



"YOU DON'T NEED A HOME TO VOTE"



www.nationalhomeless.org

VOTING RIGHTS MANUAL 2024

**NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
2201 P ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037**



EDITED BY : Megan Hustings, NCH Deputy Director

Many thanks are extended to those who have contributed to the drafting of this and previous manuals by providing research and support including NCH's current and former staff, board, fellows, interns, volunteers, and the many un- housed & housed members, friends, and allies of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: **To end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected.** We envision a world where everyone has a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.

NCH affirms the following Guiding Principles/Values:

1. We CAN end and prevent homelessness.
2. People who are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness must be leaders in all the work of NCH and in the movement to end homelessness.
3. NCH believes in the dignity of all people: housing, healthy food, quality health care, education, and livable incomes as basic human rights.
4. It is morally, ethically, and legally wrong to discriminate against and criminalize people struggling to meet their basic needs.
5. Public policymakers and elected officials at all levels must be held accountable to end the systemic and structural causes of homelessness.
6. Structural racism and discrimination are the root causes of homelessness and violate human dignity.
7. Collaboration between NCH and its diverse stakeholders is critical in directing NCH's work.

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CAN PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS VOTE?

The cornerstone of our democracy in the United States of America is the right of citizens to make their wishes known through the election process. Someone does not lose their citizenship when they lose their home, yet low-income voters, and particularly persons experiencing homelessness, are consistently one of the most poorly represented blocks when it comes to voter turnout. People who are unhoused, or otherwise experiencing poverty or housing insecurity, have historically faced numerous barriers to their full participation in the election process. Some examples include:

- lacking appropriate identification documents required to register or to vote
- lacking the resources to educate themselves about candidates
- no way to get to polls on Election Day.

The **You Don't Need a Home to Vote** campaign seeks to promote voting access for low-income and homeless persons to ensure that people who are economically disadvantaged maintain a voice in shaping their future. **You Don't Need a Home to Vote** provides ideas for individuals and organizations interested in helping people experiencing homelessness overcome the obstacles that have traditionally prevented them from becoming registered, active voters.



A Brief History of Voting Rights

America began its great democratic experiment in the late 1700s by granting the right to vote to a narrow subset of society — white male landowners. Even as barriers to voting began receding in the ensuing decades, many Southern states erected new ones, such as poll taxes and literacy tests, aimed at keeping the vote out of the hands of African American men.

Over time, voting rights became a bipartisan priority as people worked at all levels to enact constitutional amendments and laws expanding access to the vote based on race and ethnicity, gender, disability, age and other factors.

The landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed by Congress took major steps to curtail voter suppression. Thus began a new era of push-and-pull on voting rights, with the voting age reduced to 18 from 21 and the enshrinement of voting protections for language minorities and people with disabilities.

Greater voter enfranchisement was met with fresh resistance and in 2013, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in its ruling on *Shelby County v. Holder*, paving the way for states and jurisdictions with a history of voter suppression to enact restrictive voter

identification laws. A whopping 23 states created new obstacles to voting in the decade leading up to the 2018 elections, according to the nonpartisan coalition Election Protection.

These activities have a demonstrable and disproportionate effect on populations that are already underrepresented at the polls. Adding to the problems, government at all levels has largely failed to make the necessary investments in elections (from technology to poll-worker training) to ensure the integrity and efficiency of the system.

Voting Rights: A Short History, Carnegie Corporation of New York, <https://www.carnegie.org/our-work/article/voting-rights-timeline/>



HOW WE CAN HELP

The National Coalition has subject matter experts on staff to help with voting issues. We want to help local groups who are encouraging voting among those experiencing homelessness. We want to:

1. **Help with a voter registration drive among those without housing.** The last thing a person is thinking about when they lose their home is to change their registration, but it is important in order to be able to vote is to notify the local board of elections of a person's change in residency. Every non-profit can help participants in their programs with voter registration. As long as this is done in a non-partisan manner, there are no issues that will jeopardize the agencies non-profit status. NCH can help with a training or publicizing your work at the national level. Politicians listen to groups who encourage their participants in voting.
2. **We are encouraging events during National Homeless and Low-Income Voter Registration Week, held the last week in September.** We encourage registration events in shelters, meal programs, or subsidized housing complexes. These events can also be used as public education events to encourage greater action around solving homelessness. NCH staff can provide materials and additional information as well.
3. **Voter education is critical to keeping those without housing engaged and enthusiastic about voting.** Non-profit organizations are allowed to host candidate forums as long as the charitable organization does not endorse a candidate and is fair to all the candidates running for a particular office. The non-profit organization can publish the answers to housing related questions from all of the candidates. An informed electorate is important for the success of democracy.
4. **Finally, we are encouraging you to assist people who are unhoused to actually cast a ballot.** Early voting is often the easiest way for a person without a stable residence to vote. Non-profit organizations can help with transportation to a polling place both for early voting or for election day voting. Informed staff at service agencies should be encouraged to speak with residents or guests about the voting process. It is critical that everyone participate in electing leaders who will work to end the affordable housing crisis in the United States.

