



# THE CHANGE AGENT

Adult Education for  
Social Justice: News,  
Issues, and Ideas

## CALL FOR ARTICLES: "Stand Up and Be Counted" (Issue #50)

**YOU MUST** include in *all* articles and emails the contact information for the student and/or the teacher.

**THEME:** "Stand Up and Be Counted!" With a presidential election and the decennial census coinciding, 2020 is a big year for adult education students. Because these civic events are of major importance to all our communities, *The Change Agent* is looking for stories by adult learners who address the following questions:

### THE ELECTION:

- Explain why voting matters to you. What difference can you make when you vote?
- If you are someone who chooses not to vote, explain why. Are there other ways you participate in your community besides voting?
- If you are not a citizen or can't vote for some other reason (such as being incarcerated or having a criminal record), what other ways do you engage in the debates and activities that come up during an election year?
- Share what you know about the history of voting rights in your state. What are the current struggles happening in your state to protect voting rights?
- Discuss one or two key issues at stake for you, your community, or the nation in the upcoming election.

### THE CENSUS

- What does the census mean to you and to your community? Why do you think it matters (or does not matter)? Do you plan on participating in the 2020 Census?
- What happens if your community is not fully counted in the census?
- Research the history of the census. Has the government misused information from the census? If so, how? Do the same risks of misuse exist today? What protections are in place now to keep people's information anonymous? (Make sure to discuss Title 13 of the U.S. Code if you write about this topic.)

### OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

- When it is not an election or census year, there are still important ways to "stand up and be counted." Describe ways you make your voice heard in your family, workplace, and community.
- What does the quote, "Speak the truth, even if your voice shakes" mean to you? Share a time you spoke up, either alone or with others. What happened as a result?
- Have you ever advocated for more money for adult education? How did you do it? What happened? Why does education matter in a democracy?

**DEADLINE AND GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Nov. 1, 2019. **Make sure to include contact information.** Send to: [cpeters@worlded.org](mailto:cpeters@worlded.org). Learn more at: [changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us](http://changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us). Instead of long and general essays, we would like to see stories that are specific and detailed. Limit the scope of your story, but tell it fully. Suggested length is 200-800 words. Please include contact information for the student and/or the teacher in all correspondence. Final decisions are made by *The Change Agent* editorial board. A \$50 stipend will be paid to each adult education student whose work is accepted for publication.

**PLEASE SEND MATERIAL BY EMAIL** to [cpeters@worlded.org](mailto:cpeters@worlded.org). Cynthia Peters, Editor, New England Literacy Resource Center/World Education, 44 Farnsworth St., Boston, MA 02210 Phone: 617-482-9485 fax: 617-482-0617

**The mission of *The Change Agent* is to provide news, issues, ideas, and other teaching resources that inspire and enable adult educators and learners to make civic participation and social justice concerns part of their teaching and learning.**

<http://changeagent.nelrc.org/>