

# vote with your mission



## 12 Quick Tips for Helping People Vote

*Helping people to vote is a powerful way nonprofits “stand up” – what we call Voting with Your Mission. There is no perfect way to engage voters. The key is to find a few ways that fit your organization, and build onto your existing activities rather than adding new things to do. Nonprofit staff are busy, and the tips below won’t take a lot of time or expense, instead, they’re designed to be included in the work you’re already doing.*

### VOTER REGISTRATION

1

**If you are still offering in-person programs or services, get registration forms and put them in your office.** Put up a sign saying “Register to Vote Here!” and give out registration forms. You can get voter registration forms at your county elections office, library, or U.S. Post Office. If you want a lot of forms, ask your local county registrar.

2

**Remind staff and volunteers to register to vote, too!** Let them know how to register online (at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov)).

3

**Add registration reminders and resource lists to your ongoing activities** so it doesn’t take time or expense. Examples:

- At the registration window or table
- In the lobby of your theatre
- Send home flyers with children in your program
- Include them on the trays for delivered and group free meals

4

If you use intake forms or registration forms already, **add this sentence** (and don’t forget a link to [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov)): “If you are not registered to vote where you now live, would you like to register today?”

5

You could also consider **recording a short video** explaining how to register to vote online.



Get a template to print your own “I work at a nonprofit and I vote” stickers from [www.votewithyourmission.org](http://www.votewithyourmission.org)

## VOTER EDUCATION

5

**Add 5 minutes to a few of your online meetings or events** to talk about the importance of voting, why people vote, and how to encourage others to vote.

6

**Get reliable, nonpartisan information** about ballot measures, election issues and where and how to vote, and add them to your website, put links in a emails or texts to your community, and on social media. You don't need to know everything yourself. You just need to know where to get reliable information.

Online resources:

- California Secretary of State's office, [vote.ca.gov](http://vote.ca.gov)
- VotersEdge - voter guide customizable to your ballot that includes campaign finance information

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**Include info on voting in your newsletters, social media, and emails.** If your nonprofit has taken a position on ballot measures, encourage voters to vote with you on it by explaining your reasons for how such a position is aligned with your mission and goals.

8

**Encourage people to attend community forums and debates.** You don't have to do your own – groups that are holding forums would be thrilled to have you turn out people for their event.

## VOTER TURN-OUT (MOBILIZATION)

9

**If you have something like a "board member agreement," add to it:** "Board members will vote in every election while they are on the board."

10

**Don't overlook the people who may not be able to vote:** teenagers younger than 18, non-citizens, and people with felony convictions who are currently incarcerated or still on parole (more info at: [www.letmevoteca.org](http://www.letmevoteca.org)) Remind them that they have an important role in getting others to vote.

11

**Remind everyone – staff, volunteers, constituents** - that voting by mail is safe, and they can track their ballot at [california.ballottrax.net](http://california.ballottrax.net). In person and same-day voting will also be available, though limited.

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**Encourage staff and volunteers to make sure they are registered** and to watch the mail for their official voter guide and ballot.

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The goals of **Vote with Your Mission** are simple: for nonprofits to mobilize their staff, volunteers and constituents as voters and for policymakers to appreciate the nonprofit community as a powerful voting force. Remember, if everyone who worked or volunteered in children's services voted, we'd have better funding for children's services.

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