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as we launch
our new
wellness
series!

STAY Well AT HOME

with
the**well**project

Every other
Wednesday,
starting April 8
at noon ET

REGISTER HERE: bit.ly/TWPstaywell

Chat Log (Abridged)

- 00:17:36 **Gina Brown:** Hello good people!
- 00:18:47 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** Welcome all!
- 00:19:15 **naina khanna (she/they), Positive Women's Network:** Hey everyone! Great to see you all
- 00:19:32 **Gina Brown:** hello everyone ♡
- 00:19:47 **Bose Olotu:** Good day all greetings from Abuja Nigeria.
- 00:20:03 **Jenna Conley:** Hi everyone! thanks for joining!!
- 00:20:19 **Rhea Van Brocklin:** Greetings from sunny San Diego :)
- 00:20:32 **naina Khanna:** awww nice Rhea! Greetings from rainy seattle
- 00:24:23 **Olivia Ford:** Greetings everyone! :-D
- 00:24:57 **Olivia Ford:** Please definitely set your chat to ALL PANELISTS AND ATTENDEES so *everyone* can read your great insights <3 <3 <3
- 00:24:59 **Rhea Van Brocklin:** Good to hear your voice Ms. Gina!
- 00:25:19 **naina khanna:** We can be in a support group together Gina! #savingdemocracy <3
- 00:26:12 **Gina Brown:** yes, I'm down to 3 hours of sleep a night.
- 00:27:46 **Olivia Ford:** Naina will be talking about why it is SO IMPORTANT to engage in electoral processes!
- 00:27:55 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** We <3 our PWN partners

00:28:12 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: It is time to put everything on the line to save the future of democracy, and our planet, for future generations*

00:28:55 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: PWN has an active, mobilizeable presence in @ 20 states around the US!*

00:30:16 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: When we uplift Black women, trans women, low-income women, women without a lot of formal education, other women at the intersection of multiple oppressions, that is when we get solutions that work for our communities - that is our orientation in this work and in electoral work*

00:31:09 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: PWN's entire policy platform is all on the ballot this year - we are in a fight to preserve rights and dignity for all our people*

00:31:11 **Rhea Van Brocklin:** Hi Olivia, will this webinar be recorded?

00:31:23 **Olivia Ford:** YES! Webinar is being recorded and will be shared!

00:31:35 **Rhea Van Brocklin:** Love it! Thanks.

00:32:36 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: This administration has done countless injustices, attempted to define trans people out of existence, take our health care, continue multiple epidemics/pandemics - HIV, COVID*

00:33:14 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: And we are also in the midst of an uprising that is leading us to conversations around what abolition looks like in this context*

00:34:03 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: We do not have time to put this work off. People are already dying. This administration will have dire consequences to our communities and to human rights for generations. We cannot afford to lose more ground; we have already lost so much.*

00:35:02 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: NOW is the time to look at ourselves and see what we can do to get involved in what is literally the most important election of our lives. Repro rights, Ryan White, all of these are achieved/preserved by changing who is in power*

00:35:48 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: Anything else, we might consider putting on hold for the next 41 days. What happens in the election impacts our ability to do all that other work.*

00:37:27 **Olivia Ford:** *Despite all of this terror, we have had victories - amid uprisings in Minneapolis, city council voted to replace police with a community-led model - that was the result of years of organizing, getting progressive POC on that council - it didn't "just happen," it is a long-term struggle and the uprisings provided a moment in which a shift was possible*

00:38:12 **Olivia Ford:** *In San Francisco, the district attorney ended cash bail - presidency is important but we are not just focused there - down-ballot races and roles impact our lives directly*

00:39:34 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: With the tragic loss of our champion Ruth Bader Ginsburg from the Supreme Court, the importance of Senators and their role in installing justices is top of mind*

00:40:34 **Jenna Conley:** it's so true about how important it is to also focus on what's happening locally!

00:40:43 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: On the ballot in terms of propositions etc - Colorado has an abortion ban on the ballot (Olivia: so does Louisiana ☺)*

00:41:24 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: Philadelphia has multiple questions on the ballot - their "Question 1" could end stop-and-frisk practices that foment racial profiling*

00:41:47 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: the HIV community has POWER to affect elections!*

00:42:28 **Olivia Ford:** *There are 1.1 million PLHIV in the US, connected to institutions - HIV service delivery infrastructure reaches millions in the US - these are people we can reach with election info!*

00:43:06 **Olivia Ford:** *YOUR ONE VOTE MATTERS - in 2000 that mess of a presidential election swung by 537 votes in Florida*

00:43:33 **Olivia Ford:** *That is not a lot of people - all of us here on this call can reach way more than that!*

00:44:20 **The Well Project:** I heard that many elections were tipped by just a couple votes *per jurisdiction*.