ABOUT REGISTRATION: FOR ORGANIZATIONS

So you'd like to help low-income and homeless individuals register to vote? **Great!** But before you rush out to participate in a voter registration drive in your neighborhood, there are some things you might need to know.

These are commonly asked questions, answers provided on the following pages will help you and your organization put together a successful voter registration drive.

- Is my agency allowed to do voter registration?
- Can my organization or organizations we work with to register voters do so on behalf of a particular party or candidate?
- How much time after a registration drive do I have to send in the completed forms?
- May I send photocopies of voter registration forms to the elections office?
- May I attach any flyers or other information to the registration forms?
- Can rewards like balloons or pens be given out after a person registers?
- Can vehicles and drivers provided by my organization be used in registration drives or to transport voters to the polls on Election Day?
- When registering voters who are currently homeless, what address should they provide on the registration form?
- May I refuse to give an eligible voter a registration form?
- Does my organization have to become a deputy registrar to conduct a voter registration drive?
- Can you give me some examples of what I am allowed to say while offering information to voters?
- I'm not sure my agency has the staff or volunteers to do voter registration.
- What else can my organization do?

REGISTRATION FAQ'S FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Is my agency allowed to do voter registration?

Yes. Nonprofit 501(c) (3) organizations can operate voter registration drives if they do so in a nonpartisan manner. In fact, Section 1b of the National Voter Registration Act encourages all non-governmental entities to register their clients. This includes homeless shelters, drop-in centers, food pantries, soup kitchens, daycare centers, child welfare agencies, community health centers, etc. As a non-profit, you can register people to vote, but you cannot take positions on candidates, or be partisan in any of your communications.

Can my organization or organizations we work with to register voters do so on behalf of a particular party or candidate?

No. All voter registration services by nonprofit organizations must be nonpartisan. Nonpartisan means that the activity or program shall not be influenced by, affiliated with, or supportive of the interest or policies of any political party or candidate. Support for candidates of two different parties in an election ("bipartisanship") is not a nonpartisan activity. Participating organizations and individuals cannot make any statements in support of or in opposition to any particular candidate or party, nor carry on any other activity designed to reflect a preference or recommendation for any political candidate or party.

How much time after a registration drive do I have to send in the completed forms?

Usually, states require the completed forms to be sent in no later than a **few days** after completion of the forms. Check with your state's election board.

May I send photocopies of voter registration forms to the elections office?

No. For the purposes of a voter registration drive, the actual form received from the elections office must be filled out and mailed. However, an individual may print a voter registration form off the Internet and mail it to the county election office.

May I attach any flyers or other information to the registration forms?

No. You may not attach anything to the voter registration forms.

REGISTRATION FAQ'S FOR ORGANIZATIONS CONT.

Can rewards like balloons or pens be given out after a person registers?

Many states have laws against such “rewards.” Check with the office of the Secretary of State in your state or county office of elections. (state offices are listed in the appendix)

Can vehicles and drivers provided by my organization be used in registration drives or to transport voters to the polls on Election Day?

Yes. You can even affix non-partisan messages to vehicles encouraging voters to go to the polls. However, make certain that the vehicles and the drivers do not have any partisan literature, buttons, posters, flyers, bumper stickers, or other political propaganda.

When registering voters who are currently homeless, what address should they provide on the registration form?

Most states allow a shelter address, a description of a general location at which the individual usually spends the night, or even a drawn map to be recorded as an address. An address is needed primarily for assigning people precincts and mailing election information.

May I refuse to give an eligible voter a registration form?

No. You must give a registration form to any person eligible to vote.

Does my organization have to become a deputy registrar to conduct a voter registration drive?

Many states do not require any sort of registration or official representation. However, some states do require voter registration drives to be registered or require the presence of a deputy registrar at the drive. States requiring a deputy registrar or some other official allow anyone to be trained, usually in a short, one-time session, to conduct a proper registration drive. Other states may also require voter registration forms to be notarized.

REGISTRATION FAQ'S FOR ORGANIZATIONS CONT.

Can you give me some examples of what I am allowed to say while offering information to voters?

You can say:

- "Public policy is decided at the polls. Take a position on housing, health care, wages, and other issues affecting your life. Register to vote here today."
- "You can have an impact on the decisions affecting your life. Register to vote now."
- "Budget cuts are reducing services provided by this agency and many others. If you care about housing and other social services, register to vote today."

You can't say:

- "Support family values. Vote Buchanan in 2016! Register now."
- "Congressional Republicans want to take away your housing and healthcare. Vote Democrat! Register here."
- "Mayor Johnson has a track record of voting against affordable housing measures. Register to vote here, and let him know you won't take it anymore!"

I'm not sure my agency has the staff or volunteers to do voter registration.

