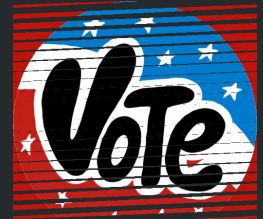


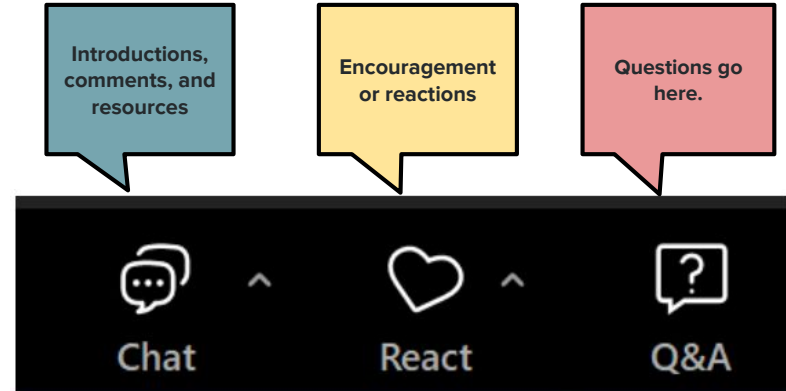


Nonprofit Guide to Supporting Free & Fair Elections



Announcements and Housekeeping

- Please put questions in the **Q&A section** of the webinar (not the chat, please) and they will be answered at the end of the presentation.
- A recording of the webinar will be sent within a week to everyone who registered, whether or not they attended.



Agenda

- Welcome and Housekeeping
- 2026 is different
- Nonprofits are trusted messengers
- What nonprofits can do to support a successful election
- Planning your election protection effort
- Additional resources
- Q&A

Who is Nonprofit VOTE?

Mission: Nonprofit VOTE equips our nation's nonprofits with nonpartisan tools and resources to help the communities they serve participate in voting and democracy.

Vision: We envision a diverse network of nonprofits across the United States with the skills, resources, and commitment needed to foster **a more inclusive democracy** where all voices are heard, particularly those currently underrepresented in the voting process.



Nonprofit VOTE's Work

- Free Voter Engagement Resource Library
- Free national webinar series
- Research Based Partner Case Studies
- Nonprofit VOTE Blog
- Customized Trainings for your organization
- Lead National Voter Registration Day



Speakers



Gwen Stembridge

Director of Education &
Partnerships
Nonprofit VOTE

gwen@nonprofitvote.org



Brian Miller

Executive Director
Nonprofit VOTE

brian@nonprofitvote.org



Sarah DiJulio

Partner
M+R

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Miranda Carter

Senior Vice President
M+R

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Claire Manning

Senior Executive Officer,
Advocacy & Mobilization
The Arc

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ELECTIONS UNDER PRESSURE

Nonprofit Guide to Supporting Free and Fair Elections



Who is M+R?

We only work with not-for-profit organizations



2026 is different

REASON 1

REDISTRICTING CONFUSION

THE COOK
POLITICAL
REPORT
WITH AMY WALTER

Race Ratings ▾

Analysis ▾

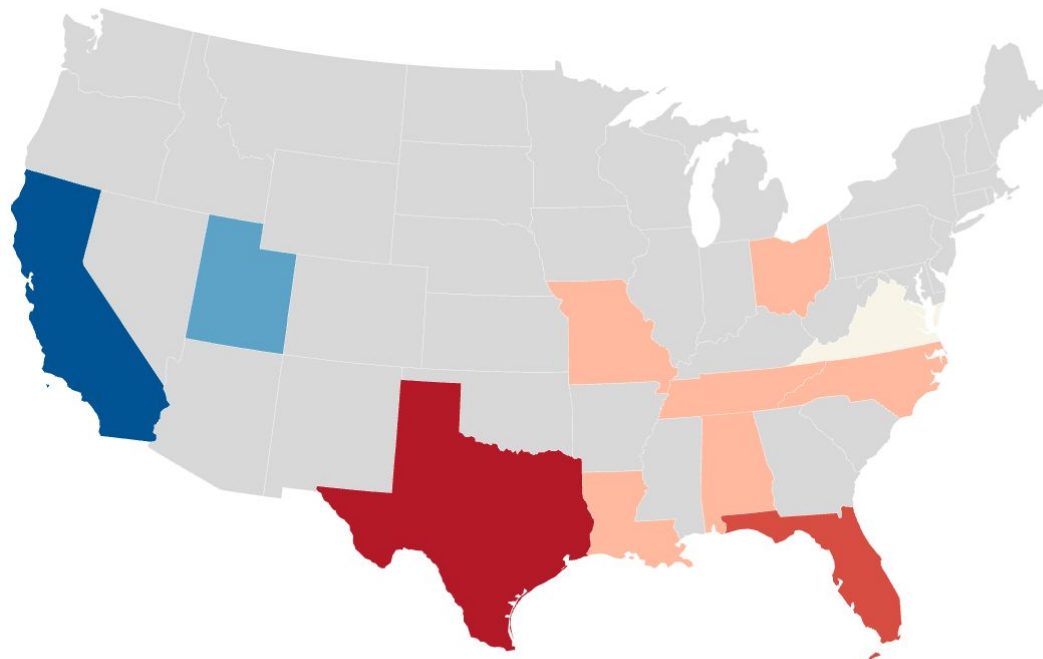
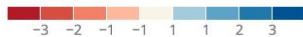
Data & Tools ▾

