

[1967]

The Voter Education and Security Project grew out of conversations between Mr. Jack Greenberg of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and Mr. Vernon Jordan of the Southern Regional Council, Voter Education Project. The conversations took place immediately before the primary elections in Alabama in the year 1966. Negro voters, because of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, were participating in large numbers in the Alabama elections for the first time. Negro candidates were running for office for the first time since Reconstruction. The purpose of the Voter Education and Security Project was to provide legal information and tactical suggestions to Negro candidates, voters, and poll workers so that they might avoid being defrauded of their equal right to vote, to have their vote counted, and to stand for office.

The accompanying instructional materials are part of the continuing program of the Voter Education and Security Project. They have been designed specifically for the primary and general elections scheduled in Mississippi in August and November of this year.

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New York, New York 10019

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES IN THE DEMOCRATIC
PRIMARY OF AUGUST 8, 1967

1. Under no circumstances should you make a donation or promise to make a donation to any organization -- political, religious, charitable, educational, or whatever -- while you are running for office. If you do, you will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
 2. Every poster, pamphlet, or other printed matter which you use to promote your candidacy must have on it the name and address (1) of the person and organization that made up the poster, pamphlet or printed matter, and (2) of the printer or publisher that ran off the poster, pamphlet or printed matter. If the printed matter does not have both of these names and addresses, the persons associated with it will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
 3. Under no circumstances should you or anyone associated with you tear down, mutilate or even touch a poster or placard that has been put up by one of your white opponents. If you do, you will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
 4. Be very careful about participating in any picnic or public gathering as a speaker where there is an admission charge. If the object of the picnic or public gathering is to make a profit of any kind for any purpose you must not have anything to do with it. If the sponsors ask you to pay to speak, you certainly must have nothing to do with it. If the object of the admission charge is to break even on expenses and no profit is left over after the expenses are paid, then you may participate but you may not contribute anything to the sponsors to help them meet expenses.
- If you do any of the things about which you have been cautioned in the above paragraph, you will be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who participates with you in the matter will lose their right to vote and will be guilty of a misdemeanor. Should they vote anyway, they will be guilty of another misdemeanor.
5. Under no circumstances should you promise any persons a job in order to get his help on your campaign nor should you promise any company your help in getting a public contract should you be elected. If you do, you will be guilty of a corrupt practice punishable by up to \$500 fine, up to one year imprisonment, forfeiture of nomination, or, if elected before conviction, forfeiture of office.
 6. Under no circumstances either publicly or privately should you or anyone associated with you say anything about any other candidate which indicates that he is dishonest or immoral. To do so is to be guilty of a misdemeanor.
 7. You or your campaign manager must review and approve every piece of literature, every notice, advertisement and poster that is used in your campaign. Each must be signed by you or your campaign manager. The signature can be printed or typed on the literature but it must be in the same form as the set up of the subscription line and signature on the original.
 8. If you are running for a county or county district office you must file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and, if you are running for a state office, you must file with the Secretary of State, on June 15, July 1, July 15, August 1 and August 5 a sworn statement of the names and amount all persons, companies, and other

organizations have contributed to your campaign. If no money has been received state "none." If you have failed to report on June 15 and July 1 or July 15, you have not violated the law, if you or persons working for you have not actively campaigned in that period. So soon as you begin to campaign you must file reports showing your contributions to that date. The reports of all the candidates are public records. Check to find out whether all the white candidates have filed regularly.

9. If you are running for the legislature, you may not spend more than \$1,500 on your campaign. If you are running for a county office, you may not spend more than \$1,000. If you are running for a county district office, you may not spend more than \$500.

10. On or before September 7, 1967 you must file with the Secretary of State or Circuit Court Clerk an itemized statement of every amount paid out or to be paid out by you or by anyone working for you in connection with your campaign along with the name of the person to whom payment is made or will be made. You do not have to report travel expenses. The statement must be sworn to by you. If you do not file this statement you will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

11. On Tuesday, July 25, 1967, the County Executive Committee of your party will meet to designate managers for the election of August 8, 1967. The law repealed in 1962 provided specifically that the managers should be divided equally among the supporters of the candidates. The law now in effect does not require this. You should, however, make a strong effort to have Negroes appointed as managers. Accordingly, and before July 25th, you should have in the hands of the Executive Committee a list of names of persons that you nominate as election managers. The refusal of the Executive Committee to appoint any of your nominees will open the election to challenge on the grounds of discrimination. You should compile a list of each polling place in your county or district and nominate three (3) persons to serve as managers at each place. These persons should be voters at the polling place you nominate them for. The form of the letter should be similar to that which is attached to these Instructions at p. 4. Type the letter. Make several copies and send the original to the Executive Committee, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED. It is important that the letter be sent this way so that you will have proof that the letter was received by the Executive Committee. There is provision in the law for the appointment of Bailiffs to keep order and oversee the polling places during the general election in November. There is no specific provision for the appointment of Bailiffs for the primary election. As a matter of practice Bailiffs may be appointed by the Executive Committee for the primary election. Accordingly, along with your submission of names to the Executive Committee of persons to serve as managers, you should also submit a list of names of men to serve as Bailiffs at the various polling places.

12. Select one person to act as poll watcher for you at each polling place on Election Day. Select a person who votes at the polling place at which you intend to use him.

13. Sign each of the forms authorizing such person to act as poll watcher for you.

14. Many of the Counties in Mississippi have many more white people registered than there are white adult persons living in the County. It has been shown that in other counties in other states where this is the situation, more white people actually vote than there are

white people in the county. If your poll watchers do their jobs accurately, you will have the name of every white person voting as well as the total number of white persons voting. As a double check, you should also appoint poll workers who have no function other than counting the number of whites and Negroes who line up to vote. This can be done by the use of forms similar to the one provided at p. 6.

The poll workers can also be used to aid Negro voters who have problems and to relay messages from the poll watchers who should not leave their stations. Your poll workers must be advised that they cannot go into the polling place and that they must stay at least 30 ft. away from the polling places. They should not electioneer outside the polling places.

15. The most serious problem that you will have will not be white officials defrauding you, but will be the failure of large numbers of Negroes to show up to vote. If your poll watchers do their jobs properly, you will be able to know at any given moment, who has voted, and, if you have a list of Negro voters, you will be able to determine which Negroes have not voted. If you have a good political organization, you will be able to bring these people into the polls before they close at 6:00 p.m..

16. You must make sure that your people sign their names and addresses to every report or form they use. Should it be necessary for you to challenge the election in court later, you must be able to produce the person who kept the records and saw the incidents that you complain about.

17. After the election you should assemble all of your poll workers, poll watchers and managers and go over what happened during the day. You should make up written reports on each polling place and tabulate your votes as shown by the records of your people.

Collect all reports and forms from your workers so that you may assess the election procedures.

Democratic Party Executive Committee
of _____ County, Mississippi
_____ Avenue
_____, Mississippi

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3115, as amended, Mississippi Code of 1942, the Democratic Party Executive Committee must meet on Tuesday, July 25, 1967 to designate persons to serve as election managers for the Democratic Party Primary to be held on Tuesday, August 8, 1967. The following are the names of qualified voters whom I nominate to serve as election managers for each of the designated election districts.

ELECTION DISTRICT 1

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

ELECTION DISTRICT 2

1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

ELECTION DISTRICT 3

1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

ELECTION DISTRICT 4

1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

ELECTION DISTRICT 5

1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

These people are ready, willing and able to fulfill the duties of managers.

I have been advised by my attorneys that I have a right to have persons nominated by me considered for the various manager positions without discrimination on the basis of their or my race or color. Should none or very few of these designees be appointed as managers, clerks, or bailiffs of election, I have been advised by my attorneys to bring legal action against the holding of the election or the results of the election. Hoping that you will take favorable action on my nominations and that supporters of my candidacy will be as well

represented among the election officials as are supporters of the other candidates, I am

Sincerely yours,

Candidate for the Office
of _____

POLL WORKER RACE-COUNT SHEET

(As each voter enters the polls, mark in the boxes provided in the Negro or White column according to his race.)

NEGRO

WHITE

1.	()	()	()	()	()
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POLL WATCHER Signature Address