

**All You Need To Know About Voter Registration**

**Who do you register?**

The goal of a voter registration campaign is simple - register eligible voters that are not currently registered. Anyone who is an American citizen can register to vote. (Please check your local state laws for rules about convicted felons. i.e., in NY State convicted felons are allowed to vote as long as they are not in jail anymore and not on parole.)

**Where to conduct voter registration**

1. You can register voters at your non-profit organization. It is permissible by law so as long as you do not tell potential voters which party to choose, etc.
2. You can register voters at cultural events, community fairs, shopping malls, doctor’s offices, etc.
3. You can partner with local high schools and encourage civic engagement by registering seniors who are turning 18.
4. If you currently conduct citizenship preparation classes at your organization, don’t forget to register those that pass their naturalization exams.

**Tips to keep in mind**

* Canvassing is a particularly effective method of voter registration because it is conducted in a well-defined area that the campaign has already targeted.
* When registering voters at a community event, ask event organizers if you can set up a table or booth. Have clipboards, pens, voter registration forms available.

**How to register people to vote**

1. **Know the laws.  Rules regulating voter registration vary from state to state.**  Be sure you understand who is eligible to register, and when. Deadlines for voter registration for various elections change every year. Make sure you have the most up to date information from your local Board of Elections.
2. **Get the cards.**  The first step to get voter registration cards from your county or city elections office.
3. **Be approachable.** Bring colorful banners, wear t-shirts with a relevant message and your organization or campaign logo.
4. **Ensure you have information and materials in relevant languages for your target audience.** Have fliers available in English and relevant languages that explains why you are doing this and why it is so important.
5. **Fill the card out with the person registering**.  Make sure that they fill it out properly and completely and that they use their full address, etc.
6. **Take the card with you.**  If the person says they will mail the card, try to persuade voters to let you turn in their cards.  Assure them that you are turning in many people's cards and that theirs will get to the right place in time.
7. **Get their permission to contact them** with information about the election and their polling place. You could have a separate clipboard sign-up for this purpose.
8. **Remind the voter** that they should bring their ID to the polls.
9. **Hand-deliver the cards.**  Familiarize yourself with the laws regarding when, where, and how to deliver cards. These can vary widely and it is best to be safe.

*Some tips taken from Wellstone Action resources.*