Podcasts & Video ▾

Events

About Us ▾

Hover over each state to see the number of seats in play and the state of the redistricting process.



Source: The Cook Political Report

MAIL IN VOTING CONFUSION

2026 NYC UPDATED MAIL BALLOT GUIDELINES

MAIL YOUR BALLOT AT LEAST 1 WEEK BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Plan ahead so your ballot can be received and counted.

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York recommends mailing your ballot as soon as you can, and at least one week before the deadline.



➔ POSTMARK FACTS

- **SHOWS:** DATE YOUR BALLOT REACHES A USPS PROCESSING FACILITY
- **DOES NOT SHOW:** MAILBOX DROP OFF, POSTAL WORKER ACCEPTANCE, LOCAL POST OFFICE ARRIVAL

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
VOTE LOUDER

Learn
more:



PBS | WETA PBS

PBS NEWS

Menu Live

Official Election Ballot

Instructions

1. Put your ballot in the yellow envelope that says "Official Election Ballot" and seal it.

2. Put the yellow envelope that says "Official Election Ballot" in the return envelope and seal it.

0:00 / 6:06

1x CC

PBS NEWS HOUR

Constitutional law professor explains Supreme Court's ruling on mail-in voting

Aug 25, 2026 6:45 PM EDT

REASON 3 CHANGING RULES

The Daily Tar Heel

Printing News. Raising Hell. Since 1893.

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UNIVERSITY ▾ CITY & STATE ▾ SPORTS ▾ LIFESTYLE ▾ INVESTIGATIONS ▾ OPINION ▾ MULTIMEDIA ▾ GAMES ABOUT ▾

CITY & STATE N.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS THE OC REPORT VOTING LAWS

N.C. State Board of Elections considers multiple rule changes for photo ID, absentee ballots

Emmy Russ • June 17, 2026



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



UNIVERSITY

Faculty question Board of Trustees' rationale after rejected hiring of WGST professor

Aidan Lockhart • May 21, 2026

YOU CAN
NOW MINOR
IN PWAD!

What is PWAD?

WHAT YOU NEED

PWAD 250 - Intro to Peace & Security Studies
PWAD 266 - Global History of Warfare
PWAD 222 - The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense
A Minor Elective

REASON 4 VOTER ROLL CLEANUPS

HOME ABOUT SUBSCRIBE DONATE PART OF STATES NEWSROOM

Alaska Beacon

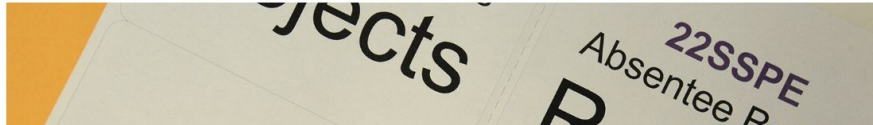
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION ELECTION 2026 GOVERNMENT & POLITICS HEALTH JUSTICE

ELECTION 2026

Alaska Division of Elections erroneously removed more than 600 citizens from voter list

More than 100 noncitizens were also mistakenly registered to vote, Carol Beecher told state lawmakers in a partial response to questions

BY JAMES BROOKS - AUGUST 6, 2026 5:31 PM



FOX 4 Live News Weather Sports Good Day Contests Latest Episodes More

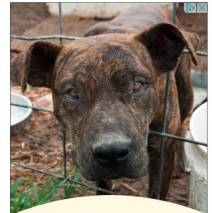
Dallas activist mistakenly declared dead, voter registration canceled

By Steven Dial | FOX 4 | Election | Published April 20, 2026 4:10 PM CDT



Dallas Democrat mistakenly declared dead, removed from polls

A well-known Dallas Democrat was removed from ballots after he was accidentally declared deceased. FOX 4's Steven Dial spoke with the man who believes this was more than just a clerical error.



