

Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote Resource Guide

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National Council of Jewish Women

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Introduction: Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote

The most important political office is that of the private citizen. ~ Justice Louis Brandeis

For decades, NCJW members and supporters across the country have worked to encourage civic engagement by registering voters, educating communities, and getting out the vote on Election Day. NCJW advocates have also long pursued the expansion and protection of voting rights for historically disenfranchised individuals and communities through the suffrage movement, the struggle to end poll taxes, the campaign to pass the Voting Rights Act, and the effort to change the voting age to 18, among other efforts.

In recent years, election irregularities and policies that disenfranchise whole groups of voters have increased and become more insidious. As a result, NCJW has responded by renewing our efforts to protect voting rights and ensure laws and policies that facilitate voter participation.

The *Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote Resource Guide* is designed to help NCJW sections, members, and supporters continue the legacy of voter registration, education, and protection that has been the hallmark of NCJW for many decades. This guide includes planning tips, activity ideas, resources, and information to help you make a difference in upcoming elections. Please use this guide to promote and protect the vote in your community, and regularly visit <https://www.ncjw.org/work/civic-engagement/> for updates, additional resources, training opportunities, and more.

As you develop and implement your plans, please remember that the NCJW Washington office is available to provide additional resources and technical assistance. **Because of our tax-exempt status, NCJW and its sections are subject to certain restrictions on election-related activities. As a result, it is critical that any Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote activities you undertake be vetted in advance with the Washington office to ensure compliance.** Contact: Lindsay Morris (lindsay@ncjwdc.org or 202 296 2588 x 6) or to get approval for your plans and to share the work that you are doing in your community.

Together, we can ensure that every eligible voter is able to vote, and every vote cast is counted.

Q & A on NCJW's 501(c)(3) Status

NCJW is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization, as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. While this status allows tax advantages for organizations such as NCJW, it also limits some of the political activities in which the organization can engage. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers regarding permissible activity by NCJW and its sections during an election year.

Can NCJW sections or members endorse a candidate or party?

No, only as private individuals can NCJW members endorse. Their role in NCJW must be completely distinct from any personal activity endorsing, supporting, or promoting a candidate or party.

Can NCJW endorse or work for or against referenda or ballot initiatives?

Yes, we can do advocacy for issue-related measures, and sections are encouraged to do so.

Can NCJW encourage members to vote for candidates with certain views?

No, telling members to vote for candidates based on their positions is an endorsement of individual candidates.

Can NCJW create and distribute candidate questionnaires?

Yes, with restrictions. NCJW must:

- ▶ Distribute the questionnaire to every candidate.
- ▶ Ask a broad range of unbiased questions.
- ▶ Print responses exactly as received from the candidates without edits, editorial comment, and without stating NCJW's views.

Can NCJW host candidate forums?

Yes, with restrictions. NCJW must ensure that:

- ▶ All candidates are invited to participate.
- ▶ A broad range of unbiased questions are asked.
- ▶ Candidates do not solicit contributions.
- ▶ NCJW's views on the issues are not mentioned or available in writing at the event.

What if one of the candidates cannot attend or does not respond to a questionnaire?

First, ask the candidate to send a campaign representative to participate in the forum. If only one candidate is left to attend the forum, you must cancel. In the case of questionnaires, make it clear when you release your results that you received no response from a candidate. Again, if only one candidate provides answers, you should cancel the questionnaire. In the case of a multi-candidate race where some participate and some do not, please contact Lindsay Morris (lindsay@ncjwdc.org or 202 296 2588 x 6) to determine next steps.

May we invite someone who is running for office to speak at an event unrelated to the election?

It is safest not to invite candidates to speak at any program during the election cycle. If, however, you do invite a candidate to speak as an expert on an issue or as a sitting public official, make it clear to the invitee that they must not refer to their candidacy or electioneer in any way. Clarify in your program that the appearance does not constitute a political endorsement.

In what sort of election activities is NCJW allowed to participate?

NCJW members can and should engage in voter registration, conduct public education and trainings about participation in elections, initiate get-out-the-vote drives that are directed at all voters irrespective of their views or party, and publish voting records if guidelines are observed.

Are there restrictions on publishing voting records?

Yes. NCJW must:

- ▶ Include the entire legislative body/delegation.
- ▶ Ensure that a broad range of issues are covered.
- ▶ Limit distribution of the voting records to NCJW members if the publication states NCJW's positions on issues and compares those positions with the candidates' votes. It cannot be distributed to the general public.

What are some basic tips for 501(c)(3) compliance when planning election activities?

- ▶ Always include all candidates.
- ▶ Never state positions or editorialize on any questions asked of candidates.
- ▶ Present a broad and varied array of questions.
- ▶ Never endorse or oppose a candidate or party.
- ▶ Make sure your presentation is unbiased.

Do I need approval for election-related activities?

Yes, please contact Lindsay Morris (lindsay@ncjwdc.org or 202 296 2588 x 6) in the NCJW Washington office to have your activity or event approved.

Taking Action on Ballot Initiatives

Many of the issues most important to NCJW sections and members will be decided by state and local ballot initiatives during an election cycle. Working for or against ballot initiatives is a permissible lobbying activity with respect to NCJW's status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Below are some common questions NCJW members ask about working on these ballot measures.

- ▶ **Can I advocate for or against a specific ballot initiative?** Yes. Even though ballot initiatives usually appear alongside candidates for public office on the ballot, working for or against ballot measures is a permissible lobbying activity.
- ▶ **Is a ballot initiative the same thing as a referendum?** Yes. Ballot initiatives, referenda, state constitutional amendments, and bond measures are all legislative proposals that appear on the ballot for approval by the voters. When considering these measures, voters act as lawmakers and their votes determine whether or not a policy or proposal is made law.
- ▶ **What's the difference between advocating for an initiative and advocating for a candidate?** Advocating for a ballot initiative is issue-based advocacy that advances our organizational mission. As a 501(c)(3) organization, working on ballot initiatives is a permissible component of our advocacy work. On the other hand, 501(c)(3) organizations like NCJW are prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office. You can work on a legislative measure appearing on the ballot. You cannot comment on candidates included on the same ballot. If you would like to work on a ballot initiative in your state, please contact Lindsay Morris in the Washington office at Lindsay@ncjwdc.org or (202) 296-2588 x 6 to ensure that all of your activities comply with our tax-exempt status.
- ▶ **How do I know what initiatives are on the ballot in my state?** There are many great sources to help you find out what initiatives will be on your ballot in November. Most county websites offer a sample ballot. Here are a few additional sources:
 - **Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC)** provides progressive information on state initiatives around the country. In addition to comprehensive lists of what is on the ballot in each state, BISC provides resources, research, and strategies for working on those initiatives as well. Visit BISC at: <http://www.ballot.org/>
 - **Project Vote Smart** is a non-partisan organization that provides a comprehensive list of statewide ballot initiatives around the country. Visit Project Vote Smart at: <http://www.votesmart.org/>
 - **The National Conference of State Legislatures** maintains a searchable database of ballot measures at: <http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=16580>

As always, contact Lindsay Morris in the Washington office about all election-related plans at Lindsay@ncjwdc.org or (202) 296-2588 x 6 to have your activity or event approved.

Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote Activity Ideas

There are many ways to promote and protect the vote. Voter registration and education, work on ballot initiatives, combating voter suppression policies prior to the election, get out the vote (GOTV) efforts, and Election Day monitoring to uphold voting rights are all important activities. Remember that you can amplify your effectiveness through partnerships with local and national 501(c)(3) groups who share NCJW's goal of ensuring broad participation in the electoral process. A successful NCJW Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote campaign takes hard work but can make a significant impact!