We're all strapped for time, but you can make it easy. Here are some ideas:

- Appoint one person, either staff or volunteer, to be a coordinator.
- Make it part of your intake or exit interview process. Add to your forms: "If you are not registered where you now live, would you like to register today?"
- Put up signs announcing that people can "Register to Vote Here."
- Have outreach workers do voter registration.
- Get volunteers and clients to help.
- Pay clients to register other clients. Contact your local City/County Elections Office to find out how to do this.

REGISTRATION FAQ'S FOR ORGANIZATIONS CONT.

What else can my organization do?

Here are a few ideas. Call us at (202) 462-4822 if you want more information or help.

- Allow your residents/clients/unhoused neighbors use your agency as a mailing address for their sample and/or absentee ballots.
- Call your City/County Elections Office and find out if your agency can become a polling site on election day.
- Organize a candidates' forum and ask the candidates to address your issues.
- Help clients to get to a candidates' forum in your community.
- Talk to your peers in other non-profits, and encourage them to involve their clients in the democratic process.
- Create a multi-lingual voter information card. See samples in Appendix.

“
**I'M NOT SURE
MY CLIENTS ARE
INTERESTED IN
REGISTERING TO
VOTE.**

”

People who have low incomes, or who are unhoused, are no more or less interested in politics than anyone else. Please don't let your attitude be a barrier! People who are poor and unstably housed are often disconnected from community life. **Voting helps them reconnect with their community in a positive way.**

4 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

1. Develop a plan for your drive.

Appoint one person, or a group of people, to head up the organization of the drive. He/She/They should:

- Call the county elections office to find out the specifics of conducting a voter registration drive in your area, as requirements vary from state to state.
- Assign responsibilities to others to handle matters such as publicity, obtaining registration materials, and making arrangements pertaining to the site.
- Decide the day, location, and time for your voter registration drive.
- Have a registration table at a large event or conduct the drive on a special day to increase the number of voters you register.

2. Prepare for and publicize the drive.

- Obtain relevant materials: voter registration forms, pens, and clipboards; computer or tablet for online registration; voting stickers, voting brochures, and polling place maps.
- Plan logistics for the registration event, including arranging a location and food.
- Recruit volunteers or other staff to help out with registration. Area high school or college students are a valuable resource to help with registration.
- Create flyers and posters to publicize the registration drive.
- Make sure that the staff of your organization and the clients the organization serves are aware that a registration drive is coming up.
- Frequently, individuals experiencing homelessness are unaware that they are able to vote. In the buildup to the registration drive, you can inform people that even though they may not have a physical address they may still vote.



STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE CONT.

3. Conduct the registration drive.

- Have food, stickers and other voting materials on hand to give out, if permitted by local laws, to attract passers-by.
- Be prepared to answer questions that people may have about registering.
- Do not be shy. Ask everyone who passes by to register. Try to find ways to overcome any excuses people give for not registering to vote.
- Check to see if the forms are filled out correctly.
- Offer to mail the completed forms. If you are submitting registrations online, ensure that your internet connection is secure, and confirm submission of registrations.

4. Get Out the Vote!!

- Put flyers up in your organization to remind your clients to vote on Election Day.
- Hand out sample ballots at your organization.
- Help educate newly registered voters about the voting process by inviting elections officials to speak at your organization.
- Hold a candidates' forum or invite candidates to volunteer at your organization in order to get clients better acquainted with the issues and the candidates.
- Offer transportation to the polling place.
- Volunteer your organization as a polling site (contact your county elections office to learn more about this).

“While every voter registration drive faces unique challenges, there are some questions which you can probably expect to hear when working to register unhoused and low income voters. The following section should provide useful tips on how to answer them.”

ABOUT REGISTRATION AND VOTING: FOR VOTERS

These are commonly asked questions, answers provided on the following pages will help you and voters you are helping to register understand the registration and voting process.

- Am I eligible to register and to vote?
- When can I register to vote?
- How much does it cost to register?
- Where can I find a voter registration form?
- Must I be able to read or write in English in order to register?
- Am I registered once I fill out and mail the registration form?
- When do I have to re-register to vote?
- What if I move between registration and Election Day?
- If I fail to vote in an election, will I remain registered for the next one?
- Can I register for someone else?
- How do I join a political party?
- What if my polling place is not accessible to the disabled?
- When are the polls open?
- Can I vote by mail?
- Do I need identification when I go to vote?
- What if I need help in marking my ballot?
- How long may I stay in the polling booth?
- What if I make a mistake on my ballot?
- What will I be voting on?

REGISTRATION AND VOTING FAQ'S FOR VOTERS

Am I eligible to register and to vote?

Yes, if you are:

- a citizen of the United States
- a legal resident of your state
- at least 18 years old by election day
- not in prison, on probation or parole for a felony conviction
- a convicted felon whose voting rights have been restored (varies – check local laws)
- not declared mentally incompetent by a court (varies – check local laws)

When can I register to vote?

