

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**  
**Social Action Commission**  
*Regional Conference 2009*

**Advocacy in Action: Strengthening Our Legacy**  
**THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!!!**

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# ADVOCACY

## Know The Issues

- Know Delta's position before responding
- Codification of Delta resolutions
- Know your rights and responsibilities
- Know where candidates and appointees stand
- Promote nominees who support the rights of African Americans and women

## Do your Research

- State, Local & National
- Ask Questions
- Get Answers

SOCIAL ACTION:  
Information is power

## Participate and encourage others to do the same

- Elections / Hearings, be a super voter
- Voter Registration
- Voter Education
- Collaborate with other likeminded groups

## Tell our story-

- Speak up
- Supply the historical perspective

# ACTION

## Immediate Action Plan

- Driven by immediate needs
- Rapid exchange of vital information

## Strategic Action Plan

- What does the community need/want?
- Now and long term? How do we make it happen?

## Communicate

- Technology
  - Web, E-blast, Text, Blog, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn

## Proactive information sharing

- Email, Fax, Face-to-face

## Network

- Show up – Delta Days (City Council, School Board, etc.)
- Collaborate – CBC, NAACP, Urban League, Churches,

## Document your activities

- Success stories and challenges

# ADVOCACY in ACTION

- Ongoing initiatives that confront legislative & voter apathy, enhance voter issue awareness, and ultimately increases citizen participation in the governance process
- Engage **every** region, **every** chapter, and **every** member, at every level of governance, on every issue of significance

# CALL TO ACTION

- Control our destiny
- Do not be muzzled by apathy or inaction
- Institute ongoing, sustainable advocacy for local, state and national issues of significance to the communities we serve
- Make our voices heard --- continually, not just on "Delta Days"
- Become a vocal stakeholder in the issues that matter to us
- Make every day a Delta Day in the mind of the legislators
- Run for office; seek appointments

# FOCAL POINTS

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- Voting & the Census
- Healthcare Reform
- Economic Survival
- Quality Education
- Eco-Friendly Environment
- Keeping our Connection to Africa
- United Nations NGO Status

# 2008-2010

## ■ Delta Days

- In the Nation's Capital
- At the United Nations
- At the State Capital
- At the school board, county commission, city council, etc.

## ■ Voter Registration and Education

- New options - Motor voter, etc.
- Consistent poll locations
- Sign up as poll watchers

## ■ Resources Available

- Social Action Worktool and Codification- Available on-line
- Social Action Commissioners
- Regional and State Social Action Coordinators
- Chapter Social Action Chairpersons
- National Headquarters Staff

# 2008-2010

- Social Action Network –
  - Rapid Response to Issues
  - Social Action Center – [www.deltasigmamatheta.org](http://www.deltasigmamatheta.org)  
Social Action Blog
  - Social Action e-blast
    - Go to the Social Action Center after July 15 to sign-up via survey
- Current Issues
  - Nomination of Judge Sotomayor
  - Healthcare Reform
  - Census 2010
  - 2010 mid-term elections
  - American Recovery & Investment Act Data
    - State acceptance of Stimulus Initiative



# Health Care Reform

## What's At Stake?

Our country spends more than \$2 trillion annually on health care, but more than 46 million Americans are uninsured or severely underinsured

## Research - Read All Of The Plans

[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)  
[www.healthreform.gov](http://www.healthreform.gov)  
[www.rnc.org](http://www.rnc.org)

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."  
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Get In The Discussion

Host discussions on health care  
Invite your Senator/Representative

## Take Action

Contact your Representative and Senator to let them know that Health Care Reform CANNOT wait!

# High Stakes Issues for Our Country & Our Neighborhoods

- Economy
- Financial Regulation
- Environment
- Justice
- Energy
- Housing
- Supreme Court
- Iran
- Iraq & Afghanistan
- Violence
- Education
- Foreign Policy
- Global Trade
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Taxing & Spending
- Russia

# Legacy

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- Mary Church Terrell Historic Renovation Preservation w/ Heritage & Archives Committee
  - Who she was and why this is important

# Mary Church Terrell: Scholar, Activist (1863-1954)

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Throughout her life, Mary Church Terrell transformed her personal commitment and scholastic achievements into social action. Her influence was significant in the areas of:

- Education
- Civil rights
- Women's suffrage
- Global peace
- Anti-lynching advocacy

**She inspired the young women who were organizing Delta Sigma Theta Sorority with her activism and dedication. To them, she contributed:**

- **The prestige of her sponsorship**
  - **The Delta Oath, and**
  - **Her leadership in their first public act as an organization: The Women's Suffrage March of 1913 down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.**
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## Terrell House Features

- 5 exhibit rooms
- 3 offices for research and administration
- 2 meeting rooms
- 1 gift shop area
- 1 kitchen
- 1 bath

## Program Emphasis

- Education
- **Research**
  - Terrell Family
  - Prominent LeDroit Park Residents
  - Related D.C., U.S. and Global Public History
  - Women's Studies
  - Delta Sigma Theta
  - African American History
- Local tours
- Traveling exhibits

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