00:44:53 **Olivia Ford:** *BUT there are long lines, closed polls due to pandemic - US has always made it hard to vote and it is worse this year*

00:45:39 **Olivia Ford:** *In some countries it is made very easy to vote - in the US the opposite is true - that is deliberate, to maintain status quo of power*

00:46:13 **Olivia Ford:** *Election Day isn't a holiday, you have to register, you need IDs, there's variation from state to state, there could be lines, people risk losing jobs to go vote ...*

00:46:25 **Olivia Ford:** *...If our vote didn't matter so much they would not make it so hard to vote.*

00:47:02 **Olivia Ford:** *But our community is powerful! And there is a role for everyone! Let us all think about what we can commit in this moment and what we can take off our plates in order to do that*

00:47:50 **Olivia Ford:** *That coalition meeting you always attend? Maybe do electoral work instead with that time - that coalition will still be there in Nov but the conditions in which that coalition does its work will be profoundly different based on election*

00:48:58 **Olivia Ford:** THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW (on slide):

00:49:58 **Olivia Ford:** 1. Check and confirm your registration status - even if you have voted in the same place for years. Do it at vote.org. Conservative secretaries of state are purging voter rolls. Deadline to fix is coming up soon and we DO NOT WANT to get to polling place and not be able to vote.

00:50:14 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** <http://www.vote.org> to check on registration status

00:51:00 **Olivia Ford:** 2. Check if you can request a mail-in/absentee ballot [vote.org/absentee-ballot](https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot) - don't have to mail it, you can drop it off - but you get more time with it, can gather with friends and do it together, vote the same way and make your own voting bloc!

00:51:10 **Olivia Ford:** 3. Text all your friends and family to do the same!!!

00:51:28 **Olivia Ford:** 4. GET INVOLVED! All our communities need all of US right now

00:51:40 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** and here is the link to request an absentee ballot

00:51:41 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** <https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot/>

00:52:49 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina discourages people from waiting until Election Day to cast your ballot. Vote early, vote by mail - it is a big day for shenanigans! Closed polling places, longer lines if you are there. Consider participating in the excitement of Election Day by volunteering!*

00:53:18 **Olivia Ford:** See slides for "Why Vote By Mail?"

00:56:13 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** Has anyone here requested an absentee ballot yet?

00:56:17 **Olivia Ford:** Full disclosure: I have definitely done that in the past - didn't know the folks on the ballot, voted for everyone who was a Democrat and either a woman or sounded like they were of color - not a winning strategy! Better now that I do my research! <3

00:57:10 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** good resource to check out your state: <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/how-to-vote-2020/>

00:58:11 **Olivia Ford:** *PWN can train you to do virtual phone and text banks!*

00:58:39 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** wow, I didn't hear about that!

00:59:09 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: there are new ways of voting that a lot of people don't know about!*

00:59:23 **Jenna Conley:** Thank you for your work in philly, PWN!!

01:00:40 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: It is important to know that people are already starting to vote. Ballots have been mailed in some states. It's too late to reach those folks*

01:01:13 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: Folks think Election Day is the most important day, but by then we have already won or lost.*

01:01:28 **Olivia Ford:** *Something like 60% of Californians have already voted before Election Day*

01:02:09 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: We do this work because it is so important - and y'all know it is!!!*

01:02:13 **Jenna Conley:** Thank you Naina, that was amazing!!!!

01:02:33 **Olivia Ford:** Phew! Get ready with those questions, everyone! Chat or speak!

01:03:49 **Olivia Ford:** *Gina: So PWN will plug us in anywhere to do work? Naina: YES!*
<https://votepositiveusa.org/>

01:05:08 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: My top recommendation? Request absentee ballot; fill out with friends and talk things out; follow all instructions for signing and sealing; take it to a drop-off location well before Election Day! And those are cleared/picked up multiple times a day!*

01:05:49 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: the earlier you vote, the more likely your vote is to be counted - sometimes races are called before all ballots counted*

01:06:16 **Olivia Ford:** <https://votepositiveusa.org/> is open to the general public! There is a role for *everyone*

01:08:40 **Rhea Van Brocklin:** Hi ladies, does PWN have voter education info in Spanish? Would love to have info to give to our monolingual folx.