You can register at any time up until your state's deadline for the election in which you wish to vote. (See state info in the Appendix)

How much does it cost to register?

Registration and voting are always **free of charge**. Contact your local elections board if you are being asked to pay a fee!

Where can I find a voter registration form?

Voter registration forms are available at post offices, libraries, fire stations, Departments of Motor Vehicles, welfare departments, Registrars of Voters, and City/County Elections offices. Also, many social service agencies have forms.

REGISTRATION AND VOTING FAQ'S FOR VOTERS CONT.

Must I be able to read or write in English in order to register?

No. You may register and vote even if you cannot read or write. You may take to the voting booth a literate and registered individual who can assist you in the voting process, but not actually vote for you.

Am I registered once I fill out and mail the registration form?

No. You can't be sure you are registered until you get a voter notification card from the county. If the notification card does not arrive within three weeks of mailing your registration, call your Registrar of Voters or City/County Elections Office and ask if you are registered.

When do I have to re-register to vote?

If you move, change your name, want to change your political party, or have completed all conditions of a felony charge, you must register again. Registration rules and procedures for convicted felons vary by state (check with your City/County Elections Office).

What if I move between registration and Election Day?

You may still vote by returning to your former precinct or by requesting a vote-by-mail ballot.

If I fail to vote in an election, will I remain registered for the next one?

You should be, but several states have been purging non-active voters. It is always best to check with your local elections office to be sure your registration is current.

Can I register for someone else?

No. You can only register for yourself. However, you may help others fill out a form, but they must sign the form.

REGISTRATION AND VOTING FAQ'S FOR VOTERS CONT.

How do I join a political party?

Check the box for the political party of your choice on the registration form. There are no requirements to join a political party.

What if my polling place is not accessible to the disabled?

In most states, you may vote by absentee ballot. Check with your local City/County Elections office to learn what you should do. If you prefer to vote in person, get as close to your polling place as you can and a precinct board member will bring you a ballot to cast.

When are the polls open?

The time polls are open on election day varies by state (Washington State now requires all ballots to be mailed in). However, usual hours are from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Many states also allow early voting. Check with your local City/County Elections office to learn exact dates and times.

Can I vote by mail?

Contact your City/County Elections Office for information on obtaining an absentee ballot and about deadlines. Washington State now requires all ballots to be mailed.

Do I need identification when I go to vote?

In most cases you will just be asked to state your name and address and to sign the roster of voters. Bring along your voter registration card. However, several states have recently enacted voter ID laws. See the appendix of state rules to see if they affect your registration.

What if I need help in marking my ballot?

Elections Officials are available at the polling place to assist you.

REGISTRATION AND VOTING FAQ'S FOR VOTERS CONT.

How long may I stay in the polling booth?

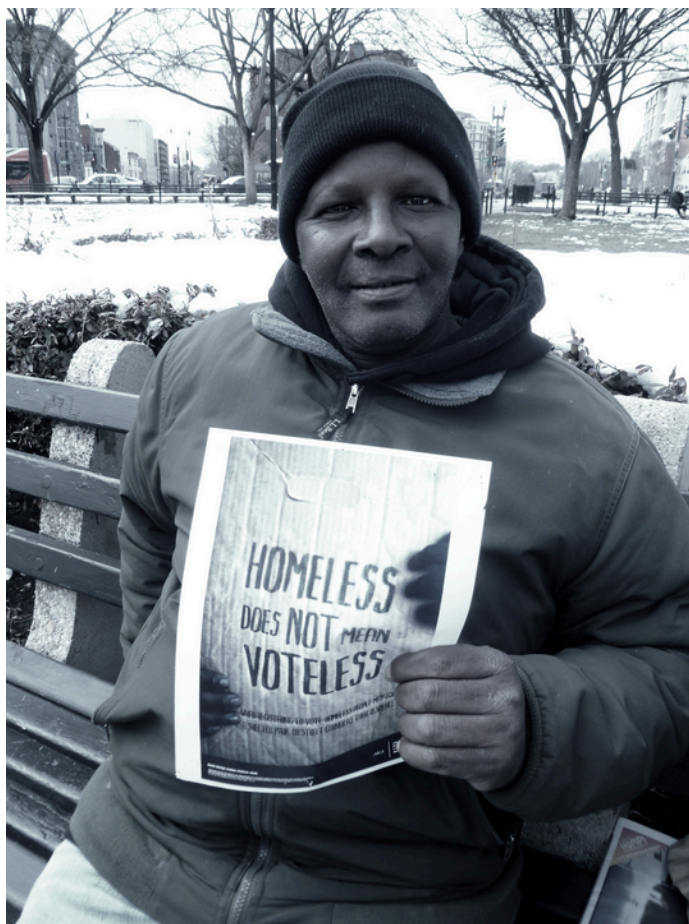
Take your time. Some states limit voting to ten minutes, but will extend that time if no other voters are waiting. You may take your pre-marked Sample Ballot into the polling place for assistance.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

You may request another ballot if necessary.

