

If you're not at the table you're on the menu...

**VOTER REGISTRATION AND
ENGAGEMENT FOR PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

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NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

A QUICK HISTORY

- 1776- DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
- 1788- THE CONSTITUTION
 - 15th Amendment (1870)- African-Americans
 - 19th Amendment (1920)- Women
 - 24th Amendment (1964)- Poll Taxes
 - 26th Amendment (1971)- Voting Age 18
- 1965- VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- 2013- SHELBY V. HOLDER



*“This is Selma, Alabama. There are more negroes in jail with me than there are on the voting rolls”
- Martin Luther King Jr. (1965)*

TODAY...

- Banning of people convicted of a felony
- Requiring photo ID
- Requiring proof of citizenship
- Reducing early and absentee days
- Misinformation campaigns
- US Territories



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VOTING IS IMPORTANT

- We are all impacted by the decisions of who we vote (or don't vote) for.
- People experiencing homelessness are underrepresented
- It is empowering
- It is our mission



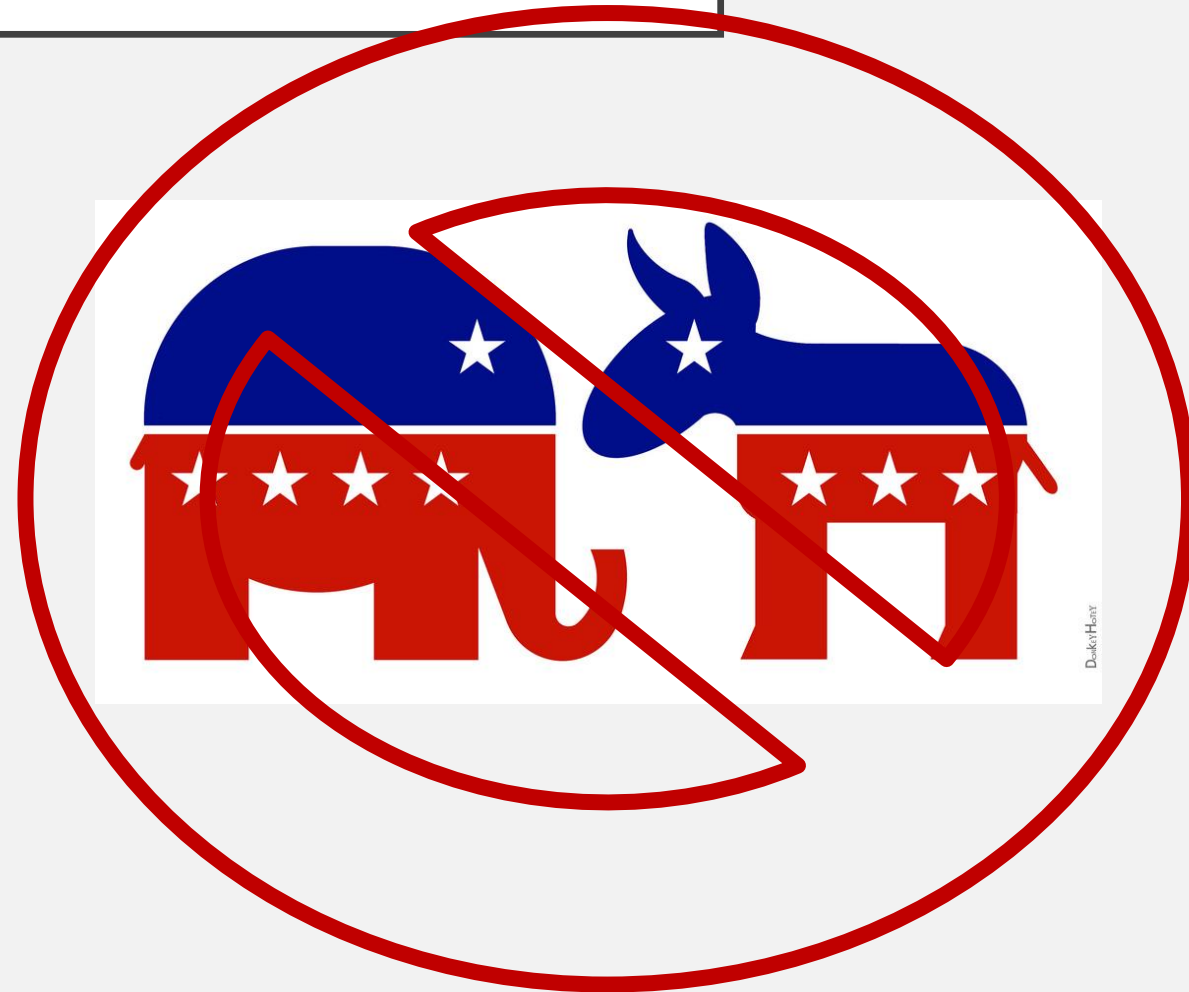
IT'S LEGAL

- The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 **encourages** nonprofits to register historically underrepresented groups
- The Act also **requires** outstationed Medicaid eligibility workers to do voter registration.
- Court cases have repeatedly ruled that **you do not need a home** to vote



A WORD OF CAUTION

- NEVER MAKE A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION OF A CANDIDATE OR PARTY
- ADHERE TO ALL STATE AND LOCAL LAWS



OPTIONS FOR INTEGRATING VOTER REGISTRATION

- Materials in lobby
- Registering during intake
- Include in case management
- Voter registration drives
- CAB sponsorship
- Find community partners