Here are some ideas for activities in which you might engage:

Promote the Vote Activities:

- ▶ Register Voters
 - ☐ Hold registration drives regularly in visible public places like high schools, colleges, community fairs, and supermarkets, consistent with your state's laws.
 - ☐ Provide voter registration forms at NCJW and other well-attended community events.
- ▶ Educate Voters
 - ☐ Organize candidate forums.
 - ☐ Create candidate questionnaires.
 - ☐ Write an informative voter guide on ballot initiatives.
 - ☐ Prepare press releases or media kits for coverage of your activities.
Use social media, like Facebook and Twitter, to keep your members informed.
- ▶ Get Out The Vote (GOTV)
 - ☐ Canvass and leaflet door-to-door urging voting and providing polling information.
 - ☐ Phone bank to contact voters reminding them of Election Day.
 - ☐ Coordinate transportation to the polls on Election Day.

Protect the Vote Activities:

- ▶ Work in opposition to laws such as burdensome voter photo ID requirements.
- ▶ Educate yourself, your section, and all volunteers about the voting laws in your states.
- ▶ Engage in support of, or opposition to, ballot initiatives.
- ▶ Ensure that voters know their rights leading up to, and on Election Day.
- ▶ Be a poll worker and volunteer to help voters on Election Day.
- ▶ Be a poll watcher and volunteer to guard against voter obstacles on Election Day.

When planning your efforts, remember the rules that govern NCJW as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. You cannot tell people to vote for a specific candidate, a specific party, or even a specific ideology, but you can emphasize the importance of participating in the democratic process by voting.

Voter Education: Candidate Forums, Questionnaires, and Voter Guides

Educating voters about the position of every candidate on a diverse set of issues is an important community service. NCJW's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status requires us to plan candidate forums and craft candidate questionnaires and voter guides carefully. The information below can help you undertake this important voter education effort consistent with rules governing a tax-exempt non-profit.

Planning Candidate Forums

Candidate forums provide an excellent opportunity for constituents to hear the views of candidates running for office. For the candidate, such events are also a chance to address the concerns of the community in a fair and open setting. Holding a forum shows the candidates that community members care about the issues and want to be informed voters. It also demonstrates NCJW's commitment to election issues and educating voters. Candidate forums should be viewed as a great opportunity to: work with other 501(c)(3) organizations, raise your section's profile with the media, recruit new members, keep current members engaged, and help inform voters.

Do:

- ▶ Invite all viable candidates running for an office. Even if all are invited, there is a risk that the event could appear partisan if some candidates refuse to participate. **If only one candidate agrees to attend, you should cancel the forum.**
- ▶ Pick an accessible and neutral location; the location must not be selected for political reasons. It should be accessible to people with disabilities and, when possible, to public transportation.
- ▶ Use an independent moderator so that the rules of the forum don't favor any one candidate over another.
- ▶ Compile a list of neutral questions. Questions must address a broad range of issues and should not suggest the response the forum sponsor prefers. Questions should not be selected to show particular candidates in a better or worse light. (This doesn't mean they can't be controversial, but it does mean you should ensure your questions are broad and unbiased.)

Don't:

- ▶ Don't invite only the candidates with whom you agree.
- ▶ Don't select a location designed to intimidate a particular candidate.
- ▶ Don't indicate support for or opposition to a particular candidate or party.
- ▶ Don't use the forum as a political fundraiser or allow others to do so.
- ▶ Don't give any indication of NCJW's views on issues so as not to prejudice the forum. This means that NCJW materials distributed or displayed should not give the organization's position on issues raised in the forum.

Crafting Candidate Questionnaires

Like the candidates forum, the questionnaire is a valuable tool to educate and inform voters about the views of those running for office. A questionnaire, which must cover a broad range of issues that candidates would address if elected, provides an opportunity for all candidates to make their positions known.

Do:

- ▶ Invite all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, to complete the questionnaire.
- ▶ Include a deadline for completion of the questionnaire, maximum word count for answers, information about where candidates should send their responses, and an explanation of how the

questionnaire will be used (e.g. printed in a local newspaper, online, in an NCJW section bulletin, posted on Facebook, etc.).

- ▶ Verify that all candidates have received the questionnaire and provide a reasonable amount of time for them to respond.
- ▶ Compile a list of neutral, unbiased questions on a variety of issues. NCJW resolutions are a useful tool in selecting the broad range of issues that your questionnaire will address.
- ▶ Print answers in their entirety unless they exceed the previously established word limit.
- ▶ List all candidates and indicate if they did not respond to the questionnaire or to a particular question.

Don't:

- ▶ Don't include only the candidates or parties with whom you agree.
- ▶ Don't write biased questions that reflect approval or disapproval of a particular candidate's position or give a hint as to NCJW's bias.
- ▶ Don't highlight any one question or the response of any one candidate.
- ▶ Don't ask only yes or no questions without allowing for an explanation.
- ▶ Don't compare candidates' positions to NCJW's positions on the issues or state NCJW's position anywhere where the questionnaire will be published.

Writing an Informative Voter Guide

A voter guide is a voter education tool that offers “one-stop-shopping” for information about each candidate's positions on the issues. By compiling voting histories, responses from a candidate questionnaire, and candidate position statements, the voter guide is a great way to educate the public and makes it easy for voters to compare candidates' positions.

Do:

- ▶ Include all viable candidates' positions, regardless of party affiliation.
- ▶ Cover a broad range of issues that the candidates would address if elected.
- ▶ Describe the issues using unbiased, neutral language that does not hint at NCJW's positions.
- ▶ Use only positions that are in the candidates' own words in response to a question or are described in a neutral, unbiased, and complete manner.

Don't:

- ▶ Don't include only the candidates with whom you agree.
- ▶ Don't highlight only a narrow set of issues.
- ▶ Don't use biased language to describe the issues or the candidates' responses.
- ▶ Don't edit candidates' statements.
- ▶ Don't compare candidates' positions to NCJW's views on the issues or put NCJW's positions anywhere in the guide.

Sample Questions for Candidate Forums and Questionnaires

Candidate forums and questionnaires are valuable voter education strategies that help voters make informed decisions in advance of Election Day. In addition to educating and informing voters about the views of all the candidates in a particular race, forums and questionnaires provide excellent opportunities to work with other 501(c)(3) organizations; raise your section's visibility; attract new members and supporters; and keep current members engaged.

A **candidate forum** is an event that provides a chance for candidates to share their views in person on community concerns in a neutral, fair, and open setting. Holding or cosponsoring a forum shows the candidates that community members care about the issues and want to be informed voters.

A **candidate questionnaire** allows all candidates for a particular office to share their positions on the issues in writing. Their questionnaires can then be disseminated to voters via websites, bulletins, newspapers, etc. Answers to questionnaires cannot be changed or edited by anyone other than the candidate or their campaign. Publishing responses to a broad range of fair, neutral questions is another good way to educate voters. As is the case with a candidate forum, questions must cover a broad range of issues and cannot reflect the sponsoring organization's viewpoint.

Below are sample questions you may use for a candidate forum in your community or on a candidate questionnaire. (Questions are organized by issue-area). As you select questions for your forum, be sure they relate to the office to which the candidates are seeking. We have indicated in italics below whether questions are for federal, state, or local candidates.

