



## Recovery Voices Count

**R**ecovery Voices Count is one part of Faces and Voices' national movement to make it possible for friends, neighbors, and family members to experience long-term recovery from addiction. The program is designed to increase awareness of the recovery community as a political constituency. Growing numbers of recovery community organizations and advocates across the country are getting involved in non-partisan voting activities so their voices can be heard in the local, state and national arenas.

Registering voters, educating candidates about key issues and turning out voters in growing numbers will have an even greater impact on the lives of people who still need help with their addiction, people in long-term recovery and their family members. This project engages volunteers in several specific activities:

### VOTER REGISTRATION

With less than half of eligible Americans voting, Recovery Voices Count is a great way to help people take the first step in civic participation and build recovery community organizations. Every individual, family member and friend of recovery who is eligible to vote should be registered.

### VOTER EDUCATION

Education about issues is a powerful predictor of civic engagement. The more people know, the more likely they are to participate in civic affairs. It is not enough to be registered to vote. Voters must be provided with reliable information about the issues they care about and the candidates' positions on those issues. Recovery advocates play a vital role in making sure people have access to the tools needed to make informed decisions.

### VOTER PARTICIPATION

Once people are registered and educated about the issues, the final step is to make sure that they get to the polls to cast their ballot. There are many reasons registered voters fail to exercise their right on Election Day. There may be transportation problems getting to the polls; sometimes people are apprehensive about actually voting for the first time. Non-partisan get-out-the-vote activities build community spirit and strengthen our movement.

A toolkit and guide that provide detailed information on how to organize your Recovery Voices Count campaign are available at [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).

**Please join us in making Recovery Voices Count!**