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Group Targets 130,000 Unregistered Potential Voters In Registration Drive

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MILWAUKEE -- There's a major effort under way in Milwaukee to register thousands of first-time voters.

Wisconsin's primary election is Feb. 19, and while people can register at their polling location, pre-registration ends Wednesday, 20 days before voters head to the polls.

A northside bus stop on Monday was where Edward Williams did his part in the political process, working to register first-time voters.

"It's very important, especially important for the inner-city community and the minorities. Last year, our percentage was, like 8 percent. We're trying to raise that percentage the best we can," Williams said.

Williams snagged Athena Turner, who said she's never voted, but was glad she took the time to register.

"I'm real interested in the election that's going on right now. This is my first time. I think it's going to be worth it, though," Turner said.

The driver is the work of a group called ACORN, which stands for the Association of Community Originations for Reform Now, and several other agencies representing various groups and sections of the city.

"Community groups that are already in the city doing good work have joined together saying, 'This is something we all care about,'" Carolyn Castore, the political director with ACORN, said.

The group is targeting an estimated 130,000 unregistered potential voters in the city, with one goal in mind for each of them.

"We know, as an organization, that we have a responsibility to work with people so they know what their rights are, what the process is, so they can come to the polls and have their voice heard," Christine Neumann-Ortiz, with Voces de la Frontera, said.

ACORN says they're seeing more interest this year, partly because of the presidential race, but also first-time voters who are wanting to be involved in local and city issues.

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Video: Registration For First-Time Voters Sought

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