Economic Security and Safety

- ▶ The US/our state is currently facing significant fiscal challenges that require careful consideration of our priorities. What are your budget priorities and how would they impact women and families in communities across the US/our state? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking continue to plague all of our nation's communities, but immigrant women, LGBTQ individuals, communities of color, and native women face particular challenges. What would you do to ensure that all victims of violence receive the protection and services they need? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ Sex trafficking is an issue plaguing our communities. Do you support federal funding for data collection as well as long term shelters, job training, and trauma informed victim services? (*federal candidates only*)
- ▶ Do you support the Paycheck Fairness Act to help secure equal pay for equal work? Why or why not? (*federal candidates only*)
- ▶ What role do you think the government should have in establishing workplace policies like paid sick days, paid family and medical leave, and minimum wage? (*local, state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ What should be the role of government in reducing gun violence? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ Do you support requiring a criminal background check for all gun sales?

Abortion and Contraceptive Access and Information

- ▶ Do you support comprehensive sexuality education in public schools? Why or why not? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ Do you believe our state should accept federal matching dollars to support abstinence-only-until-marriage programs? Why or why not? (*state or local candidates only*)
- ▶ Do you support every woman's right to access abortion, regardless of her ability to pay, or her source of insurance? Do you support the right of a woman to access abortion regardless of her

age, the circumstances surrounding her decision to end a pregnancy, or any other factors? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates)*

- ▶ Do you support fetal personhood policy that grants civil or human rights and protections to fetuses? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you believe public hospitals should be able to enact policies that deny women access to comprehensive reproductive health services including abortion and/or contraception? Do you believe individual doctors, pharmacists, or other health providers should be able to refuse to provide these health services? Why or why not, and if yes, under what circumstances? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you believe that employers should be able to refuse to provide their employees with insurance that covers birth control services? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you support funding for Title X, our nation's public family planning program; and do you support funding for all Title X providers including Planned Parenthood? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you support the policy which denies foreign organizations that receive US funds the right to use their own, non-US dollars to provide information, referral, or services for legal abortion or to advocate for abortion law reform in their own country? *(federal candidates only)*

Other Health Care Issues

- ▶ How would you ensure that all individuals have access to high quality, affordable, nondiscriminatory health coverage? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you support policies that would restore affordable health coverage for all lawfully present immigrants? Do you support policies to ensure such access to all individuals, regardless of immigration status? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you believe in supporting the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act? Why or why not? *(federal candidates)*
- ▶ *[If your state has not expanded Medicaid]* Do you believe in ensuring access to health coverage for more individuals and families struggling to make ends meet by expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act? Why or Why Not? *(state or local candidates)*

A Fair and Independent Judiciary

- ▶ What kinds of nominees do you believe the President should nominate to lifetime seats on the federal bench? *(US Presidential candidates only)*
- ▶ What kinds of nominees do you believe the Senate should confirm to lifetime seats on the federal bench? *(US Senate candidates only)*
- ▶ We have a federal judicial vacancy crisis. How do you plan to ensure our country has a fully functioning justice system? *(US Senate and Presidential candidates only)*
- ▶ Do you favor efforts to limit the reach of the US Supreme Court through judicial term limits, retention elections, or state ability to override decisions? *(US Senate and Presidential candidates only)*

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

- ▶ How will you stand by the Black Lives Matter movement if elected, and advance racial justice in our criminal justice system?
- ▶ Do you support full quality and protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, couples, and families? Does that include marriage equality, workplace protections, and inclusive hate crimes policies? Why or why not? *(local, state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you support laws that would require all voters to produce an official photo ID in order to vote? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates)*
- ▶ Do you support the DREAM Act? Why or why not? *(state & federal candidates only)*

- ▶ What do you think the priorities should be when reforming our immigration system? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ What role should local law enforcement play in terms of immigration laws? (*local candidates only*)

Religious Freedom and the Separation between Religion and State

- ▶ Under what circumstances do you believe that public taxpayer dollars may be used to fund services provided by religious or religiously affiliated institutions? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ Do you support school vouchers? (*state & federal candidates*)

A Secure Israel and Peace in the Middle East

- ▶ Do you support boycotts or divestment targeting Israel? (*local, state, & federal candidates*)
- ▶ What do you believe the role of the US should be in achieving peace in the Middle East? (*federal candidates only*)

Human Rights and Peace

- ▶ Do you think steps should be taken to address police violence? If so, what steps should be taken? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ What is your position on capital punishment? (*state & federal candidates*)
- ▶ Do you support US ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women? Why or why not? (*federal candidates only*)

As always, please contact the NCJW Washington office about all election-related activities (202 296 2588 x 6 or lindsay@ncjwdc.org) to have your activity or event approved.

Timeline for Voter Engagement and Turnout

Planning is the key to success! Below is a sample timeline of suggested activities to engage in the Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote campaign. As you or your section determine a plan for participating in voter engagement and turnout, adapt this timeline for your unique needs, including concrete deadlines and goals as you prepare for Election Day.

Up to a Year before Election Day:

- ▶ Visit <https://www.ncjw.org/work/civic-engagement/> often to make sure that you have all the latest information and resources for your Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote work.
- ▶ Identify a group of interested individuals within your section to take the lead planning and implementing your efforts.
- ▶ Seek out community partners — other 501(c)(3) groups — for collaboration, or join in existing local efforts.
- ▶ Assess and gather the resources you will need including funds, volunteers, etc.
- ▶ Decide on your strategies — select activities that will attract volunteer participation and that are appropriate for your community (a list of ideas is also included in this section).
- ▶ Begin to develop and gather the plans and materials you will need for your activities such as leaflets for canvassing, phone bank scripts, press releases, candidate questionnaires, voter registration forms, etc.
- ▶ Check your state's election and voting laws to make sure that your activities comply.
- ▶ Educate and advocate on policies that will impact the election, such as voter ID laws, ballot initiatives, and redistricting efforts.

Six Months before the Election Day:

- ▶ Recruit, organize, and train volunteers to phone bank and canvass — this is also a good opportunity to recruit and engage new members for your NCJW section!
- ▶ Reach out to local press for coverage of your activities.
- ▶ Organize a candidate forum and develop and disseminate a candidate questionnaire.
- ▶ Bring voter registration forms to all section events and activities (check your state laws to ensure compliance).
- ▶ Recruit, organize, and train volunteers for Election Day activities.
- ▶ Line up “in-kind” donations of staff, office space, transportation, phones, and food for Election Day.
- ▶ Educate your community about opportunities for early, absentee, or in-person absentee voting. Make sure people obtain absentee forms in advance, if necessary!

4-8 Weeks before the Election Day:

- ▶ Organize a phone tree, ensuring that you contact every member of your section to make sure that they vote.
- ▶ Assign roles to Election Day volunteers.
- ▶ Do final rounds of canvassing, phone banking, and leafleting.
- ▶ Coordinate transportation to take people who need rides to the polls.

Guide to Voter Registration

Registering voters is the first step in promoting the vote. Non-partisan organizations like NCJW can undertake this important activity without jeopardizing their tax-exempt statuses. Each new voter registered strengthens our democracy and empowers another person with civic participation. The information below is intended to help you plan voter registration drives and events in your community and to ensure that registration opportunities are available at NCJW section meetings and events.

With the development of the National Mail-In Voter Registration Form, registering voters has become a more standardized and somewhat easier process on the national level; however, it is extremely important that the form be filled out accurately according to the specific rules of your state.

