

## Voter Registration & Mobilization for 501(c)(3) Housing Organizations



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# As a <u>Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3)</u> <a href="Mailto:Nonprofit">Nonprofit</a>, What Can Your Organization Do to Encourage People to Register and Vote??



### C3 Permissible Voter Engagement\*

- Register Voters
- Educate Voters about voting process
  - Deadlines
  - Polling place
  - Rules about absentee voting
- Share c3 permissible resources about voting
- Share absentee applications
- Follow up/ensure application processed
- Follow up/ encourage voting/absentee voting
- Offer rides to the polls, some assistance

#### https://bit.ly/2E4YScp

#### VOTER REGISTRATION/ GOTV

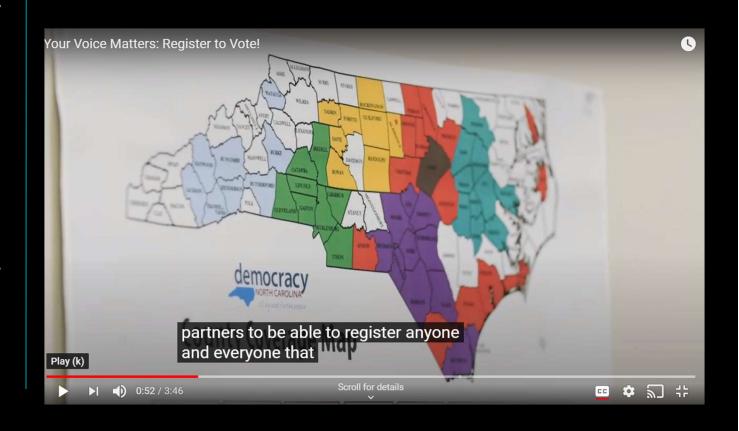
Don't mention or suggest a favored or unfavored party/candidate

Make service available to everyone

Targeting for **nonpartisan** Reason







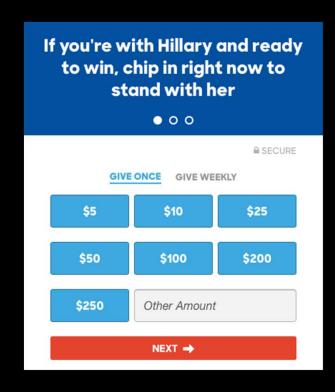
#### 11 CFR 114.4(d)

"Voter registration assistance services will not be withheld or refused on the basis of support for or opposition to particular candidates or a particular political party."



Required Notice for Corp/Labor Engaged in VR Drive

No 501(c)(3) support for or opposition to **CANDIDATES** running for elected **PUBLIC OFFICE** – For 501(c)(3) Public Charities / IRS Rules





#### Partisan = Trying to Influence which candidate to vote for













Definition is for IRS/tax exempt purposes only.

Nonpartisan = activities that do not tend to help or hurt a candidate or group of candidates, regardless of political affiliation.







Definition is for IRS/tax exempt purposes only.



You can't be #VoteReady without a voting plan. To register, request a mail-in ballot, and review your state's voting options, visit vote.org.

## I have a voting plan. **#VoteReady**

2:43 PM · Aug 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App

38 Retweets and comments 79 Likes

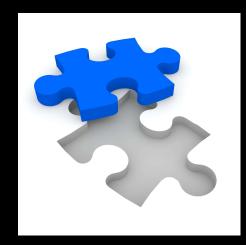
### **Absentee Voting**

Other Laws Apply





https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state





#### You CAN Facilitate Voting

You CANNOT Buy Someone's Vote/Voter Registration/Absentee Application





Do NOT condition anything of value in exchange for taking action related to voting

#### Free Hotdogs for Everyone!!



## But You Can Offer Something to Everyone No Strings Attached



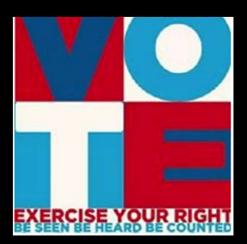




You can spend \$ to facilitate voting

## **501(c)(3)s** may target voters because they are:

- Your natural constituency
  - People who live in the region where your nonprofit operates
  - The people your organization serves (clients, community, etc.)
  - The people your organization hopes to serve
- Historically under-represented at the polls
  - Low income residents
  - Youth
  - Others ?



## Voter Registration Drive Guide

https://bolderadvocacy.org/resource/wantto-conduct-or-fund-a-voter-registrationdrive/

#### For 501(c)(3) public charities planning to engage in voter registration:

| DO   | DON'T   |
|--|---|
| Do keep your voter registration activities nonpartisan, making sure your activities do not attempt to influence the outcome of a candidate election.                 | Do not plan, begin, or increase voter registration activities in order to influence which candidates or parties win an election for public office.                                      |
| Do ensure that any coordination of voter registration activities with other 501(c)(3) organizations remains neutral about which candidate or party wins an election. | Do not coordinate your voter registration drive with any candidate or party. Do not collaborate with nonprofits that are trying to influence which candidate or party wins an election. |
| Do focus your voter registration activities on community members or clients with whom your organization already engages in its programs or advocacy work.            | Do not prioritize outreach to certain demographic populations because they are more likely to vote for a particular candidate.  |

## VORG





#### **Premiering August 19th**

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