

vote with your mission



12 Quick Tips for Helping People Vote

*Helping people to vote is a powerful way nonprofits “stand up” — what we call Voting with Your Mission. There is no perfect way to engage voters. The key is to find a few ways that fit your organization, **and** build onto your existing activities rather than adding new things to do. Nonprofit staff are busy, and the tips below won’t take a lot time or expense, instead, they’re designed to be included in the work you’re already doing.*

VOTER REGISTRATION

1

Get voter registration forms and put them in your office. Put up a sign saying “Register to Vote Here!” and give out registration forms. You can get voter registration forms at your county elections office, library, or U.S. Post Office. If you want a lot of forms, ask your local county registrar.

2

Remind staff and volunteers to register to vote, too! Let them know how to register online (at www.registertovoteca.gov). Sit with them and go through the forms with them if you have time.

3

Add registration materials to your ongoing activities so it doesn't take time or expense. Examples:

- At the registration window or table
- In the lobby of your theatre
- Send home flyers with children in your program
- Include them on the trays for delivered and group free meals

4

Chances are, you already use forms every day. So **add this sentence to your forms:** *“If you are not registered to vote where you now live, would you like to register today?”*

Remember: Paper forms are no longer necessary: A tablet or computer with internet access is enough to help people complete the online form.



Get a template to print your own “I work at a nonprofit and I vote” stickers from www.votewithyourmission.org

VOTER EDUCATION

5

Hold optional brown bags for staff, volunteers, or other activities for folks to talk about why they vote and how to encourage others to vote.

6

Get reliable, nonpartisan information about ballot measures, election issues and where and how to vote, and put them in your break rooms, lobbies, or waiting rooms. You don't need to know everything yourself. You just need to know where to get reliable information.

7

Include info on voting in your newsletters, social media, and emails. If your nonprofit has taken a position on ballot measures, encourage voters to vote with you on it by explaining your reasons for how such a position is aligned with your mission and goals.

8

Encourage people to attend community forums and debates. You don't have to do your own - groups that are holding forums would be thrilled to have you turn out people for their event.

VOTER TURN-OUT (MOBILIZATION)

9

If you have something like a “board member agreement,” add to it: “Board members will vote in every election while they are on the board.”

10

Don't overlook the people who may not be able to vote: teenagers younger than 18, non-citizens, and people with felony convictions who are currently incarcerated or still on parole (more info at: www.letmevoteca.org) Remind them that they have an important role in getting others to vote.

11

Remind everyone — staff, volunteers, constituents - that they can vote by mail.

12

Put up signs in your lobbies and break rooms that say “Don't Forget to Vote in November!” — you can download one from the [Vote With Your Mission website](http://VoteWithYourMission.org).

The goals of Vote with Your Mission are simple: for nonprofits to mobilize their staff, volunteers and constituents as voters and for policymakers to appreciate the nonprofit community as a powerful voting force. Remember, if everyone who worked or volunteered in children's services voted, we'd have better funding for children's services.

**Vote with Your Mission is a campaign of the California Association of Nonprofits*