Pay particular attention to deadlines — only a handful of states allow same-day voter registration. In most states, you must register to vote between 10 and 30 days before the date of an election.

The National Mail-In Voter Registration Form

Download the National Mail-In Voter Registration Form from the US Election Assistance Commission's website: http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx. All states, except New Hampshire, Wyoming, and North Dakota, permit the use of this standard form as a valid means of voter registration.

Make sure to read the instructions carefully, particularly the state-specific instructions located in the downloadable application packet. Each state's specific registration policies vary, as in the examples below:

- ▶ **Item 6 – ID Number:** Every state requires some form of ID, but the specific requirements vary as follows:
 - States requiring a full Social Security Number (SSN): AL, HI, KY, NM, SC, TN, VA
 - State requiring the last four digits of SSN: OK
 - State requiring the last four digits of SSN and driver's license number: MO
 - States requiring the last four digits of SSN or driver's license number: IL, ID, IN, ME, MD, MA, MS, MT, NE, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, VT, WV
 - States requiring driver's license number or state ID or the last four digits of SSN: AR, AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, KS, LA, MI, MN, MT, NE, NJ, NY, NC, NV, SD, UT, WA, WI
- ▶ **Item 7 – Choice of Party:** In many states, you must register with a party in order to vote in that party's primary election, caucus, or convention.
 - States that require advance party registration in order to vote in primaries: CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, NE, NV, NM, NY, NC, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, WV
- ▶ **Item 8 – Race or Ethnic Group:** Few states require this information, and it can never be used to deny registration.
 - States that require or request this information: AL, FL, GA, LA, NC, PA, SC, TN
- ▶ **Item 9 – Signature:** Before you submit a voter registration form, you must swear/affirm to certain facts, which vary widely from state to state.

II. Promote the Vote

- Note: You must contact your state or local officials to find out the rules in your state. They will also be able to give you the mailing address for the form.
- ▶ **Proof of Identification:** If you are registering to vote for the first time in your jurisdiction and are mailing your registration application, you may be required to provide proof of identification the first time you vote. The list of acceptable documentation includes:
 - A copy of a current and valid piece of photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address in the jurisdiction.

Resources for State-Specific Information

Several organizations devote time and resources to monitoring specific state requirements and deadlines for voter registration. Any of the following websites will provide you with reliable information on individual state policies:

- ▶ **Rock the Vote:** A non-profit, non-partisan organization, founded in 1990 in response to a wave of attacks on freedom of speech and artistic expression. <http://www.rockthevote.org/>
- ▶ **Election Protection:** A non-profit, non-partisan coalition formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. <https://www.866ourvote.org/>
- ▶ **Project Vote Smart:** A non-partisan, non-profit organization that brings citizens of all backgrounds together to defend democracy. <http://www.votesmart.org/elections/voter-registration>
- ▶ **State's Board of Elections:** See the list of websites and contact information for every state's Board of Elections at the end of this guide.

Our voter registration services are available without regard to the voter's political preference.

Information and other assistance regarding registering or voting, including transportation and other services offered, shall not be withheld or refused on the basis of support for or opposition to particular candidates or a particular party.

The posting of this notice is required by the Federal Election Commission

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National Council of Jewish Women

Election Day: Get Out The Vote (GOTV)

Election Day is the culmination of all of your work to promote the vote, and it is the most important day of all! On Election Day, efforts turn to getting out the vote. As you canvass, phone bank, and hold registration drives in the weeks and months leading up to the election, maintain a list of individuals whom you have helped register to vote and use this list as a starting point for get-out-the-vote activities. Here are some ways to amplify your impact on Election Day.

- ▶ **Phone Banking**

Set up a volunteer phone bank to contact individuals with whom you made contact through Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote efforts, as well as your NCJW membership, to remind them that it is Election Day. Make sure you provide callers with a list of polling locations, voting hours, and any ID requirements so that they can give people specific instructions on how to cast their ballot. These calls can be made the night before Election Day.

- ▶ **Door-to-Door Canvassing**

Face-to-face contact has proven to be the most effective tool in registering voters and getting them out to the polls. Identify neighborhoods that typically have low voter turnout. Send volunteers to knock on doors to remind people to go to the polls; be sure to provide accurate polling information. Distribute non-partisan leaflets that remind people when and where to vote, as well as election protection 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA numbers to call if they have a problem at the polls, and include an NCJW contact person.

- ▶ **Transportation to the Polls**

On Election Day, ensure that those voters who need transportation to the polls get rides. Coordinate volunteers and individuals who have signed up for rides by preparing maps and lists of poll locations as well as pick-up sites and a way for drivers to keep track of whom they drive to the polls. Your volunteer drivers on Election Day should be individuals without any partisan bumper stickers on their cars, but should be encouraged to decorate their cars with NCJW-branded posters. They should also post signs in the windows that remind people to vote and notify them of a number to call to request a ride to the polls.

- ▶ **Go Get Out the Vote!**

With proper planning and committed volunteers, your Election Day GOTV efforts will be fruitful, rewarding, and fun. By the time the polls close, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped people in your community participate in the democratic process by casting a ballot.

- ▶ **Evaluate your GOTV Efforts**

In the weeks following the election, be sure to plan time to evaluate your get-out-the-vote efforts. What worked well, what challenges did you encounter and how did you respond, and what could strengthen your GOTV efforts in the future? Be sure to share successes and challenges experienced with the NCJW Washington office by contacting Lindsay Morris (lindsay@ncjwdc.org or 202 296 2588 x 6).

Tips on Building Partnerships: Coalition-Building Do's and Don'ts

Efforts to promote the vote can be amplified through partnerships with local and national 501(c)(3) groups that share NCJW's goal of ensuring broad participation in the electoral process. Coalitions unite a group of individuals and/or organizations with a common interest that agree to work together toward a common goal. Elections provide a great opportunity to seek out new partners. The effectiveness of your promote the vote efforts can go hand-in-hand with building trust and working relationships with organizations and individuals with whom you may not typically work.

Getting Started:

- ▶ Investigate whether there are existing nonpartisan coalitions in your community, city, or state working to promote and protect the vote.
- ▶ Contact interested 501(c)(3) organizations to invite them to participate in your Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote activities.
- ▶ Follow written or electronic invitations or introductions with personal phone calls.
- ▶ Build on connections you already have with community organizations.
- ▶ Collaborate with coalition partners to implement, monitor, and adjust the Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote plan as it suits your local community.

Do:

- ▶ **Use activities to build working relationships with other organizations.** Collaborate through co-sponsored educational events, GOTV efforts, voter registration drives, and other events aimed at promoting and protecting the vote.
- ▶ **Use available resources.** Before creating something from scratch, check out the resources included and/or referenced in this guide or those available from other partners.
- ▶ **Be inclusive and participatory.** Work to make the coalition a group in which anyone in the community will feel welcome. Seek diverse partners.
- ▶ **Acknowledge diversity among your members.** Your coalition may represent a diversity of opinions and individuals. Make sure to take everyone's perspective into account and use that diversity to spur discussion rather than let it become a source of division.
- ▶ **Communicate.** Open communication will assure that no one feels left out of the loop, and that everyone has the information necessary to make coalition efforts successful. Create an email listserv for your group. Use social media to organize.
- ▶ **Set concrete, reachable goals.** Achieving attainable goals can help a coalition develop the strength and motivation to pursue and achieve longer-term goals.
- ▶ **Be realistic and keep your promises.** It's important to be viewed as a reliable ally. Make sure you can follow through on everything you say you will do.

