the Hobby School of Public Affairs. She oversees the school's undergraduate internships in Houston, Austin and Washington, D.C., leads civic engagement projects and builds relationships with alumni and community partners. Ruland O'Connor is a two-time University of Houston graduate with a Master of Public Policy degree and an undergraduate degree in political science. She started her public service journey as a Civic Houston Intern in the office of former Houston City Council Member Michael Kubosh and later as a Leland Fellow in the Washington office of former U.S. Rep. Gene Green. Previously, Ruland O'Connor worked in the public policy division at the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP).



Executive Director **Katie Campbell Shumway** has positioned the [League of Women Voters of Houston](#) as the fastest-growing in the country with the addition of full-time staff and investments in digital resources to analyze data and assess electoral impact. The nonpartisan organization provides voters with user-friendly options to build a custom ballot, check the registration status and contact elected officials. New initiatives include digital, audio, and eBook versions of the League's cornerstone publication, the Houston Voters Guide, dedicated youth voter activation programs in high schools and college campuses and a strategic plan to transition first-time voters into lifelong voters.



Tania Cora is a community coordinator with the [Harris County Clerk's Office's Elections Department](#), where she is deeply committed to community engagement and voter education. She organizes events designed to empower youth, women and marginalized communities. Cora's interest in community organizing and government transparency inspired her to earn a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Economics from the University of Houston. She was recently selected for the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Emerging Leaders Institute. She volunteers for the Latin Women's Initiative and as a mentor at the Small Steps Nurturing Center.



Davis Mendoza Darusman (he/him) is the digital media manager for Houston in Action, a coalition of over 70 Houston-area organizations working together to break down systemic barriers to civic participation, build power and create change. Darusman supports member organizations with community organizing, content creation and social media strategies. He has over a decade of experience in multimedia production, public relations, event planning, and print/digital advertising. Darusman is the founder of Houston Unscripted Productions, president of UH LGBTQ+ Alumni Network, a contributor to America's longest-running LGBTQ+ radio show Queer Voices, and creator of the LGBTQ+ reality dating show Panning for Love.



James Lovell is a voter outreach representative for the [office of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar](#). The Houston native's sense of community and early career experience with the Harris County Voter Registration Outreach team drives his commitment to increase voter registration and participation in the electoral process. Lovell promotes and supports civic engagement events and educates audiences throughout the third-largest county in the U.S. on registration and engagement. He is an appointed Deputy Voter Registrar and trainer knowledgeable in Texas election law, allowing eligible Texans to participate in the voter registration process.