Volunteering For Democracy

August 10, 2022
Agenda

• Announcements
• How to encourage election-related volunteering
• Guest Speakers
  • Caroline Mak, Nonprofit VOTE
  • Marta Hanson, Power the Polls
  • Cannon Roberts, Rideshare 2 Vote Aware
• Q&A

Use the Q&A Box to ask speakers questions
This fall, voters will elect:
• 435 House seats
• 34 Senate seats
• 36 governors
• 30 attorneys general
• 27 secretaries of states
• 6,166 state legislators

Plus ballot measures in 35 states:
• Elections & Voting Policies
• Abortion Access
• Legalizing Marijuana
• Minimum Wage
• Taxes

Voter turnout was 53% in 2018, the highest midterm turnout in four decades.
Announcements – 90 days to go

AUGUST: Aug 16 – Poll Worker Recruitment Day
SEPTEMBER: Sept 20 – Voter Registration Day
OCTOBER: Oct 3-7 – Voter Education Week
          Oct 28 – Vote Early Day
NOVEMBER: Nov 7 – Election Hero Day
          Nov 8 – Midterm Elections
Announcements – 90 days to go

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Add the 10-week Election Countdown Calendar to your Google Calendar or iCal and make sending communications about the election as easy as copy + paste!
Announcements – National Voter Registration Day

• Don’t wait to sign up as a partner
  • Get free posters & stickers

• Applications for event grants are open
  • Priority deadline 8/12, applications close 8/26

• Order a t-shirt, tote, or mug
  • The online store is open

• Learn about Civic Holidays & social media
  • Joint webinar on 8/18 with Snap, Meta, Twitter
Announcements – Next webinars

What's On the Ballot? Nonpartisan Voter Guides

- Tips for creating a voter guide
- How to tell if a guide is nonpartisan
- Where to get voter guides

Register for Aug 24 at 2pm

Comprehensive Voter Engagement: Making Meaningful Connections

- New materials for starting conversations with voters
- Training staff and volunteers
- Combining face-to-face and digital

Register for Sept 7 at 2pm
Encouraging Volunteerism

Mobilize your staff, supporters, and the people you serve to get involved in election-related volunteer opportunities.
Make the case: Why election volunteering?

For your organization: Demonstrate your commitment to democracy

For your staff: Connect with community members & try something new. Build interest in other civic engagement opportunities

For the people you serve: Increase sense of community agency. Stipends for poll-working where applicable

For the voters in your community: Get assistance from volunteers with shared backgrounds, experiences, or language
What kind of volunteer opportunities exist?

- Poll worker
- Rides to the polls
- Legal assistance/poll monitoring
- Voter ID assistance
- Voter registration help
How to motivate people to volunteer

Make it simple

• Make the request explicit, with clear information and sign up instructions
• Find opportunities with flexible or convenient timing
• Provide time or space for volunteering

Make it fun/relevant

• Highlight opportunities that connect with your organization’s mission or skills
• Create competitions or offer incentives to make it exciting
• Make it a group effort that you discuss later
Nonprofits can provide paid time off to vote!
Consider offering PTO for election-related volunteering, on election day or in the months leading up to it.

Learn more at Nonprofit Staff Vote
Guest Speakers

Caroline Mak, Nonprofit VOTE
Marta Hanson, Power the Polls
Cannon Roberts, Rideshare 2 Vote Aware
Volunteering for Democracy | August 10

Marta Hanson (she/her)
Partnerships | marta@powerthepolls.org
America’s Poll Worker Shortage Is a Brewing Crisis

Policy makers need to act now to ensure polling places work smoothly.

National shortage in poll workers could affect Dallas elections

Elections officials struggle to spread the vote without spreading the virus.
A first-of-its kind initiative to recruit a new wave of younger, more diverse poll workers to ensure a safe, secure, healthy and fair election for all voters.
Recruited 700,000 prospective poll workers

Over 400 business & nonprofit partners

Staffed all target jurisdictions + no widespread shortages during Early Voting or on Election Day
POLL WORKERS POWER OUR DEMOCRACY
WHY POLL WORKERS MATTER

Enable the nonpartisan process of our democracy

Keep polling places open on election day & for early voting

Ensure technology functions properly and efficiently

Prevent long lines for voters at the polls

Provide voters with information in their native language

Make every voter’s experience a positive and empowering one
THE NEED STILL EXISTS

For the 2022 midterms, we’re already facing a shortage of poll workers to staff our elections.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLL WORKER

RISE AND SHINE!
Set up voting stations and open your polling location!

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS VOTE
Check-in voters, answer voter questions, assist voters as needed, pass out “I Voted” stickers!

LAST TO LEAVE!
Break down polling locations when voting ends and ensure ballots make it safely to be counted.
WHAT DO POLL WORKERS DO?

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

• Set up voting stations and signage
• Check voters in, distribute ballots, and answer voter questions
• Provide assistance for voters (elderly, disabled citizens, language access)
• Update voter registration information
• Register voters in states that have same-day registration
• Maintain a safe and orderly polling place
• Pass out “I Voted” stickers
• Break down polling locations at the end of the day and ensure ballots make it safely to be counted
HOW TO BECOME A POLL WORKER

01 COMPLETE AN OFFICIAL APPLICATION
Sign up at PowerThePolls.org.
We’ll direct you to your local jurisdiction’s application.
Complete the application!

02 BE PATIENT & PERSISTENT
Getting placed may take time!
Be proactive in reaching out to your local elections office and checking for updates and next steps.

03 GET TRAINED!
If selected, you will need to complete all official trainings required by your election office.
Take advantage of extra trainings and resources!

04 POWER THE POLLS!
If you are placed, you have a BIG responsibility.
Be sure to show up on Election Day or during early voting. Your neighbors are counting on you!
Many states have different requirements for becoming a poll worker. The following are a few common eligibility requirements.

- Being a resident of the state/county you want to work in.
- Being registered to vote in the state/county you want to work in.
- Being 18+ years of age (or younger if your state/county has a student program).
- Ensuring equal representation of major political parties.
HELP US
POWER THE POLLS
HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Sign up yourself at PowerThePolls.org/NonprofitVOTE
- Share the link with family and friends
- Partner with us to lead outreach and recruitment in your own communities
- Amplify Poll Worker Recruitment Day on Tuesday, August 16
- Consider policies supporting paid time off to be a poll worker
POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Help us amplify!
@PowerThePolls

#PollWorkerRecruitmentDay
#PowerThePolls
Thank you!

LEARN MORE
www.powerthepolls.org

EMAIL WITH QUESTIONS
marta@powerthepolls.org

FIND US ON ALL THE PLATFORMS
@PowerThePolls
We are Offering Free Trips to the Polls!

Sign Up to be a Volunteer Driver at:

Rideshare2VoteAware.org

Call Us at (888) 858-3421

¡Ofrecemos Viajes Gratis a los Lugares de Votación!

Regístrate para ser un Conductor Voluntario en: Rideshare2VoteAware.org

o Llámanos al (888) 858-3421

Sign Up Link

Formulario de Registro