



A Day for  
Democracy

## CEO-Led Coalition Launches *A Day for Democracy* Initiative to Increase Voter Participation

Boston (August 5, 2020) – More than 100 CEOs from around the country today announced that they are participating in *A Day for Democracy*, which launched this week. *A Day for Democracy* is a growing coalition, founded by CEOs and leaders of top-ranked firms in industries including finance, real estate and construction, venture capital, higher education, entertainment, hospitality and healthcare that have **pledged** to increase voter registration and participation of their employees.

The non-partisan initiative asks employers across the U.S. to commit to **take action** to give employees time off to vote, and/or to help workers register and access their right to vote – in local, state and national elections – on their terms, whether at polling locations or from the safety of their own home. They can use a responsible online platform of their choice or work with [turbovote.org](https://turbovote.org), a leading online service through which employees can register, receive election reminders, and obtain, if they wish to use one, a mail-in ballot.

“There is no more important or patriotic act than voting,” said Peter Palandjian, Chairman and CEO of Intercontinental Real Estate Corporation, who created the coalition. “I’ve always been troubled by routine low turnout in U.S. elections and wanted to find a way to have a positive effect on increasing voter participation. As a CEO, I recognize that I can help by removing barriers for my own employees and encouraging others to do the same. We can all do better, and this non-partisan effort is an important first step.”

Joining Palandjian in *A Day for Democracy* are Robert Reynolds, President and CEO of Putnam Investments; Tim Buckley, Chairman and CEO of Vanguard Group; Ronald O’Hanley, Chairman and CEO of State Street Corp.; Larry Bacow, President of Harvard University; Miceal Chamberlain, Bank of America’s Massachusetts Market President; J. Alexander (Sandy) Douglas, President and CEO of Staples Inc.; Tom Crowell, President and CEO of Tufts Health Plan; Andrew Dreyfus, CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; James Judge, Chairman, President and CEO of Eversource; Dr. Peter Slavin, President, Massachusetts General Hospital; Linda Henry, Managing Director of The Boston Globe; Jonathan Bush, Executive Chairman at Firefly Health; and over 90 other companies including goop, Amblin Partners, Starwood Capital, Teley-vision, Bluebird Bio, Bain Capital, Bain & Co. and Wayfair Inc. The growing list of participants in the coalition, who together represent almost 300,000 employees to-date, can be found on the website, [www.aDayforDemocracy.com](https://www.aDayforDemocracy.com).



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The U.S. has one of the lowest voter participation rates of any democracy in the world. Less than 56 percent of the U.S. voting age population cast ballots in the last presidential election, and even fewer voted during the mid-term elections in 2014. Almost every other democracy holds elections on the weekend to make it easier to vote, and many that hold them during the week designate the day as a holiday.

This year, because of the pandemic, U.S. voters face an additional, unique set of challenges. While many states are increasing voting-by-mail opportunities to accommodate these circumstances, several specific steps are required to participate, including:

- confirming voter registration and registering if necessary;
- requesting an application to vote by mail;
- receiving, completing and submitting that application;
- receiving, completing and returning on time the ballot itself.

“As a nation, we have an obligation to ensure that we reduce barriers and allow every citizen the opportunity to exercise their right to vote,” said Palandjian. “In rallying the support of employers across the country, we hope this movement will continue beyond this year and will reinvigorate the civic engagement of our country.”

More information about *A Day for Democracy* and the CEO pledge can be found on the website [www.aDayforDemocracy.com](http://www.aDayforDemocracy.com).

In addition to the companies mentioned earlier, the list of pledge participants includes:

Charlesbank Capital Partners	Ford Foundation
Cambridge Savings Bank	Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
Suffolk Construction	Newton-Wellesley Hospital
Thomas H Lee Partners	Bob’s Discount Furniture
Cambridge Trust Company	Murphy & King, P.C.
Goodwin	Massachusetts Bankers Association
MassBio	Hill Holliday
Eastern Bank	Citizens Energy Corp.
Shapiro Foundation	SMMA
Verdad Advisers	Seven Letter
Taconic Capital	Mayor Agenbroad, City of Springboro, OH
Eureka Casino Resort	Bulfinch Cos.
The Davis Cos.	Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Social Finance	International Tennis Hall of Fame
American Realty	TRB Advisors
Duet	Root Capital
Surdna Foundation	NAIOP Massachusetts



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The Druker Company Ltd.	laane
United Dynamics Inc.	CORPaTH10
UNITE HERE	V2M Capital LLC
Tenacity	Development Strategy Consultants
The Mikva Challenge	Purple Heart Foundation
Gilbert & Sackman	Lautec US
Pac-12 Conference	Rho Capital
Acropolis Advisors	O'Neill and Associates
13 <sup>th</sup> Floor Investments	TruAmerica Multifamily LLC
NCPERS	AEW
VillagePlan	Bradley & Associates P.C.
Connors Family Office	UFCW 8 Golden State
Waterville Consulting	Investment Performance Services LLC
Blockchange Ventures	Squashbusters
UFCW International Union	Nutter
Big Night Entertainment Group	mxHero Inc.
The Mount Vernon Company	Lately
Livius Tutoring	SixPlus
MyWellbeing	InsideOut Sports and Entertainment
Hand Surgery PC	

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## **About A Day for Democracy**

*A Day for Democracy* is a NON-partisan initiative founded by CEOs to encourage employers across the U.S. to take a **pledge** to help increase voter participation in the U.S. In taking the pledge, these leaders are committing to **take action** to give employees time off to vote, and/or to help workers register and access their right to vote – in local, state and national elections – on their terms, whether at polling locations or from the safety of their own home. To learn more, and to join CEOs across the U.S. in taking this pledge, visit [www.aDayforDemocracy.com](http://www.aDayforDemocracy.com).

Media Contacts:

### **Seven Letter**

Christine Dunn: [Christine@sevenletter.com](mailto:Christine@sevenletter.com) or 617.646.1044

Andrew Paven: [Andy@sevenletter.com](mailto:Andy@sevenletter.com) or 617.646.1021

Suzanne Morse: [Suzanne@sevenletter.com](mailto:Suzanne@sevenletter.com) or 617.646.1020