What will I be voting on?

We vote on two types of things: **People** (candidates who are running for elected office) and **Plans** (ballot measures that change local or state laws). You do not have to vote on everything. You can just vote on the things you care about.



TIP FOR ALL VOTERS:

If your name does not appear on the computerized polling list or you are told that you are not eligible to vote: **Demand an affidavit or paper ballot.**

After election day, the Board of Elections will check its records, and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote. If not, you will receive a notice that you are not eligible, along with a registration application for later elections.

4 STEPS FOR ENCOURAGING A RELUCTANT VOTER

When an eligible voter doesn't wish to register, they may feel disconnected from their community or marginalized into thinking they cannot affect change. It is important for you to find out why they don't want to register and help them understand how voting can affect their lives. The following four steps can assist you in convincing someone to register.

1. Find out why they are saying "no."

Remember an excuse may hide a more basic reason. For example, she may say, "I really don't have time," when, in fact, they really mean, "I don't want to take the time to register because I don't believe voting matters."

2. Agree with them.

Make yourself their friend, not an opponent. Let them know that you heard what they said and that you share their concern.

3. Use their reason to convince them.

Explain how their concern is really a reason they should register.

4. Ask if you can help them fill out the registrations form.

Let them know that you're a trained volunteer and can answer any voter registration questions that they may have.

You: I'm concerned about affordable housing and am out here today registering people to vote. Would you like to register?

Potential voter: Thanks, but I don't want to register.

You: Why not?

Potential voter: Those politicians are all alike. They don't do anything for us once they get elected.

You: Yeah, I know what you mean. Sometimes it seems like politicians aren't working for you and me; just for people who have a lot of money. This is actually why I am out here today! You know, some elections are determined by just a few hundred votes.

EXAMPLES FOR ENCOURAGING A RELUCTANT VOTER CONT.



"Great, but have you changed your mailing address or name since you last registered?"



"I know you're busy. That's why we're out here, to save you the time of going down to the registrar's office. This way you won't have to give up your right to vote, and it will take less than a minute."



"I know what you mean. I've been really frustrated the same way. But I found out that 1/2 our community didn't vote last time. That's thousands more people than it would take to win!"



"Misdemeanor offenses don't prevent you from voting. Some states allow convicted felons to vote after serving time. Let's double check with our Board of Elections."

SAMPLE VOTER OUTREACH SCRIPT

Below you'll find a brief sample script which you can adapt for your staff and volunteers to use when conducting voter registration outreach.

You: "Hi!"

- Approach people individually. Don't wait for them to approach you.
- An offered handshake is particularly hard to ignore.

You: "We're (Agency Name) volunteers out registering voters today because..."

- Tell them why you're registering voters (for example: to keep politicians accountable).
- Remember to avoid endorsing, supporting, or opposing any candidate or political party. You must register everyone who wants to register, regardless of party or candidate affiliation.

You: "What's your name?"

- Ask their name and fill it in on the registration form. Do not ask them if they wish to register. Assume they do!

You: "Can you please fill this registration form out?"

- Hand them the form and a pen and ask them to complete the process
- If they hesitate to take the form or seem in need of help, offer to fill it in for them.
- Move on to the next person while they finish their form.

You: "Whoops!"

Check the form for these common mistakes:

- Can you read the writing?
- Is the form signed?
- Is the ethnicity box filled in?
- Did they write today's date where the form asked for a birth date?
- If they have no address to use, is there a map drawn of the person's sleeping area?

INCORPORATING VOTER REGISTRATION INTO THE INTAKE PROCESS

One easy way to register people to vote on a regular basis is to do so during the intake process - when a client first comes to your organization and is already filling out forms or providing necessary information to receive services.

Rules governing voter registration vary from state to state. Here are some simple steps to follow when incorporating voter registration into your intake process (please check with your local or state elections office to ensure that your organization's voter registration process is conducted properly).

1. Appoint a Voter Registration Coordinator

Appoint a staff person to coordinate the incorporation of voter registration into the intake process. The coordinator should:

- Contact the county elections office or the Secretary of State's office to get information on how to conduct voter registration during the intake process.
- Obtain voter registration forms.
- Find out voter requirements, such as voter eligibility, address, and identification requirements.
- Find out how often completed forms should be mailed in (each week, every two weeks, etc.) and what the deadlines are for submitting forms before the next election.
- Obtain any voter education information, such as a map of the local precincts and polling places or sample ballots, that would be helpful for newly registered voters to obtain any other information necessary for the registration process.
- Train the front desk staff on how to register voters and assist in voter registration based on the information you obtain from the county elections office or the Secretary of State's office.
- Coordinate the collection of voter registration data with the staff, including the number of voters the staff registered and the contact information for those registered.

INCORPORATING VOTER REGISTRATION INTO THE INTAKE PROCESS CONT.

2. Make Voter Registration Part of Your Intake and Publicize It.

Make sure clients know that being homeless does not exclude them from the democratic process.

