VoteRiders Launches Voter ID Clinic Campaign in Houston, TX National effort to assure that no American citizen is disenfranchised for lack of proper ID

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VoteRiders, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, announces the launch of the national VoteRiders Voter ID Clinic Campaign on September 21 in Houston, TX. Voter ID Clinics in other locations with government-issued photo ID laws throughout the U.S. start in January of next year.

Knowing that millions of potential voters may be disenfranchised by the increasing number of stringent voter ID laws, VoteRiders Founder and President, Kathleen Unger, decided to create the resources to organize and train local volunteers to help citizens secure the documents their state requires. "Rarely is it 'simple' for anyone to get legal records," Unger explains. "Who among us hasn't had a frustrating experience with bureaucracy?"

VoteRiders provides to its partners, free-of-charge, a downloadable Clinic-in-a-Box[™] - Training Documents, Training Videos, Marketing Tools and Guidelines for navigating the bureaucratic thicket - as well as marketing support.

The Supreme Court decision in June that effectively gutted the Voting Rights Act unleashed a series of restrictive legislation in multiple states. Texas' attorney general declared the immediate enforcement of his state's voter ID law *two hours* after the Court's ruling was announced.

VoteRiders' local non-partisan non-profit partners are hosting the Houston Voter ID Clinic to assist voters in time to cast their ballots in the November municipal and constitutional elections there. "We encourage voters to register for the Voter ID Clinic by calling 888-557-5150 or completing our online registration form at www.etvtedfund.org," said Sondra Haltom, Executive Director of Empower The Vote Texas Education Fund. Texas Civic Engagement Table, which supports collaborative civic participation in traditionally disenfranchised communities, "is grateful that VoteRiders has provided a complete template that enables us to bypass an enormous learning curve with efficient, effective help to voters," said Lesley Ramsey, Executive Director. Unger expressed her appreciation that "VoteRiders' Texas partners are so knowledgeable, committed and rooted in the community. I am confident that our Voter ID Clinics will be a huge relief to voters who need to track down birth certificates, change-of-name certificates (such as marriage records) and replacement social security cards," said Unger. "This can be complicated, time consuming and expensive – especially for those with no official birth certificate because their vital papers were destroyed or they were delivered by midwife. Importantly, VoteRiders will also track the real costs of these laws."

VoteRiders Voter ID Clinics are being planned to start next year in other states with government-issued photo ID laws in place now or very likely within the next few years: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Please visit <u>www.voteriders.com</u> for more information.

Contact: Kathleen Unger, Founder/President: VoteRiders Kathleen@VoteRiders.com, 310-467-5518

Houston Voter ID Clinic Contact: Sondra Haltom, Empower the Vote Texas Education Fund, <u>info@etvtedfund.org</u>, 888-557-5150

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