ASPCA

Every Cent Counts

REASON 5 MISINFORMATION



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Opinion

My team fed chatbots election lies. Here's what happened.

Did the machines push back? The midterms hang in the balance.

Yesterday at 7:00 a.m. EDT

6 min 81

 Make us preferred on Google



PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN ELECTION INTEGRITY IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW

POLL

How confident are you that your
state/local government will run a fair
election?



THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACY:

**High voter participation and robust public
confidence in the voting process itself.**

A Role for Nonprofits

**c3 nonpartisan nonprofit organizations
have a key role to play in helping to
ensure free and fair elections**

What Nonprofits Bring to the Table

Scale

1+ million nonprofits,
20% do voter engagement

Trust

Community roots,
long-term relationships

Reach

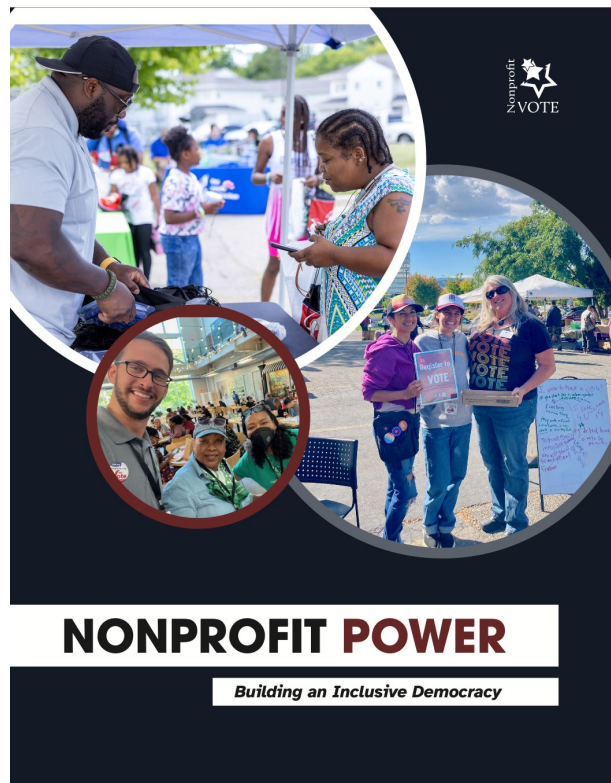
Ability to do hyper-local,
voter-facing engagement

Nonprofits are the super-power we need to lean on and there's data to prove it!

Nonprofit Power Report

Report shows **the power of nonprofits to build a more inclusive democracy**. After analyzing voter file data from 7,000 voters engaged by nonprofits across 8 states in the last midterm.

- Nonprofits reach voters historically underrepresented in our democracy.
- Nonpartisan voter engagement by nonprofits significantly boosts turnout