- Post signs stating that clients have a right to vote, may register to vote here, and that they may use your organization's address as a mailing address when registering to vote.
- Amend agency intake forms and procedures to include the question, "If you are not registered to vote where you now live, would you like to register here today?"
- Ask whether the person has moved, changed mailing address or names, been arrested, or done anything that could alter his/her status as a registered voter.
- You may also want to hold periodic meetings with staff to discuss any problems that arise out of making registration a part of the intake process or to answer any questions the staff has about registration.

3. Offer Clients Help in Filling Out Voter Registration Forms

Based on the voter registration information you receive from your county elections office, train staff to determine the eligibility of voters, assist those registering to vote, and address issues that may arise such as problems with identification documents.

- If a staff person fills out the registration form for someone who cannot read or write, then the staff person must sign the registration form in addition to the person registering to vote.
- The staff should check over the registration form after the client finishes filling it out to make sure all required information has been provided.
- Your organization should offer to mail the registration forms to the elections office or a staff person may take the forms to the office.

INCORPORATING VOTER REGISTRATION INTO THE INTAKE PROCESS CONT.

4. Keep Track of Voter Registration Statistics

Keeping track of the voters you have registered will help to streamline the registration process during intake and will provide valuable insight into challenges facing homeless voters.

For instance, the data may identify particular problems with registering homeless voters or may indicate that registration efforts are highly successful. Ultimately, it will help in assessing any changes that need to be made to the registration process.

Keep track of how many clients register to vote, are currently registered to vote, or do not want to vote.

Also, be sure to gather contact information for those who register so that your organization may target them in your “get out the vote” campaign. You will want to devise a system of data gathering that works for your organization. Perhaps gathering data from the front line staff each week or each month is more efficient for your organization.

Otherwise, it may be easier to keep track of those registering to vote based on the registration forms your organization sends to the elections office.

There isn't a way that I can encourage America's homeless to vote.

There isn't a way that I can encourage America's homeless.

There isn't a way that I can encourage America.

There isn't a way that I can encourage.

There isn't a way that I can.

There isn't a way.

There is.

Half of all U.S. states require a permanent address to vote. That's a problem when you don't have one. Please become a member of NCH, and join us in *bringing America home*. We've organized the *You Don't Need a Home to Vote Campaign*. To help get the word out in your community, download or order your NCH Voter Rights Registration Packet at www.nationalhomeless.org.



**NATIONAL
COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS**

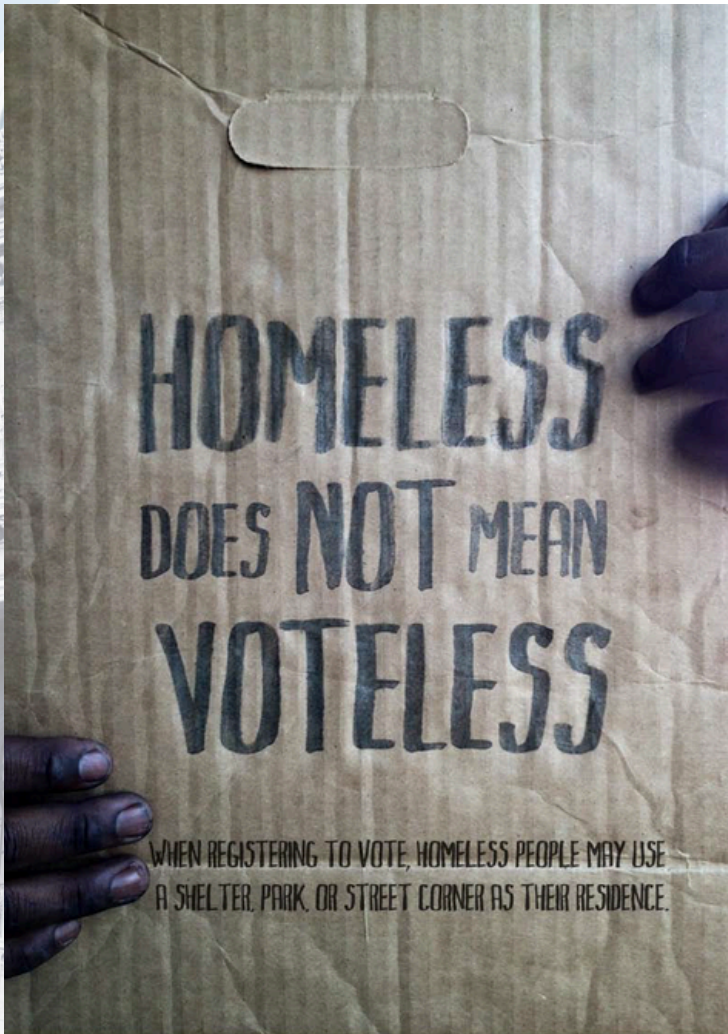
GETTING OUT THE VOTE

Barriers to voting still exist even after someone successfully becomes registered. Many folks end up not voting because they are unable to find transportation to the polling site, or they did not manage to find out where their polling site was.