PLAN FOR COMMON BARRIERS

- No Time
- No ID
- No Home
- Criminal Record



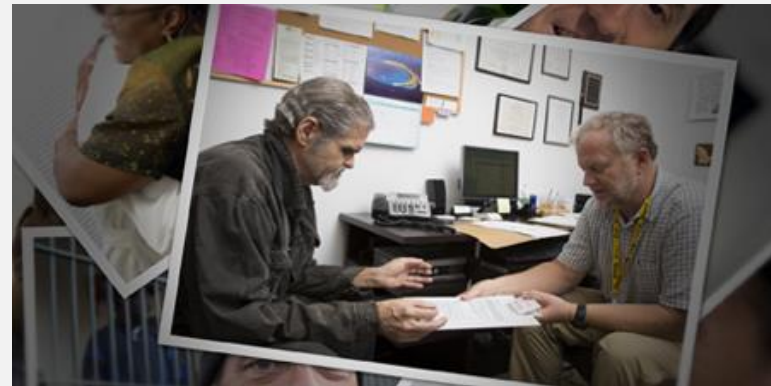
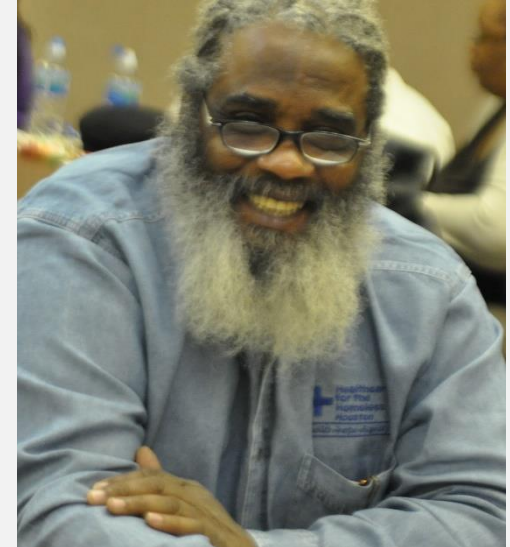
CHECK LOCAL LAWS FOR REQUIREMENTS

- Mailing Address
- Photo Identification
- Citizenship
- Criminal Background



VOTER REGISTRATION AT HOUSTON HCH

- Consumer Driven
- Every Monday year-round
- Extensive work with local election board
- Get out the vote campaign



KNOW YOUR TIMELINE & PLAN ACCORDINGLY

KNOW THE REGISTRATION DEADLINES*

In Person → Election Day

By Mail → Received 21 days before Election

Online → 21 day before election

KNOW THE ELECTION DATES*

- Primary- August 14th
- General Election- November 5th

* Dates provided are for Minnesota 2018 Elections

Voter Registration and Engagement Timeline for Nonprofits and Community Organizations

2018

6+ Months out

- Designate a Staff Lead—an internal champion who will coordinate voter engagement efforts
- Establish buy-in and support from your Executive Director and senior staff
- Create a voter engagement plan, including goals and timeline
- Review the voting procedures and deadlines in your state
- Identify potential partners to help provide training or resources
- Meet with your local election office to establish a relationship
- Develop a system for returning completed voter registration forms

5 months out

- Gather materials and resources to raise program visibility and engage voters (e.g. posters, buttons, and flyers)
- Train and motivate staff and volunteers who will interact with voters
- Kick off your voter engagement programs

4 months out

- Continue voter registration efforts
- Inform your community and supporters about your voter registration and voter education activities
- Reassess goals - how far along are you? Should you adjust your goals?

3 months out

- Prepare your get-out-the-vote plans
- Make sure 100% of eligible staff is registered and ready to vote

2 months out

- Intensify your voter registration and pledge to vote campaigns

1 Month Out

- Continue intensive voter registration and voter pledge efforts through your state's voter registration deadline
- Do get-out-the-vote and voter education activities, primarily during the final 2-3 weeks before Election Day
- Promote early voting and vote-by-mail opportunities
- Identify and prepare staff who can answer voting questions

Election Day!

- Participate in visibility and celebrate with an Election Day event
- Give staff time off to vote

Month After Election

- Review, debrief, and evaluate your voter engagement efforts

REGISTRATION DOS AND DON'TS

DO

- Assist with forms
- Educate about voting process
- Offer the HCH project as a mailing address
- Discuss importance of policy
- Offer to mail in forms
- Check state/county law

DON'T

- Refuse anyone the opportunity to register
- Attach information to the registration forms
- Discuss the candidates' positions on issues
- Have any materials endorsing candidates or parties

OTHER ELECTION ACTIVITIES

- **Leading up to the election**
 - Early voting
 - Absentee ballots
 - Locating polling places
 - Sample ballots, voting machines
 - Non-partisan issue education
- **On election day**
 - Transportation to the polls
 - Go the polls together
 - Get out the vote rally
 - Volunteers at polling places

RESOURCES

- Registration deadlines → <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/voter-registration-deadlines/>
- Election dates → <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/vote/state-elections/state-election-dates-deadlines.htm>
- 2018 Planning Timeline → <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2018/03/2018-voter-engagement-timeline-nonprofits.pdf/>
- Voter ID laws → <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voter-id.aspx>
- Felon Voting rights → <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights.aspx>
- Nonprofit guide to nonpartisan activities → <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/nonprofits-voting-elections-online/voter-registration/>
- General info on registration and voting process → <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>
- Comprehensive voter registration guides → <http://www.projectvote.org/issues/civic-engagement/state-vr-guides/>
- NHCHC Guide on Enfranchising Clients W/ Out a Home → <http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/EnfranchisingHomelessClients.pdf>
- More trainings and research → <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/>

QUESTIONS?

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The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have.

-John Lewis