Nonprofits reach key communities

2.4X

more likely engage
people of color

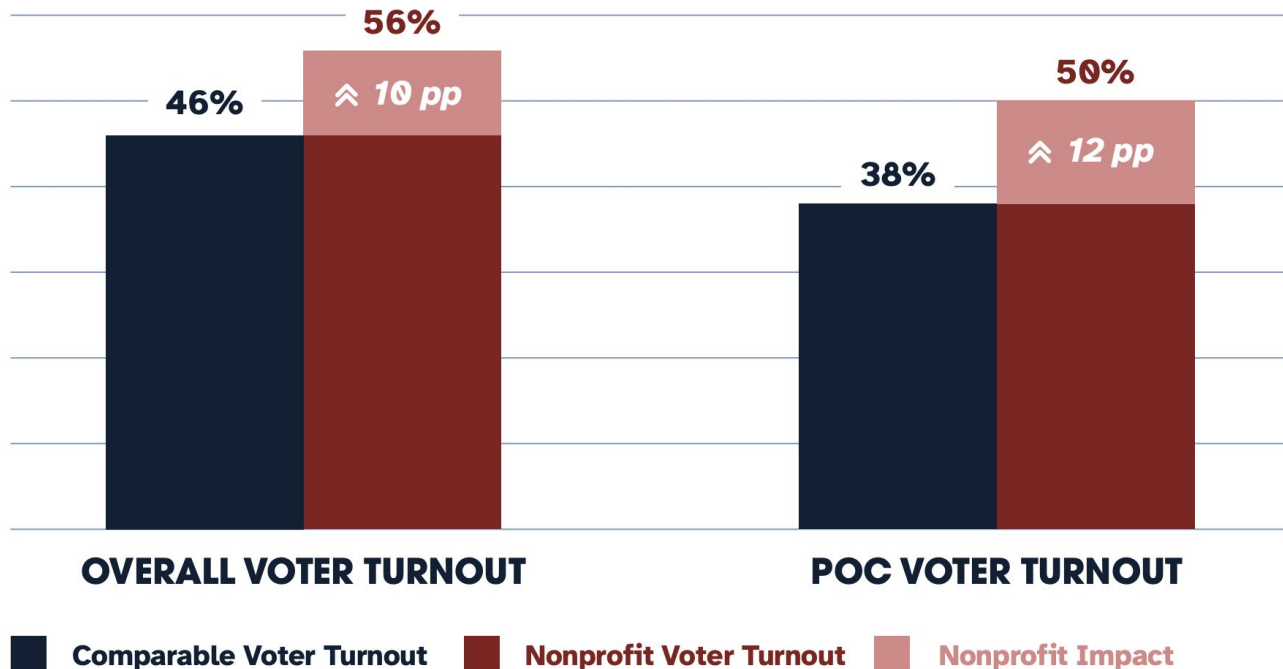
2.5X

more likely engage
low-income voters

1.3X

more likely to be
younger voters

Nonprofits engagement boosts turnout!



Donors Expect Nonprofits to Lead Civic Stewardship

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neutral Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Not sure

Educating the public on how they can help protect fair election processes

Net agree: 82%

55%

27%

9%

3%

3%

2%

Helping people register and make a plan to vote

Net agree: 83%

54%

29%

11%

3%

2%

1%

Sharing nonpartisan information on how and where to vote

Net agree: 80%

54%

25%

12%

4%

3%

1%

Organizing people to speak up if basic voting rights or the integrity of the process is threatened

Net agree: 77%

51%

27%

12%

5%

3%

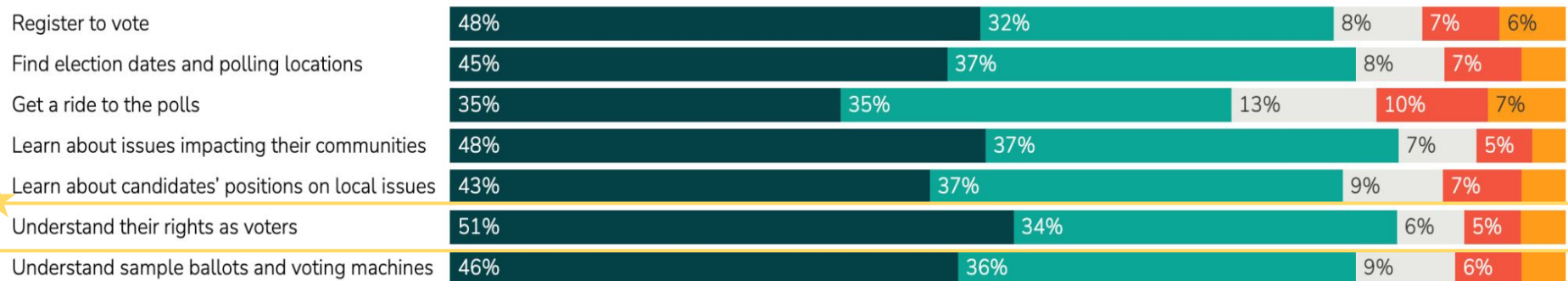
2%

The Public *Also* Expects Nonprofits to Lead Civic Stewardship

Overwhelming majorities agree that **nonprofits should help people vote**

Do you agree or disagree that nonprofit organizations should have a role in helping people in their communities..?