There are many ways to encourage people to vote on Election Day and ways to give them the means of getting to the polling site. The following is a list of suggestions that can be tailored to your specific needs and should provide a good starting point for developing a successful “Get Out the Vote” drive at your agency.

Leading Up to Election Day

- Hang signs in shelters telling the open hours and location (with a map) of the designated polling place if registered at the shelter. Frequent reminders can increase incentive for homeless persons to go to the polls on Election Day.
- Provide information about absentee ballot and early voting requirements and deadlines for your state. Such information could be provided at shelters in the form of flyers.
- Print newsletters or flyers about the candidates and issues and distribute them in shelters shortly before Election Day. This not only serves to educate but also to encourage the voter to take the final step and go out and vote.
- Hold a candidate’s forum so that people can become more familiar with candidates and their positions. Advertise other candidate forums and assist clients in attending.



GETTING OUT THE VOTE CONT.

On Election Day

Tips for getting people to the polling sites:


- Have your shelter/agency designated as a polling place! This is a very effective way of getting out the vote.
- Have volunteers on call to walk or drive clients or shelter residents to the polling places.
- Arrange for a church or school bus to shuttle people to the election site throughout the day.
- Encourage taxi companies and other forms of public transportation to provide free rides to the polling places.
- Hold a rally, complete with food and music, and then march to the polling place(s) together.

Facilitate Voter Comfort at the Polling Site

- Invite local election officials to bring voting machines to your organization to familiarize people with the process of voting. Alternatively, have a mock voting booth at your agency beforehand with sample ballots so people feel more comfortable when voting.
- Staff the election site with poll watchers who will assist homeless persons if they encounter any voting problems with local election officials. Where possible, recruit poll watchers who are already known within the homeless community.
- Match volunteers with registered voters a week before the election. The volunteer will contact the registered voter a week before the election to talk about Election Day, the polling site, and ask if any assistance is needed to get to the polls. The volunteer can then call or visit the registered voter the day before the election to remind him or her. On Election Day the volunteer can accompany the registered voter to the polling site.

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Check your registration status, learn about your candidates, and much more!

Follow the QR code  or visit us at:
<https://bit.ly/HomelessVoting>



- **U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC):** <https://www.eac.gov/>
- **Congressional districts:** <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map>
- **County data:** <https://explorer.naco.org/>
- **Vote.org** is a one-stop shop to check on your registration status, to see what is on your ballot, and to find many other voting resources. <https://www.vote.org/>
- **Our Homes, Our Votes**, run by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, is a non-partisan campaign to register, educate, and mobilize more low income renters and affordable housing advocates to be involved in voting. <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org>
- The national, nonpartisan **Election Protection** coalition works year-round to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count. <https://866ourvote.org/>
- **Nonprofit VOTE** is the largest source of nonpartisan resources to help nonprofits integrate voter engagement into their ongoing activities and services. <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/>
- **VOTE411.org**, run by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, is a "one-stop-shop" for a wide range of election related information. <http://www.vote411.org/>



APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Alabama	
ACLU of Alabama	334-265-2754
Legal Services Alabama	866-456-4995
League of Women Voters	334-270-0539
Alaska	
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness	907-312-9530
Arizona	
Arizona Center for Disability Law	800-927-2260
CAIR-Arizona	480-704-3786
Arkansas	
ACLU of Arkansas	866-687-8683
California	
Asian Law Alliance	408-287-9710
Voter Protection Hotline	877-321-8683
Connecticut	
Voter Protection Hotline	877-828-8683
Non Profit Vote	617-357-8683
Delaware	
ACLU Delaware	302-654-5326
Community Legal Aid Society	800-537-8383

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Florida	
Access the Vote Florida	800-342-0823 ext 6000
Florida Voter Assistance Hotline	866-308-6739
Orlando Center for Justice	407-279-1802
Progress Florida	727-289-2612
Georgia	
ACLU of Georgia	770-303-8111
The New Georgia Project	404-996-6621
Voter Fraud Hotline	877-725-9797
Voter Protection Hotline	888-730-5816
Hawaii	
ACLU of Hawaii	808-522-5900
Idaho	
ACLU of Idaho	208-344-9750
Illinois	
ACLU of Illinois	312-201-9740
Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights	312-630-9744
Common Cause Illinois	312- 372-2422
Indiana	
ACLU of Indiana	317-635-4059
Iowa	
ACLU of Iowa	515-243-3576

