



For Immediate Release

Contact: WORLD Media

worldmedia@wgbh.org

WORLD Channel Launches *Your Vote 2020*

Initiative Explores Racial Diversity of Voters in 2020 Election

Boston, MA (September 30, 2020) – With only a few weeks left until the 2020 election, WORLD Channel is launching *Your Vote 2020*, a multi-platform initiative that explores the racial diversity of voters in the face of many challenges, including COVID-19, the state of voting rights and voter suppression, economic uncertainty, immigration, and racial justice.

"There is so much at stake for diverse voters in the 2020 election, yet it is their voices that are often not heard," said Chris Hastings, WORLD Channel Executive Producer at GBH in Boston. "With *Your Vote 2020*, we are creating a platform to showcase the challenges many of these voters are facing and to share their stories."

Your Vote 2020 will feature a series of films that explore issues of importance to voters, including:

- A co-production of C35 Films, the Center for Asian American Media, and WORLD Channel, **America ReFramed's First Vote** offers unparalleled access to a diverse cross-section of politically engaged Chinese Americans. The film weaves their stories from the presidential election of 2016 to the 2018 midterms and explores the intersections between immigration, voting rights, and racial justice. Directed by Yi Chen, a Chinese immigrant and first-time voter herself, **First Vote** is a rare long-form look at the diverse Asian American electorate.
- Produced by Mary Dickey and producer/director Hemal Trivedi, **Battleground: 2018** looks at the 2018 midterm elections in Pennsylvania, specifically, at the 15th Congressional District of the Keystone State. This district includes the pivotal county that helped deliver victory for President Trump in 2016. With the incumbent retiring, the path to a Congressional seat was wide open. Two of the primary contenders were political neophytes driven by a passion for change: to advance the Trump agenda or to replace it.
- Based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, **Tightrope** tells the story of those who fall through the cracks in America, destroyed by poverty, addiction, suicide, and homelessness. In their journey across the country, Kristoff and WuDunn find inequality is killing millions of Americans every year. Produced by Maro Chermayeff, Jeff Dupre, and Joshua Bennett and directed by Viva Van

Loock, the film ultimately shares that the American Dream of self-reliance is a false narrative and for most, impossible to achieve. Yet human kindness and potential can still change the future.

Other films and series in the *Your Vote 2020* Initiative include ***America Lost, States of America, The History of White People in America, America ReFramed: Town Hall, Latino Vote: Dispatches from the Battleground, Independent Lens: Represent***, and others. Visit <https://worldchannel.org/collection/your-vote-2020/> for more information about these and other films.

Your Vote 2020 (#YourVote2020) kicked off on September 28, 2020 with a virtual live screening for the film *FIRST VOTE*, hosted by WORLD Channel in partnership with several Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) film festivals. The screening was followed by a discussion of the film with filmmaker Yi Chen and film subjects Kaiser Kuo, host of Sinica Podcast, and Jennifer Ho, director of the Center for Humanities & the Arts at the University of Colorado Boulder. The discussion was moderated by award-winning journalist and NBC/MSNBC news anchor Richard Lui. Additionally, a panel discussion on voter participation featured Christine Chen, APIA Vote Executive Director, Janelle S. Wong, Professor of Asian American Studies, University of Maryland, Jerry Vattamala, Democracy Program Director, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Chavi Koneru, Executive Director, North Carolina Asian Americans Together, and Elaine Tso, CEO, Asian Services in Action, Inc. The event and more about *FIRST VOTE* can be found at <https://worldchannel.org/collection/your-vote-2020/>.

Additional events will take place in the weeks leading up to Election Day in partnership with Latino Public Broadcasting, Pacific Islanders in Communication and Black Public Media. More details will be announced as they become available at <https://worldchannel.org/collection/your-vote-2020/>.

For a complete list of original WORLD Channel programming, visit www.WORLDChannel.org or follow WORLD Channel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) using the hashtag #YourVote2020 and subscribe to the [YouTube](#) channel.

About WORLD Channel

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and fact-based informational programming that helps us understand conflicts, movements and cultures that may be distinct from our own. WORLD's original content examines issues too often ignored by mainstream media by sharing stories from a diversity of voices. WORLD has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award and other national honors -- including 1st and 2nd place Native Media Awards, an RTNDA Kaleidoscope Award, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, two Gracies and an Asian American Journalists Award. WORLD is a growing platform carried by 174 partner stations in markets representing more than 72% of US TV households. It is also available on WORLDChannel.org and social media platforms. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD Channel is curated by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT).

