

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE-ACTIVITIES

Getting voters registered is the first step. Getting out the vote is fun and inspiring. You can use this opportunity to engage your members and newly-registered voters in exercising their right to vote. Once people are registered and educated about the election, the final step is to make sure that people exercise their right to vote. There are many reasons that people who are registered fail to cast their ballots on Election Day. There may be transportation problems getting to the polls and sometimes people are hesitant about actually voting.

Your campaign should focus on encouraging the individuals you have registered and your members, friends and allies who are registered to vote, to get to the polls! Your nonpartisan Get-Out-The-Vote activities can be a lot of fun, building community spirit and commitment to your organization. They're also a great way to engage volunteers in specific, important activities.

Here's a list of some suggested Get-Out-The-Vote activities for your Recovery Community Civic Engagement Campaign committee to consider. Think about what makes the most sense for your organization to take on and plan accordingly.

Two weeks before Election Day:

Mail reminders to vote. Use this as a reminder for folks to check that they have received their voter registration cards, know when elections are and where to vote and a phone number for them to call if you are providing transportation to the polls on Election Day.

Organize a group of volunteers who are willing to drive people to the polls.

Five days before Election Day:

Call registrants – remind them to vote and ask if they need transportation to their polling place. This is a great activity for volunteers (see Appendix G for a sample telephone script).

Day before Election Day:

Go door-to-door. Remind people to vote and leave written reminders for people who aren't home.

Election Day:

Offer transportation to and from the polls. This is a very important activity because it's the best way to make sure that people have an opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Publicize that your organization is offering rides to the polls and keep a list of people who have said that they would like a ride. You should have someone who is specifically in charge of giving rides and a phone number that you can use for people to call to sign up for rides.

Make sure that your volunteer drivers use a car that is not covered in candidate or party-specific bumper stickers and that they do not mention candidates on the phone or at the door.