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Kansas	
ACLU of Kansas	913-490-4100
League of Women Voters of Kansas	785-234-5152
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice	785-274-8311
Kentucky	
ACLU of Kentucky	502-581-1181
League of Women Voters of Kentucky	800-372-7181
Louisiana	
ACLU of Louisiana	504-522-0617
Southern Poverty Law Center	888-414-7752
Maine	
ACLU of Maine	207-774-5444
Democracy Maine	207-831-6223
League of Women Voters of Maine	207-622-0256
Maryland	
ACLU of Maryland Election Protection Hotline	443-399-3229
Common Cause	443-906-0442
League of Women Voters of Maryland	410-269-0232
Massachusetts	
ACLU of Massachusetts	617-482-3170
Common Cause Massachusetts	617-426-9600
League of Women Voters	857-452-1715
Neighbor to Neighbor	617-297-7008
MassVote	617-542-8683
Massachusetts Voter Table	617-506-9787

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Michigan	
ACLU of Michigan	313-578-6800
Detroit Action	313-451-4419
League of Women Voters of Michigan	517-484-5383
Minnesota	
ACLU of Minnesota	651-645-4097
League of Women Voters of Minnesota	651-224-5445
Minnesota Voters Alliance	612-900-2759
Mississippi	
ACLU of Mississippi	601-354-3408
Southern Poverty Law Center	334-956-8200
Missouri	
ACLU of Missouri	314-652-3111
League of Women Voters of St. Louis	314-961-6869
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition	314-780-1833
Montana	
ACLU of Montana	406-443-8590
Montana Women Vote	406-317-1505
Western Native Voice	800-729-3540
Nebraska	
ACLU of Nebraska	402-476-8091
Civic Nebraska	402-904-5191
Nevada	
ACLU of Nevada	702-366-1226
Vote Nevada	702-803-1569

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

New Hampshire	
ACLU of New Hampshire	603-225-3080
Citizens Count	603-929-2665
New Jersey	
ACLU of New Jersey	973-642-2084
New Jersey Institute of Social Justice	973-624-9400
New Mexico	
ACLU of New Mexico	505-266-5915
Common Cause New Mexico	505-323-6399
League of Women Voters of New Mexico	505-884-8441
Native American Rights Fund	303-447-8760
New York	
ACLU of New York	212-607-3300
North Carolina	
ACLU of North Carolina	919-834-3466
Common Cause North Carolina	919-836-0027
Democracy North Carolina	919-286-6000
You Can Vote	919-213-9936
North Dakota	
ACLU of North Dakota	701-478-9924
North Dakota Native Vote	888-425-1483
Ohio	
ACLU of Ohio	614-586-1958
Midtown Cleveland Inc	216-391-5080
League of Women Voters Ohio	614-469-1505

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Oklahoma	
ACLU of Oklahoma	405-524-8511
League of Women Voters of Oklahoma	405-242-2031
Oregon	
ACLU of Oregon	503-227-3186
Common Cause Oregon	503-283-1922
League of Women Voters of Portland	503-228-1675
Pennsylvania	
ACLU of Pennsylvania	215-592-1513
Common Cause Pennsylvania	717-232-9951
Keystone Votes	929-268-7936
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania	717-234-1576
New Pennsylvania Project	484-954-5900
Rhode Island	
ACLU of Rhode Island	401-831-7171
Common Cause Rhode Island	401-861-2322
League of Women Voters of Rhode Island	401- 339-9766
South Carolina	
ACLU of South Carolina	843-720-1423
League of Women Voters of South Carolina	803-636-0431
South Dakota	
ACLU of South Dakota	605-332-2508

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Tennessee	
ACLU of Tennessee	615-320-7142
League of Women Voters of Tennessee	629-777-5650
Spread the Vote	323-694-0738
The Equity Alliance	615-492-0061
Texas	
ACLU of Texas	713-942-8146
Common Cause Texas	512-621-9787
League of Women Voters of Texas	629-777-5650
Utah	
ACLU of Utah	801-521-9862
League of Women Voters of Utah	801-938-4308
Vermont	
ACLU of Vermont	802-223-6304
Common Cause Vermont	503-283-1922
Rights and Democracy Vermont	802-448-0326
Vote Safe Vermont	802-223-5221
Virginia	
ACLU of Virginia	804-644-8022
League of Women Voters of Virginia	804-447-8494
New Virginia Majority	571-699-3139
Virginia Organizing	434-984-4655

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONT.

State-Specific phone numbers

Washington	
ACLU of Washington	206-624-2184
League of Women Voters of Washington	800-419-2596
We are One America	206-723-2203
West Virginia	
ACLU of West Virginia	304-345-9246
League of Women Voters of West Virginia	800-419-2596
Wisconsin	
ACLU of Wisconsin	414-272-4032
Common Cause Wisconsin	608-256-2686
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin	608-256-0827
Wisconsin Election Commission	608-266-8005
Wyoming	
ACLU of Wyoming	307-637-4565
Equality State	307-228-4163
League of Women Voters of Wyoming	307-760-8078
Vote Safe Vermont	802-223-5221

APPENDIX B: TABLE OF STATE VOTER REGULATIONS

On the following pages you will find a table of each state's voter regulations, including rules for both voter registration and election day procedures.

This table is also available in full [online](#).