



## Myky Truong

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**Issue** In the city I live in, Morrow, Ga, 28% of the residents were born outside of the United States. Most are Vietnamese, the nationality I am as well. While most are naturalized citizens, they do not usually participate in the electoral process, whether by voting or running for political office. I participated in a voter registration drive to raise the percentage of registered voters in my city.

**Project Description** This voter registration drive mainly consisted of going from door to door to meet with residents to encourage them to register in order to have a say in what goes on in Morrow. If they were already registered, we would help them vote in the upcoming election. During this registration drive, I realized that many of the residents that were registered to vote, registered because of Georgia's "Motor Voter" law. Beyond that, many residents did not participate in this civic duty because they did not realize the importance of voting since they had registered automatically when applying for a driver's license. The majority of foreign-born citizens in Morrow were born in Vietnam. Even after residing in the States for a long period of time, they were often not familiar with the voting process and did not recognize the importance of voting since it was not available in Communist Vietnam. They were familiar with US Presidential elections, because of the huge amount of media coverage that accompanied Presidential elections, but state and local elections were usually not on their radar. Our goal was to encourage the residents to participate in all elections, not just high-profile ones.

**Project Outcome** I realized that this issue was not limited to the Vietnamese population in Morrow. Georgia is one of the top destinations for immigrants to the United States. Most of these immigrants will eventually become Naturalized Citizens and will be able to vote as part of their civic duty. We provided outreach to these groups to educate them on the voting process.

**Request** I would like to know how my Congressman is attempting to reach out to the immigrant populations in his district since it is becoming a destination for immigrants.