

# Questions About Nonprofit Voter Engagement

## Are nonprofits legally allowed to do voter engagement?

**YES!** The IRS affirms that 501(c)(3) organizations are allowed to conduct nonpartisan voter engagement activities, such as voter registration drives, candidate forums, and mobilizing volunteers to get out the vote.

Nonprofits should not endorse candidates for office, even in nonpartisan races, but they have a role to play in ensuring that eligible voters in the community are engaged in elections. Nonprofits should partner with local election officials on voter engagement efforts and be sure to abide by all state and local laws. Some federal restrictions apply to certain activities, like using Community Service Block Grants or AmeriCorps members to conduct voter registration activities.

### RESOURCES:

*Staying Nonpartisan: Permissible Election Activities Checklist*, [www.nonprofitvote.org/resource/staying-nonpartisan-permissible-election-activities-checklist-2/](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/resource/staying-nonpartisan-permissible-election-activities-checklist-2/)

*What Nonprofit Staff Can Say About the Election*, [www.nonprofitvote.org/resource/what-nonprofit-staff-can-say-about-the-election-2/](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/resource/what-nonprofit-staff-can-say-about-the-election-2/)

*Federal Funds and Voter Registration*, [www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FS-Federal-Funds-and-Voter-Registration-2020-copy.pdf](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FS-Federal-Funds-and-Voter-Registration-2020-copy.pdf)

## Is there a way to engage voters that doesn't require a lot of money or staff time?

**YES!** There are a number of voter engagement strategies that your organization can implement right now with very limited resources. You can start by making sure your staff have time off to vote and raising awareness among your clients and community members of upcoming elections using posters in your organization's high traffic areas or virtual reminders.

Participating in [\*National Voter Registration Day\*](#), held the fourth Tuesday of September each year,

is a fun way to get started, receive some free materials and guidance, and be part of the nation's biggest civic holiday of the year!

### RESOURCES:

*10 Things to do From Now Until Election Day*, [www.nonprofitvote.org/resource/10-things-to-do-from-now-until-election-day/](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/resource/10-things-to-do-from-now-until-election-day/)

Voter Registration Checklist, [www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CL-Voter-Registration-and-Active-Tabling-copy.pdf](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CL-Voter-Registration-and-Active-Tabling-copy.pdf)

## Do the people my organization serves even care about voting?

**YES!** Your organization may serve people struggling to meet their family's basic needs or who come from backgrounds where voting is less culturally relevant or rarely discussed. All people want to participate and have a voice in decisions that affect them, like choosing the food they eat, how they get to work or school, and where they live.

Your organization can help voters make the connection between the public services they rely on and the importance of voting. By offering assistance with voting alongside your other services, and by approaching voter engagement with a spirit of celebration and nonpartisanship, you can help voters see that participating is easier and more fun than they had thought. Not everyone you serve may be eligible to vote. They can still benefit from learning more about the process, who their local, state, and national representatives are, participating in events like candidate forums, and having an opportunity to share their opinions with those who can vote.

### RESOURCES:

*My Vote Matters: Reasons to Register and Vote*, [www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/My-Vote-Matters-Reasons-to-Register-and-Vote.pdf](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/My-Vote-Matters-Reasons-to-Register-and-Vote.pdf)

*How to Engage High Potential Voters*, [www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/How-to-Engage-High-Potential-Voters.pdf](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/How-to-Engage-High-Potential-Voters.pdf)