Don't:

- ▶ **Don't work in partnership with parties, candidates, or other political organizations** such as 501(c)(4) advocacy groups. If working with a 501(c)(4) organization, or a 501(c)(3) organization that also has a 501(c)(4) component, be absolutely certain that the activity will be conducted in a nonpartisan fashion.
- ▶ **Don't reinvent the wheel.** One of the benefits of working in coalition is that you can share resources. Save time and money by maximizing your partnerships.
- ▶ **Don't give the impression of partisanship.** Be careful that your efforts don't coincide with politically significant events in a particular candidate's campaign.

Election Day Protect the Vote Activities

Election Day is the culmination of 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 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. It is especially important to 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 guide about the Help America Vote Act ("Understanding and Applying the Help American Vote Act," in this section), 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 to identify common barriers to voting and for information on 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.

Understanding and Applying the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was enacted in 2002 to give voters across the country basic rights and protections to cast a ballot and have their vote count. HAVA is comprehensive, addressing many facets of election law. Some specifics that may help shape you and your sections' efforts to protect the vote are listed below. To read the law, visit <https://www.eac.gov/about/help-america-vote-act/>.

HAVA protects these basic rights for every voter:

- ▶ The right to verify (in a private and independent manner) their vote before their ballot is cast and counted.
- ▶ The opportunity (in a private and independent manner) to change the ballot or correct any error before the ballot is cast and counted, including the opportunity to correct the error by using a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error.
- ▶ If the voter accidentally selects more than one candidate for a single office:
 - The right to be notified by election officials that they have selected more than one candidate for a single office on the ballot;
 - The right to be notified by election officials, before the ballot is cast and counted, of the effect of casting multiple votes for the office; and
 - The right to have a chance to correct the ballot before the ballot is cast and counted.

To comply with HAVA, any state or jurisdiction that uses a paper ballot voting system, a punch card voting system, or a central count voting system — including mail-in absentee ballots and mail-in ballots — is required to:

- ▶ Establish a voter education program specific to that voting system that notifies each voter of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office.
- ▶ Provide the voter with instructions on how to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted, including instructions on how to correct errors through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error.

Voters with Disabilities:

- ▶ Under HAVA, every voting system must be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including, but not limited to, non-visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters.
- ▶ According to HAVA, every polling place must use at least one direct recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities.

Language Minority Voters:

Under HAVA, a voting system must provide alternative language accessibility as specified in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), which covers jurisdictions meeting certain criteria regarding non-English speaking voters. The VRA states that:

- ▶ Whenever any state or political subdivision covered by the Voting Rights Act provides any registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots, it shall provide them in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language.
- ▶ If the predominant language is historically unwritten, the State or political subdivision may instead furnish oral instructions, assistance, or other information relating to registration and voting. Contact your local board of elections to determine regulations associated with voter assistance.

Early, Absentee, and In-Person Absentee Voting

Promote the vote by educating people about their right to cast a ballot even if they cannot be present on Election Day, through early, absentee, and in-person absentee voting. Protect the vote by ensuring that these rules are followed in your community.

Individuals unable to get to the polls on Election Day may vote early or by absentee ballot, including in-person absentee voting. *It is critical to be mindful of submission and postmark deadlines*, which vary by state, and to educate your communities and individual volunteers about these laws.

Registered voters are eligible to cast an absentee ballot if they are:

- ▶ Students, their spouses, and dependents residing with them.
- ▶ Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, government employees, their spouses, and dependents residing with them.
- ▶ Workers who, for reasons of employment, will not be able to vote on Election Day.
- ▶ Physically disabled persons.
- ▶ Persons on vacation.
- ▶ Persons age 65 or older.
- ▶ Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on Election Day or at least four days prior to the election.
- ▶ Persons with a death or funeral in the family within three days prior to the election.
- ▶ Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial.
- ▶ Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons.
- ▶ Persons who cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs.

These are only some of the criteria for obtaining absentee ballots. Each state has its own rules for early, absentee, and in-person absentee voting and not all states offer all options for voting outside Election Day. Use the resources listed below to learn your state's procedures and key deadlines to cast a vote by absentee ballot.

Resources for More Information on Absentee and Other Voting Options:

- ▶ **Check your state Board of Elections website** listed at the end of this resource guide to learn whether early or in-person absentee voting are available in your state.
- ▶ **State-by-State Guide to Absentee Voting** to identify each state's requirements for absentee voting and access related forms or applications, visit the Election Protection database at <http://www.866ourvote.org>.
- ▶ **Federal Voting Assistance Program** for Uniformed Services members and US citizens living abroad, visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>.
- ▶ **US State Department** provides details on Overseas Voting, available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/abroad/legal-matters/benefits/voting.html>.

Guarding Against Obstacles to Voting on Election Day

Volunteering at the polls on Election Day is a great way to help strengthen and safeguard the rights and liberties at the core of our democracy. You also empower others in your community by ensuring that their right to vote is protected.

More voters today are vulnerable to disenfranchisement because of the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013), which left fewer states and jurisdictions with a history of discrimination subject to federal oversight of voting laws. Now more than ever, it is critical to keep a watchful eye on the local application of voting laws and report disenfranchisement to civil rights organizations.

Review this sheet before you go to the polls on Election Day to be aware of problems you may encounter. These are just some examples of problems and potential steps you can follow if you notice anything of concern.

Warning Signs of Voting Obstacles:

- ▶ **Excessively long wait:** Voters have reported waiting in line for as long as three hours before they could vote.
- ▶ **Equipment malfunctions:** Poll workers have encountered machines that fail to tally, record, or retrieve voter data.
- ▶ **Delayed opening of the polls:** Polls have failed to open on time due to late arrival of ballots or personnel.
- ▶ **Polling places that are inaccessible to persons with disabilities.**
- ▶ **Voters leaving without voting:** Long lines, insufficient ballots, machine malfunctions have all resulted in voters leaving the polls without having had the chance to vote.
- ▶ **Electioneering:** No person is allowed to persuade, influence or intimidate a voter in casting their ballot in a polling place, and states have varying parameters of where electioneering and the distribution of campaign materials is permissible while polls are open. More information on electioneering parameters is available through the National Association of Secretaries of State and at the back of this resource guide.

What to Do If You Witness or Experience Obstacles to Voting:

- ▶ **Call the Election Protection hotline** at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682) for Spanish language services.
- ▶ **Alert a poll watcher or election official** if you suspect someone is distributing campaign materials or trying to influence someone's vote inside your polling location.
- ▶ **Request a provisional ballot.** If you or another voter is at the wrong polling location for the precinct in which you are registered and unable to travel to the correct polling location, you have the right to request and cast a provisional ballot.

Barriers to Voting: Voter ID Laws

Every person who casts a ballot should be able to demonstrate that they are who they say they are before voting. Requiring such proof is essential to the success of a democratic system. However, the burden of proof must not be so overwhelming that it prevents eligible voters from exercising their rights. Unfortunately, states across the US have already, or are currently working to make government-issued photo identification the only acceptable form of proof. Such restrictions, established in many states by laws known as “voter ID” laws, require voters to produce specific forms of identification like a state driver’s license with current address, a passport, or military ID. In many instances these IDs costs money to obtain and eligible voters who do not have them are disproportionately from minority or low income communities. As a result, such laws have the effect of disenfranchising these groups, in addition to elderly, disabled, and student voters, thus restricting the civic participation of those who most need to be heard to ensure our democracy.

