

Committee to Elect Aaron Henry Governor of Mississippi  
Henry Headquarters  
Freedom Ballot for Governor  
1072 Lynch Street  
Jackson, Miss.  
353-1523

October 10, 1963

## MISSISSIPPI

### FREEDOM VOTE HENRY

#### Planning Details for Freedom Vote for Governor

1. The Ballot: The ballot will be prepared and distributed by the State Executive Committee in Jackson. The only office on the ballot will be the office of Governor of the State. Three names will appear on the ballot: P. B. Johnson, Democrat; Rubel Phillips, Republican; and Aaron Henry, Independent.

2. The polling places: In order to collect as many votes as possible, we will provide polling places throughout every city. We will have polling places in as many churches and business establishments as possible. The number and locations of the polling places must be worked out in each community by the local organization.

It is suggested that some communities will be able to greatly increase the number of voters by the use of mobile voting units--a Votemobile. An automobile with a ballot box would travel throughout the Negro residential areas to gather the votes of the persons who did not vote at the churches.

3. Polling procedure: The process of casting a vote involves two steps. First, there will be a recorder. All persons will give their names and addresses to the recorder. The recorder will also keep a count of the total number of persons who have voted. The records will be strictly confidential and will not be released to the state authorities. No one should be afraid of reprisal; the names will be taken as a check against any person voting twice. Persons so recorded will be given a ballot. Second, there will be the Vote. The ballots will be marked, folded, and placed in the ballot box by the voters.

4. Personnel at the Polling places: There will be a Manager of the Election at each polling place. It will be his responsibility to rule on any questions which arise during the election. It will also be the duty of the Manager of Election to prevent any person from voting twice. The Manager will telephone to the County Manager of the Campaign the final number of voters who cast votes at his polling place, and will carry the ballot box to the

County Manager. The District Campaign Manager will be responsible for the collection of all the ballot boxes from the county campaign managers in his District.

There will be a Recorder at each polling place. It will be his duty to record the names of the persons who apply to vote, and their addresses.

There will also be an observer. It will be his duty to guard the ballot box, and to prevent tampering with the box. The observer will distribute the ballots to the voters, being sure that no voter gets more than one ballot. The observer will receive the ballots from the Manager of Election, and will return the surplus ballots to the Election Manager. The observer will make account of the number received, used and returned.

Other personnel may be used freely to keep order among the persons waiting to vote, or to canvass the neighborhood to encourage persons to go to the polls.

The county organization should recruit responsible persons to run the polls and bring them together for instruction before the election. The county organizations must record the number and locations of the separate polling places. Records should be kept to make the procedure simpler for the next election.

5. Appearance of the Polling Places: It may be appropriate to have large sign above the polling place to announce: FREEDOM VOTE POLLING PLACE. There should NOT be any signs or information about any of the candidates at the polling place. If such information is to be given out, it should be distributed at least 30 feet from the polling place. It may be possible to decorate the polling places with some red, white, and blue crepe paper. The state executive committee will provide signs and decorative material.

If possible, wooden ballot boxes should be used. If wooden boxes are not available, cardboard boxes may be used.

6. Publicity for the FREEDOM VOTE: The state office in Jackson will use the radio and television to help publicize the Vote. It will also use about 150,000 copies of the weekly editions of the Mississippi Free Press, distributed around the state, to aid in publicity. The Jackson office will also publish and distribute the campaign literature. Because churches will be used as polling places, and an important voting day will be a Sunday, the churches should be a major source of attention for campaign publicity.

Mass meetings are effective ways of developing enthusiasm for the campaign. Attendance at mass meetings, however, is drawn mainly from nearby community. Therefore, it would be helpful to hold them in different sections of each town before the campaign is over.

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