

Welcome to the Webinar!

*We will begin the presentation shortly.
Thank you for your patience.*



ZERO DEGREES OF SEPARATION

THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Economic Stability

Health & Healthcare

Neighborhood & Environment

Social & Community Context

Education



COMMUNITY *Votes*

Strength in Numbers: Voting and Social work

Expanding social work's impact through nonpartisan voter empowerment

September 2016

Today's Presenters

- Louisa Hackett, Founder, Community Votes
- Lindsey Hodel, National Field Director, Nonprofit Vote
- Tanya Rhodes Smith, Director, Nancy A Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work

Today's Agenda

- Why nonpartisan voter registration, education and outreach should be part of social work practice;
- Ways to create a culture of voting in organizations and service delivery; and
- