



Voting Access For All



VAAC Community Meeting Agenda

1.30.2026 12:30 - 1:30pm

Theme: Defending Democracy and the Road to the 2026 Midterms

Location: [Join via Zoom](#)

💡 **Accessibility Tip:** Turn on Closed Captions in Zoom by selecting “...More” and enabling captions.

 [\[Link to Accessibility Slide\]](#)

12:30 PM – Welcome & Opening Grounding

Facilitator: Tony Gant

Welcome and introductions

(Please share your name and organization in the chat)

- ***VAAC UPDATED MISSION 2026–***

Voting Access For All Coalition builds lasting civic power by equipping people impacted by incarceration, poverty, housing instability, and systemic exclusion with the education, tools, and support they need to fully engage in civic life and shape the public policies that affect their lives and communities.

- **Review of meeting purpose and flow**
 - **Setting shared intentions for the year ahead**
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12:35 PM – Meeting Overview and Updates

- New participant introductions
- Meeting purpose and agenda review
- **Stay Connected:**

-  [VAAC Newsletter Signup](#)
 -  [Friday Meeting Agendas](#)
 - Next Vaac meeting
 -  **February 13, 2026 - The Vote, the Truth and AI**
 - **and February 27, 2026 - Party Politics: How Parties nominate candidates**
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Discussion Focus:

Defending Democracy and the Road to the 2026 Midterms

This meeting focuses on how we build power for the 2026 midterms by strengthening voter participation in Black and Brown communities. We will examine the barriers and conditions that continue to shape access to the ballot, especially for people impacted by incarceration, poverty, homelessness, and housing instability.

We will identify key threats to voter access in 2026 and align around the organizing, mobilization, and infrastructure needed now to protect and expand civic participation. The goal is to move forward with clarity, coordination, and shared strategy.

Please place questions and

→Reminder to please put your questions in the chat.

Guiding Questions:

1. The 2026 Landscape

- a. What are the biggest threats to voter access as we head into 2026
- b. What conditions are shaping participation in Black and Brown communities right now
- c. Where are we already seeing warning signs or opportunities

2. Barriers to Participation

- a. What barriers most impact voters facing incarceration, poverty, homelessness, and housing instability
- b. Where does confusion, misinformation, or lack of clear voter education continue to show up
- c. What barriers require immediate attention in early 2026

3. Building Power for 2026

- a. What strategies must guide our organizing and mobilization for the 2026 midterms
- b. What shifts are needed to reach Black and Brown voters earlier and more consistently
- c. What infrastructure must be built or strengthened now
- d. Where should VAAC focus its energy in the first half of 2026

4. Alignment, Accountability, and Next Steps

- a. What does success look like for 2026 from a community perspective

- b. How do we measure whether we are reaching voters most often left out
- c. What partnerships or coordination are needed to meet this moment
- d. What is one action we must prioritize now

5. Guidance for VAAC and Partners

- a. Where should VAAC focus its energy early in 2026
- b. How can we better support voters facing compounded barriers such as incarceration, poverty, and homelessness

1:25 PM – Announcements & Closing

- Key takeaways and reflections
- Upcoming VAAC meetings and engagement opportunities
- Closing message

- ✨ **When we understand our rights, we build the power to protect them — and ensure Michigan invests in people, not punishment.**

1:30 PM – Adjournment

 Next Meeting: Friday, Feb 13, 2026, and Feb 27th

VAAC Resource Library: Books & More

Books by VAAC Authors

Can you help us expand the list this year? We're also looking for recommendations for podcasts and other resources!

Reminder of Books by VAAC Authors

- Can you help us grow the list of authors this year? Can we add podcasts, etc?
- Percy Glover: *Concrete Lies and Abstract Truths: Poetry and Flows*
<https://www.amazon.com/Concrete-Abstract-Truths-Percy-Glover/dp/195179802>
- Antoniese (Tony) Gant-Bey - *Midnight Whispers*
<https://www.amazon.com/Midnight-Whispers-Antoniese-Gant-Bey-ebook/dp/B01M3WWLQB/ref=nodl>
- Kenneth Gourlay - *Lessons Learned: Life-Altering Experiences of Incarceration-*
<https://kengourlay.com/book/>
- Amani Sawari [*Album by Amani*](#)
- [*First 10 Moves to Forever Freedom: Michael Taylor II*](#)
- E.B. Jordan - Chop it up Vegan Style with Chef E.B

