

Election Day Protect the Vote Activities

Election Day is the culmination of all the hard work you will have done to promote the vote. As essential as this work is, strong voter turnout is not enough to ensure that the democratic process will work. It is also important that we ensure that every vote counts and that everyone who is eligible to vote is able to do so. Consider the following options for you and your section to protect the vote on Election Day:

Be a poll worker

- ▶ Sign-up to be a poll worker through your local government, the US Election Assistance Commission, the National Association of State Election Directors, or coordinate with national organizations like People for the American Way, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, or other groups. Often, poll workers are required to participate in a short training so be sure you sign up well before Election Day and organize other volunteers to do the same.
- ▶ Prepare yourself with the tools in this packet and recommended additional resources — your knowledge of permissible and impermissible election activity may be critical to voters in your community. This year, more than ever, make sure you know the ID requirements for voters in your state.
- ▶ Be prepared with contact information for your local election commission and watchdog groups so that you can help individual voters contact the right authorities or legal counsel if they are intimidated, harassed, kept from casting their ballot, or if you observe a poll worker make an error that nullifies a ballot.

When you're working at the polls, it is essential that you:

Are informed

- ▶ Review the materials provided in this packet about the Help America Vote Act, enfranchising traditionally disenfranchised communities, and protecting against and reporting problems at the polls.
- ▶ Bring the one-pager in this section entitled “Guarding against Obstacles to Voting on Election Day” with you to the polls. Use it as a quick reference guide for some of the more common barriers to voting and to know whom to call if you observe an act of voter intimidation or other problems.

Remember to vote!

- ▶ If you are volunteering at a polling place outside of your own precinct or working in your neighborhood as a driver or canvasser, make sure you schedule plenty of time for yourself and the volunteers you are coordinating to cast your ballots. If you know you won't have time, consider casting an absentee ballot prior to Election Day or participate in early voting if it is available in your state.