KNOW THE FACTS:

- ▶ **There is no wide-spread voter fraud in the US.** Proponents of voter ID requirements argue that such laws prevent in-person voter fraud; however, actual cases of voter fraud in the US are quite rare. Consider that between 2002 and 2005, the Justice Department convicted only five people for voting multiple times; a 2005 statewide study in Ohio found only four instances of ineligible persons voting or attempting to vote in 2002 and 2004 — that’s four instances out of nine million — and an investigation of fraud allegations in Wisconsin in 2004 led to the prosecution of 0.0007 percent of voters. Thus, there is little evidence that overly burdensome ID requirements are necessary to uphold the integrity of an election or voter rolls.
- ▶ **Voter ID laws require unnecessarily strict forms of identification.** Though they differ from state to state, most voter ID laws require a government-issued photo ID with a voter’s current address. As a result, voters must often pay to get a valid ID and must be able to visit a local DMV or other government agency with limited hours of operation, making it difficult for the working poor, elderly, and rural voters to obtain the documentation required to exercise their right to vote.
- ▶ **Photo ID requirements disenfranchise already-underrepresented communities.** State photo ID restrictions disproportionately affect African Americans, Latinos, young voters, individuals over 65, and people with disabilities. The Advancement Project studies show that 11 percent of eligible voters, or about 21 million people, don’t have updated, state-issued photo IDs: 25 percent of African Americans, 15 percent of those earning less than \$35,000, 18 percent of citizens age 65 or older, and 20 percent of voters age 18 to 29.
- ▶ **Voter ID laws are a modern-day poll tax.** All 50 states charge a fee (up to \$35) for government-issued photo ID. To some, this may not seem like much money; but, to a low-income voter already struggling to make ends meet, this fee can be insurmountable. Furthermore, the 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964, bans “both Congress and the states from conditioning the right to vote in federal elections on payment of a poll tax or other types of tax.” Requiring voters to have a specific photo ID that costs money is, in essence, charging individuals money to vote — and it is unconstitutional.
- ▶ **Voter ID laws will change election results.** Consider, for example, South Carolina in the 2008 presidential election. In 2008, Sen. John McCain defeated then-Sen. Barack Obama by 168,000 votes. Today, according to the South Carolina Election Commission, there are 178,000

registered voters who would not qualify to vote under the new voter ID law because they do not have, or are unable to obtain a valid state driver's license, a passport, or a military ID.

TAKE ACTION:

Voter ID laws present a major challenge to champions of voter protection and promotion. Whether laws are pending in your state or they have already been passed, take action today to ensure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Learn whether your state has voter ID requirements using the resources in the back of this guide, and use the tips below to learn how you can make a difference.

Taking action in states where voter ID laws are pending

If your state legislature is considering a voter ID bill:

- ▶ Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed to express your opposition to voter ID laws.
- ▶ Meet with or send a letter to your state legislators urging them to oppose voter ID laws.
- ▶ Coordinate with a local or state coalition working to oppose voter ID initiatives in your state.
- ▶ Tips, templates, and resources for these actions and more are available at <https://www.ncjw.org/act/action-resources/?tax-work-areas=civic-engagement>.

If a voter ID law is a ballot initiative in your state:

- ▶ Learn about the 501(c)(3)-compliant ways that you can take action on ballot initiatives in a later section of this guide.
- ▶ Find the local or state coalition working to oppose the initiative in your state; work together using the “Tips on Building Partnerships” found earlier in this guide.

Taking action in states where voter ID laws have been enacted

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the laws and its details, including all of the requirements for obtaining ID, deadlines for application, financial obligations, and documentation rules.
- ▶ Educate community members on the voter ID laws to ensure that all eligible voters are able to cast a ballot.
- ▶ Do as much as you can to get out the vote in your community using the tips and tools in this resource guide, incorporating information for voters about the new laws.
- ▶ Help community members get to the DMV or other local government office where they can obtain an acceptable ID. Make sure to help them prepare the necessary documentation ahead of time.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

You Have the Right to...

▶ **Receive a Ballot**

If you are a registered voter, but your name is not on the rolls, you have the right to request a provisional ballot.

▶ **Use an Accessible Polling Place**

Persons with physical disabilities and persons in need of language translation must be provided with accommodation and must be assisted in voting.

▶ **Review a Sample Ballot Before Voting**

If you want to see a sample ballot in order to help you vote properly, you are entitled to do so.

▶ **Cast a Vote As Long As You Arrive Before the Poll Closes**

If you are in line before the polls close, you are entitled to vote, no matter how long it may take.

▶ **Have Your Vote Count**

If you fail to vote in some of the races on the ballot or if there is an error on your ballot and you fill out a provisional ballot instead, your vote must still be counted.

**If you experience or witness voter
disenfranchisement, please call
1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA**

Additional Resources

Check out NCJW's civic engagement advocacy resources at

<https://www.ncjw.org/act/action-resources/?tax-work-areas=civic-engagement> for a variety of helpful NCJW resources, templates, and tips to assist in your Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote activities and advocacy, including how to:

- ▶ Schedule and conduct a legislative visit
- ▶ Write a letter to your lawmaker
- ▶ Speak out at a town hall meeting or other public forum
- ▶ Write an op-ed or letter to the editor for your local newspaper
- ▶ And much more!

FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

▶ **US Department of Justice**

The Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice has a voting section devoted to enforcement of federal voting rights laws. Information about civil rights laws protecting the right to vote is available on their website.

www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/

800 253 3931

▶ **US Election Assistance Commission**

The US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and serving as a national clearinghouse of information about election administration. Use this website to learn what the requirements are for poll workers in your state or about complaint procedures.

www.eac.gov

866 747 1471

▶ **US Federal Election Commission**

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) was created to administer and enforce federal election laws. The Commission is made up of six members (no more than three from a single political party) who are appointed for six year terms. Their website has comprehensive information on a range of election-related topics.

www.fec.gov/

800 424 9530

▶ **The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a great resource for research on elections and campaigns, including nationwide surveys of state laws on voting issues, ballot measures, election results, and campaign finance.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns.aspx>

303 364 7700

COALITION PARTNER RESOURCES

► **Election Protection**

The nonpartisan Election Protection coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Their website includes a multitude of resources you can utilize in Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote activities including tip sheets for voters, state-by-state information on registering to vote and casting a ballot, and information on ways in which voters are disenfranchised in our communities. The hotline numbers, 866-OUR-VOTE and 888-VE-Y-VOTA, should be included as key resources in protecting the vote, especially if you run into challenges to enfranchisement on Election Day.

www.866ourvote.org

866 OUR VOTE

► **Project Vote**

Project Vote is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that works to empower, educate, and mobilize low-income, minority, youth, and other marginalized and under-represented voters. Project Vote has resources and publications available on their website that can inform your Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote programs.

www.projectvote.org

► **Rock the Vote**

Rock the Vote is an organization aimed at increasing youth voter turnout through media campaigns and grassroots activities. Rock the Vote coordinates voter registration drives, get-out-the-vote events, and voter education efforts, all with the intention of ensuring that young people take advantage of their right to vote. Their online voter registration tool is an easy and efficient way to register new voters.

www.rockthevote.com

► **Women's Voices. Women Vote**

Women's Voices. Women Vote started with one goal in mind: improving unmarried women's participation in the electorate and policy process. They provide tools for both organizations and individuals to increase the number of single women registered to vote and to ensure they exercise their right to vote in federal and local elections. The Women's Voices section offers resources for those seeking political commentary authored by women.

www.wvvv.org

► **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

The ACLU works to protect and expand the freedom to vote through litigation, legislation, and voter education. Through the ACLU Voting Rights Project (<https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights>) you can find information on promoting access to the ballot box as well as fighting discrimination. You can also learn about obstacles to voting for formerly incarcerated people in your state using this map with state-by-state data: <https://www.aclu.org/maps/map-state-criminal-disfranchisement-laws>

www.aclu.org

► **Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)**

The URJ has a voter registration manual directed at mobilizing the American Jewish vote. This guide provides some good recommendations for community events in preparation for the election.

www.rac.org/gotv

► **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights**

The Lawyers' Committee has been working toward achieving equality by protecting advances in voting rights for racial and ethnic minorities and other historically disenfranchised groups. Their website, as well as that of the affiliated National Commission on Voting Rights, offers a wide range of information and resources that can be used in civic engagement activities.