01:09:09 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** Does anyone on the call want to share any volunteer experiences?

01:09:47 **naina khanna:** Seed the vote, indivisible, swing left are some resources

01:09:56 **Olivia Ford:** *Jenna: If you live in a state like CA or NY that are more likely to turn out Democrat, is your time better spent doing work out of state? Naina: tricky question - even in CA there is a lot at stake on our ballot - propositions, local races - though from a Presidential and Senate POV there are more important places - really comes down to what is important to you - if you live in a "safe state" that is unlikely to flip, and want to work at top of ballot, Swing Left, Indivisible ... what was the other one? Chapters in every state!*

01:10:08 **naina khanna:** Seed the vote!

01:10:23 **Olivia Ford:** Thank you!

01:10:44 **naina khann:** Mijente & Voto Latino

01:10:51 **Olivia Ford:** Check out [Mijente](#) for voter resources in Spanish - also [Voto Latino](#)

01:10:59 **Olivia Ford:** Oops there ya go

01:13:04 **Olivia Ford:** *Krista: Is phonebanking still effective when people get a lot of spam calls? Are postcards better? Naina: There is research on this and it is always changing esp with pandemic - don't know data on postcards - our findings when we are phonebanking are that some people are like Stop calling me! but if we can engage them about something they don't know about like a proposition or issue, if we open with that, we have been able to engage folks in conversation and people have been grateful*

01:13:21 **Olivia Ford:** It is an opportunity to go back and forth, persuade, really address people's concerns

01:14:16 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: Maybe 10% of calls result in a meaningful conversation and a positive ID meaning they say they will do what they are being asked to do - and that is good!*

01:14:34 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: A lot of people don't know what is on their ballot*

01:15:27 **naina khanna:** Please check your voter reg status right now: vote.org

01:15:37 **naina Khanna:** Then text 10 people in your phone and ask them to do the same

01:15:44 **Rhea Van Brocklin:** Such a great and important webinar. Thanks TWP and PWN!

01:15:44 **Olivia Ford:** I am checking my voting status right now!

01:15:44 **naina khanna:** Check out votepositiveusa.org

01:15:54 **Olivia Ford:** Maybe we can spend the last minute of the call doing it!

01:17:03 **Olivia Ford:** I'VE BEEN PURGED :-{

01:17:10 **Olivia Ford:** Naina so glad you asked us to do this!

01:17:15 **naina khanna:** Omg! Olivia!

01:17:19 **Jenna Conley:** omg, Olivia, really???

01:17:28 **Olivia Ford:** I have voted at my poll location nuuuumerous times and haven't moved. Y'all! CHECK!!!!

01:17:39 **Jenna Conley:** Wow, that's awful.

01:20:17 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: In many cases they are physically reducing the number of polling locations so some are closed - people are used to voting in certain places and that place may not be active this year.*

01:20:51 **naina khanna:** naina@votepositiveusa.org

01:21:05 **Olivia Ford:** (PS I am registered. Vote.org said not but it directs you to check directly with the state and I am in there and active. Phew! Check, y'all!)

01:21:35 **naina khanna:** Vote.org, vote411.org

01:21:48 **naina khanna:** County elections office website

01:21:54 **Olivia Ford:** Hey Gina, I will get with you about helping driving folks to early voting, etc if you want!

01:22:17 **naina khanna:** county elections clerk

01:22:29 **Gina Brown:** that works, oh!

01:23:16 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: voter registration deadlines vary state to state - most between late Sept and early Oct - more making it harder to vote!*

01:23:18 **naina khanna:** Secretary of state website is also good

01:23:31 **Olivia Ford:** geauxvote.com in LA!

01:23:48 **naina khanna:** thank you all so much! See you at the polls y'all!

01:23:55 **Olivia Ford:** (that is an official site! Louisianans, so clever :-D)

01:24:04 **Jenna Conley:** Thank you naina!!!! I just texted everyone I know telling them to check their registrations!

01:24:34 **Olivia Ford:** Naina, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

01:24:53 **Olivia Ford:** *Naina: May the work we do in the coming days affect how we feel on waking Nov 4!*

01:25:04 **The Well Project [Krista Martel]:** Bye all! Thank you, Naina!!