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Unsure Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree



Source: Tunni on behalf of Independent Sector (April 2026)

Independent Sector



VOTING RIGHTS ARE DISABILITY RIGHTS



[Thearc.org/vote](https://thearc.org/vote)

What nonprofits can do to support a successful election

What Nonprofits Can Do to Support a Successful Election

1

The Basics

Help People Check Their Voter Registration, Understand What's on the Ballot, and Make a Plan to Vote

2

Build Trust

Support Effectively Run Elections, Counter Misinformation

3

Voting Rights

Educate about Voters' Rights, How to Report Concerns, and How Election Disputes Are Legally Resolved

1

Help People Check Their Voter Registration, Understand What's on the Ballot, and Make a Plan to Vote

- Provide Voters with Critical Information on Changes to the Voting System (where, when, how)
- Help Supporters Check their Registration and Make a Plan to Vote
- Help Voters Navigate Voter ID and Proof of Citizenship Rules
- Encourage Early Voting
- Encourage Supporters to Help Others Check Their Registration and Make a Plan to Vote



[Register to vote](#)

[Guide to voting](#) ▾

[Your vote is safe](#)

Register to vote or update your registration

Once you register, you can vote in national, state, and local elections.

[Select your state or territory to begin](#)

2

Support Effectively Run Elections to Build Trust

- Recruit Poll Workers so that communities see neighbors and friends instead of strangers
- Thank Election Officials because they are caring community members who work hard to keep elections fair
- Recruit Volunteers for Other Electoral Activities like poll monitoring, curing ballots...etc.
- Counter Misinformation and Elevate Trusted Sources online and in person



Educate about Voters Rights, How to Report Concerns, and How Election Disputes are Legally Resolved

- Educate the Public about How Elections Work
- **Publicize the Election Protection Hotline**
- Distribute Know Your Rights Information
- Respond to Interference

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE INFORMATION



English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)



Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682)



Asian Languages: 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683)



Arabic: 10844-YALLA-US (1-844-925-5287)



Text: 866-OUR-VOTE



Email: hotline@866ourvote.org

Know Your Rights

Key Protections



If polls close while you're in line, you have the legal right to stay and vote



If your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot—don't leave



If voting machines malfunction, request a paper ballot



If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new one



Your vote is private. No one has the right to see how you vote or pressure you inside the polling place

Planning your election protection effort

Make Your Plan

1. Secure buy-in

- Establish your “why”
- Get buy-in from leadership

2. Assess capacity and establish priorities

- Establish a staff lead to coordinate
- Assess organizational capacity
- Establish priority activities

3. Develop your plan

- Select opportunities and gather resources
- Develop your timeline / build into existing workflows

Sample Activities Based on Capacity

Small Capacity

- Share the Election Protection Hotline in your email newsletter, website, or on social media.
- Print a flyer or poster with “know your rights” information and put it in a highly visible area, like your lobby or on a community bulletin board.
- Post or share an infographic explaining the election process.
- Give your staff the day off on Election Day to be poll workers.

Medium Capacity

- [Small capacity sample activities plus...]
- Help election protection organizations by using your resources to recruit volunteers for activities like poll monitoring, staffing a hotline, or acting as poll workers.
- Include information about what to expect at elections in your outreach, for instance while tabling at community events.
- Organize volunteers to thank election officials.

Large Capacity

- [Small and medium capacity sample activities above, plus...]
- Host a lunch-and-learn or other educational program about the election process. You could invite officials from your local elections office. Sometimes they can even bring a voting machine to help demystify the process.
- Organize with other nonprofits in your network to form an election protection coalition for your region (or connect with an existing one).

Support Your Own Staff

Give employees time off to vote

- Give staff all of the same resources and reminders
- Give time off on Election Day and during early voting periods, or ensure flexible scheduling

Consider giving staff paid time off to be a poll worker

Note: [Some states have legal requirements to give staff time off to vote.](#)



Former M+R staff member, Rebecca Steadly volunteered as a poll worker with her dog Kevin.

Additional resources

Additional Information and Resources in the Guide

Nonprofits Are Trusted Messengers

- Election Engagement is Legal for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits
- How to Talk About Voting and Elections

Planning Your Election Protection Effort

- Sample Election Protection Campaign Timeline

Looking Past Election Day

What to expect on Election Day and during the vote-counting and vote-certification periods after election day.

Materials Toolkit

✨ NEW!

- **Sign up to be a poll worker** [Timing: by mid-Sept]
- **Check your voter registration** [Timing: by end of-Sept]
 - National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 15
- **Vote early** [Timing: early to mid-Oct]

👁️ Coming in mid-September

- Celebrate election officials [Timing: mid-Oct]
 - Election Hero Day is Tuesday, October 20
- Know Your Rights [Timing: mid to late-Oct]

Materials included

- Email copy
- Reminder email copy
- SMS copy
- Social copy
- Social media graphic

Questions?

Please put questions in the Q&A section.