<http://www.lawyerscommittee.org> and www.votingrightstoday.org

► **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

The NAACP Civic Engagement Department is actively engaged in helping people to use the power of their voice by voting, with an aim to increase turnout among young voters. Resources address: voter education, get-out-the-vote activities, and election protection.

www.naACP.org/pages/civic-engagement-resources

► **National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)**

The National Disability Rights Network is the largest provider of legally-based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the US. Among other issue areas, NDRN supports the right of people with disabilities to have access to polls and to cast private and independent ballots. Visit their website for information on voting accessibility for people with disabilities.

<http://www.ndrn.org/en/issues/voting/358-disability-voting-resources.html>

YOUTH-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

- In **Broward County, Florida** the Supervisor of Elections' Office organizes an annual High School Voter Registration Week during which all eligible high school students are encouraged to register/pre-register to vote. Open to all public, private, and charter schools, awards and recognition goes to those schools and classes that register the most eligible students. If you're interested in facilitating registration or pre-registration for high school students in your area, the Broward County program may be a good model to adapt.

<http://www.browardsoe.org/content.aspx?id=130>

- **Rock the Vote** offers a **Democracy Class** for high school and college students. Democracy Class is a fun 45-minute lesson program that uses video, a discussion, and a mock election exercise to equip young people with the skills they need to navigate the elections process and participate as active citizens.

<http://www.rockthevote.com/get-involved/democracy-class/>

► **Tufts University Civic Engagement Project**

The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) has conducted research on civic education in schools, colleges, and community settings and on young Americans' voting and political participation, service, activism, media use, and other forms of civic engagement. CIRCLE is based at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.

<http://www.civicyouth.org/>

Contact Information for State Boards of Elections

Below is contact information for every state's Board of Elections. For state-specific voter information (registration deadlines, election dates, absentee voting, polling hours, voting machines, or provisions for voters with disabilities), call or visit your state's website. These offices can answer state-specific questions that may arise.

ALABAMA

Physical address:
600 Dexter Ave, Suite E-208
Montgomery, AL 36130
Mailing Address:
Office of Secretary of State
PO Box 5616
Montgomery, AL 36103-5616
(334) 242-7210 FAX (334) 242-2444
Report allegations or voter fraud:
voterfraud@sos.alabama.gov
<http://www.alabamavotes.gov/>

ALASKA

Physical Address:
Court Plaza Building
340 Mail Street, 4th Floor
Juneau, AK 99801
Mailing Address:
Division of Elections
PO Box 110017
Juneau, AK 99811-0017
(907) 465-4611 FAX (907) 465-3203
<http://www.elections.alaska.gov/>

ARIZONA

Office of Secretary of State
Elections Division
1700 W. Washington Street, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2808
(602) 542-8683 FAX (602) 542-6172
Voter outreach: (602) 364-4700
<http://www.azsos.gov/election/>

ARKANSAS

Physical address:
State Capitol, Room 026
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
Mailing address:
Secretary of State
State Capitol

500 Woodlane Street, Suite 256
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-5070 FAX (501) 682-3408
Email: Electionsemail@sos.arkansas.gov
<http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

CALIFORNIA

Elections Division
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 657-2166 FAX (916) 653-3214
Voter hotline: (800) 345-VOTE (3683)
<http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections>

COLORADO

Colorado Department of State
1700 Broadway, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290
(303) 894-2200 FAX (303) 869-4861
<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.html>

CONNECTICUT

Physical Address:
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Mailing Address:
Secretary of the State
ATTN: LEAD
PO Box 150470
Hartford, CT 06115-0470
(860) 509-6100 FAX (860) 509-6127
Email: lead@ct.gov
<http://www.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp>

DELAWARE

State Election Commissioner
905 S. Governor's Ave, Suite 170
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 739-4277 FAX (302) 739- 6794
<http://elections.delaware.gov/>

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Board of Elections
One Judiciary Square
441 4th St., NW
Suite 250 North
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-2525 FAX (202) 347-2648
Email: director@dcboee.org
<http://www.dcboee.org>

FLORIDA

Mailing address:
Division of Elections, Dept. of State
Director's Office
Room 316, R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
(850) 245-6200 FAX (850) 245-6217
Email: DivElections@dos.myflorida.com
<http://election.dos.state.fl.us>

GEORGIA

The Elections Division
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 802 Floyd West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-2871 FAX (404) 651-9531
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections/>

GUAM

Election Commission
414 West Soledad Avenue, GCIC Bldg.
2nd floor, Suite 200
Hagatna, GU 96910
+1 (671) 477-9791 FAX +1 (671) 477-1895
Email: Vote@gec.guam.gov
<http://gec.guam.gov/>

HAWAII

Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 453-8683 FAX (808) 453-6006
Email: elections@hawaii.gov
<http://hawaii.gov/elections>

IDAHO

Physical address:
700 West Jefferson E205

Boise, ID 83702
Mailing Address:
Secretary of State, Elections Division
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0080
(208) 334-2852 FAX (208) 334-2282
Email: elections@sos.idaho.gov
<http://www.sos.idaho.gov/elect/eleindex.htm>

ILLINOIS

Springfield Office:
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 782-4141 FAX (217) 782-5959
Chicago Office:
100 W. Randolph, Suite 13-100
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-6440 FAX (312) 814-6485
<http://www.elections.il.gov>

INDIANA

Indiana Election Division
302 W. Washington Street, Room E-204
Indianapolis, IN 46204-6793
(317) 232-3939 FAX (317) 233-6793
<http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/index.htm>

IOWA

Secretary of State
First Floor, Lucas Building
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-0145 FAX (515) 281-4682
Voter Hotline: 1-888-SOS-VOTE
Email: sos@sos.iowa.gov
<http://sos.iowa.gov/#>

KANSAS

Secretary of State
Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1594
(785) 296-4561 FAX (785) 291-3051
Email: elections@sos.ks.gov
<http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections.html>

KENTUCKY

Physical Address:

700 Capital Ave, Suite 152
Frankfort, KY 40601

Mailing Address:

Office of the Secretary of State
Office of Elections

700 Capital Avenue, Suite 148
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-3490 FAX (502) 564-5687
<http://sos.ky.gov/elections/>

LOUISIANA

Elections Division

8585 Archives Ave.

Baton Rouge, LA 70809-9125

(225) 922-0900 FAX (225) 922-0945

<http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/68/Default.aspx>

MAINE

Deputy Secretary of State

101 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0101

(207) 624-7736 FAX (207) 287-5428

<http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/election/index.html>

MARYLAND

Physical address:

151 West St., Suite 200

Annapolis, MD 21401

Mailing address:

