

## MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM REGISTRATION TO VOTE

### I. Why have a Freedom Registration?

We are having a Freedom Registration in Mississippi because: We do not believe that apathy is the reason Negroes in Mississippi do not vote.

We believe that fear keeps them from trying to register to vote. They are afraid of losing their jobs, having their property destroyed, being harassed by the police.

Those who are brave enough to try are kept from registering by unconstitutional voting requirements and discriminatory practices.

We want to show Mississippi and the country by means of the "Freedom Registration to Vote" that Negroes would register to vote if they could.

There are some 425,000 Negroes who are eligible to vote in Mississippi. Less than 20,000 of them are registered. The Freedom Registration is a plan to show how most of these 425,000 Negroes can be registered.

### II. How will the Freedom Registration be run?

Each county will have a registration board. The board will keep official books for its county and appoint registrars who will have the authority to register people in the precincts of that county. Registration will be conducted every day, including Sunday. Registrars will be permitted to travel in "mobile units" to register people in their meetings, at their churches and in their homes. Every effort will be made to make the registration easy for the applicant. Registrars will be asked to assist the applicants, including reading and filling in forms for illiterate people who want to register.

### III. Who can register?

In order to register in the Freedom Registration to Vote, a person must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Have lived in Mississippi for two years.
3. Have lived in the county where you are trying to register for one year. (If you are a minister or a minister's wife, you only have to have lived there for six months.)
4. Be 21 years old or older. (You can register at 20 if you will be 21 before the next election.)
5. Never have been convicted of: bribery, burglary, stealing, setting fires, telling a lie under oath, forgery, having more than one wife, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, or taking money trusted to your care.

These are the only requirements to register in the Freedom Registration.

### IV. What can C.O.F.O. delegates do?

1. Help establish a board of registrars in your county.
2. Recruit people to serve as volunteer registrars.
3. Find churches, stores, and meeting places where registration may be held.