

Make Your Voter Registration Drive a Success!

Checklist and sample answers to common responses

Getting Ready

- Get permission for nonpartisan voter registration drive.
- Find volunteers
- Familiarize yourself with the rules and deadlines.
- Get voter registration forms, pledge forms, clip boards and copies of resources (*Remember: do not distribute any candidate or political parties' information; do not offer opinions about specific candidates.*)
- Watch a webinar and get more information at NonprofitVote.org



Setting Up a Table

- Make your table as inviting as you can.
- **Things to include:** signs and decorations laptop/tablet to look up registration status, voting locations, etc. Registration forms in multiple languages Pens Be a Voter Flyer Reference Info (CT Rules and Special Populations) pledge cards (e.g. WHY I VOTE) Clipboards candy/treats/stickers (optional but great)

Making the Ask

- **Get out from behind the table and invite people to talk to you. Have fun.**
- Start with the question, “**Can I update your voter registration?**” Stay positive and remember it’s not personal.
- If a person says they’re already registered, be sure to ask “Have you moved recently?” **Updating a registration is just as important as securing a new one.**
- When you’re talking to somebody, start to put the pen and clipboard in their hand--you’ll be surprised at how many people will automatically start filling it out.

Getting the Information

- To confirm if a person is already registered to vote or to locate polling location, visit VOTE.org
- **Ensure that cards are filled out completely including the date!** Voter registration cards that have not been filled out completely will result in clients not being registered to vote while leading them to believe that they are registered. They are not a voter until their application is approved by the Registrar of Voters. They should receive a confirmation within 3 weeks. If they do not, they can contact the Registrar in their town hall.
- Signing a pledge to vote makes people 22% more likely to vote. Post forms for contagion effect and to build excitement. OR suggest they sign up with TurboVote.org for text message reminders about elections.
- Wait until the end of your conversation to give BE A VOTER handout.

What to do with forms

- Turn in or mail completed forms **as soon as possible** to the applicant’s registrar or the Secretary of State’s office. **Registration deadlines to vote in an upcoming election vary by state, so be sure to check and submit on time!**
- Registering people online can often be much easier if it is an option in your state. Keep track of who you register!



Sample answers to common responses

1. *“I don’t have time.”*

This will only take a minute and you can save time by registering with me today.

2. *“I’m not interested” or “I don’t vote.”*

Elected officials give more attention and more resources to people and communities that vote. Your voting record is public information so they know who turned out. When you stay home, so does your power.

3. *“I can’t register to vote. I’m not eligible.”*

There is a lot of misinformation out there. I may be able to help. May I ask why not?

- **Not a citizen:** I understand. You can make a difference by making sure friends and family members are registered.
- **Have a felony conviction:** Felony voting rights vary by state, but in most states people with a felony conviction can vote at some point post-conviction.
- **Not old enough:** Will you be 18 by Election Day? If so, I can register you today.
- **I am homeless:** All you have to do is write down where they sleep at night and a place where you can receive mail. They do not have to be the same place
- **I am a student:** You have the ability to register to vote with your school address or home address
- **I live abroad:** You can contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The website is www.fvap.gov

4. *“I don’t have time today. I am just here for (health care/services).”*

I understand completely. Our ability to provide our services can depend on the support of elected officials, and it makes a difference when they know our community members are registered to vote.

Would you consider updating your registration right now? It will only take a couple of minutes.

5. *“Why are you asking me that?”*

We think it is important our organization is helping you register to vote. Your vote really can make a difference in your community. I’d be glad to help you register to vote or update your registration right now. It will only take a couple of minutes.

6. *“I don’t know any of the candidates.”*

I understand! We’re nonpartisan and can’t recommend or provide details about candidates, but you can get information from vote411.org or looking online. You can get a copy of the ballot on the Secretary of State’s website as well.

7. *“Who should I vote for?”*

We are a nonpartisan organization and we don’t and can’t endorse candidates. We suggest thinking about what matters to you and reaching out to people who can help.

8. *“I don’t want to list my phone number.”*

It’s not a required field, but it’s really helpful to list your phone number in case the local board of elections has a problem with your registration and needs to contact you.

9. *“My Vote does not count”*

Your vote is your voice, if you don’t exercise your right to vote, you will let someone else do the talking for you. Elected officials pay attention to people who vote, let that be you.