State Board of Elections

PO Box 6486

Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

(410) 269-2840 FAX (410) 974-2019

<http://www.elections.state.md.us/>

MASSACHUSETTS

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Elections Division

McCormack Building

One Ashburton Place, Room 1705

Boston, MA 02108

(617) 727-2828 FAX (617) 742-3238

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/election/index.htm>

MICHIGAN

Bureau of Elections

Richard H. Austin Building - First Floor

430 W. Allegan St.

Lansing, MI 48918

(517) 373-2540 FAX (517) 373-0941

<http://www.michigan.gov/vote>

MINNESOTA

Office of the Secretary of State

180 State Office Building

100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155-1299

(651) 215-1440 FAX (651) 296-9073

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=4>

MISSISSIPPI

Physical address:

Heber Ladner Building

401 Mississippi St.

Jackson, MS 39205

Mailing address:

Assistant Secretary of State, Elections

PO Box 136

Jackson, MS 39205-0136

(601) 576-2550 FAX (601) 576-2545

<http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting>

MISSOURI

Physical address:

Missouri Secretary of State

Office of Elections and Voting

600 West Main Street

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mailing address:

Elections

James C. Kirkpatrick State Information

Center

PO Box 1767

Jefferson City, MO 65102-1767

(573) 751-2301 FAX (573) 526-3242

Email: elections@sos.mo.gov

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/>

MONTANA

Physical address:

State Capitol Building, Room 260

1301 E. 6th Avenue

Helena, MT 59601

Mailing address:

Montana Secretary of State's Office

Deputy for Elections
PO Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620
888-884-VOTE (8683) FAX (406) 444-2023
Email: soselections@mt.gov
<http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/index.asp>

NEBRASKA

Physical address:
Secretary of State Elections Division
State Capitol
1445 K Street, Third Floor
Lincoln, NE 68509
Mailing address:
Secretary of State Elections Division
PO Box 94608
Lincoln, NE 68509-4608
(402) 471-2555 FAX (402) 471-7834
<http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html>

NEVADA

Secretary of State
Elections Division
101 North Carson Street, Suite 3
Carson City, NV 89701-3714
(775) 684-5705 FAX (775) 684-5718
Email: nvelect@sos.nv.gov
<http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=3>

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Secretary of State
Elections Division- Administration
State House, Room 204
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3242 FAX (603) 271-6316
Email: elections@sos.state.nh.us
<http://sos.nh.gov/Elections.aspx>

NEW JERSEY

Physical Address:
225 West State Street, 5th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
Mailing address:
NJ Division of Elections
P.O. Box 304
Trenton, NJ 08625-0304
(609) 292-3760 FAX (609) 777-1280
<http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/>

NEW MEXICO

Secretary of State
New Mexico Capitol Annex North
325 Don Gaspar, Suite 300
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 827-3600 FAX (505) 827-8403
<http://www.sos.state.nm.us/#>

NEW YORK

State Board of Elections
40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5
Albany, NY 12207-2729
(518) 474-6220 FAX (518) 486-4068
Email: info@elections.ny.gov
<http://www.elections.ny.gov/>

NORTH CAROLINA

Physical address:
441 North Harrington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Mailing address:
NC State Board of Elections
PO Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
(919) 733-7173 FAX (919) 715-0135
Email: elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov
<http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/>

NORTH DAKOTA

Secretary of State
State of North Dakota
600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 108
Bismarck, ND 58505-0500
(701) 328-4146 FAX (701) 328-3413
Email: soselect@nd.gov
<http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/>

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Election Commission
PO Box 500470
Saipan, MP 96950-0470
(670) 664-VOTE FAX (670) 644-8689
<http://www.votechnmi.gov.mp/>

OHIO

Secretary of State
Elections Division
180 East Broad Street, Floor 16
Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-2585
<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections.aspx>

OKLAHOMA

Physical address:
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Room B6, State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Mailing address:
State Election Board
PO Box 53156
Oklahoma City, OK 73152
(405) 521-2391 FAX (405) 521-6457
<http://www.ok.gov/elections/index.html>

OREGON

Secretary of State
Elections Division
Public Service Building, Suite 501
255 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 986-1518 FAX (503) 373-7414
<http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/index.html>

PENNSYLVANIA

Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation
210 North Office Building
401 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-5280 FAX (717) 705-0721
<http://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections>

PUERTO RICO

Commonwealth Election Commission
PO Box 195552
San Juan, PR 00919-5552
(787) 777-8720 <http://www.ceepur.org>

RHODE ISLAND

Elections Division
148 West River Street
Providence, RI 02904-2615
(401) 222-2340 FAX (401) 222-1444
<http://sos.ri.gov/elections/>

SOUTH CAROLINA

Physical address:

2221 Devine Street, Suite 105
Columbia, SC 29205
Mailing address:
State Election Commission
PO Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250-5987
(803) 734-9060 FAX (803) 734-9366
Email: elections@elections.sc.gov
<http://www.scvotes.org>

SOUTH DAKOTA

Secretary of State
Elections Division
Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
(605) 773-3537 FAX (605) 773-6580
Email: elections@state.sd.us
HAVA@state.sd.us
<http://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/>

TENNESSEE

Division of Elections
312 Rosa L Parks Avenue
Snodgrass Tower, 7th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-1102
(615) 741-7956 FAX (615) 741-1278
Email: Tennessee.elections@tn.gov
<http://sos.tn.gov/elections>

TEXAS

Physical address:
James E. Rudder Bldg.
1019 Brazos St.
Austin, TX 78701
Mailing address:
Secretary of State
Elections Division
PO Box 12060
Austin, TX 78711-2060
(512) 463-5650 FAX (512) 475-2811
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml>

UTAH

Utah State Capitol
Elections Division
Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(801) 538-1041 FAX (801) 538-1133

Email: elections@utah.gov
<http://elections.utah.gov/>

VERMONT

Secretary of State, Elections Division
128 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1101
(802) 828-2464 FAX (802) 828-5171
<http://vermont-elections.org/>

VIRGINIA

State Board of Elections
Washington Building, First Floor
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 864-8901 FAX (804) 371-0194
Email: info@elections.virginia.gov
<http://sbe.virginia.gov/>

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Elections System of the Virgin Islands

St. Croix:

PO Box 1499
Kingshill, VI 00851-1499
Sunny Isle Annex Unit 4; 93A
St. Croix, VI 00823
(340) 773-1021 FAX (340) 773-4523

St. John:

PO Box 6038
St. Thomas, VI 00804
Estate Enighed, St. John VI
(340) 776-6535 FAX (340) 776-2391

St. Thomas:

PO Box 6034
St. Thomas, VI 00804
9200 Lockhart Garden Shopping
(340) 774-3107 FAX (340) 776-2391
www.vivote.gov

WASHINGTON STATE

Physical address:
520 Union Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501
Mailing address:
Secretary of State, Elections Division
PO Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229
(360) 902-4180 FAX (360) 664-4619
<http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/>

WEST VIRGINIA

Secretary of State, Elections Division
Bldg. I, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0770
(304) 558-6000 FAX (304) 558-0900
<http://www.sos.wv.gov/ELECTIONS/>

WISCONSIN

Physical address:
Government Accountability Board
212 East Washington Ave., Third Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Mailing address:
Government Accountability Board
PO Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8005 FAX (608) 267-0500
<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting>

WYOMING

Secretary of State, Election Division
State Capitol Building
200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0020
(307) 777-5860 FAX (307) 777-7640
Email: Elections@wyo.gov
<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Elections.aspx>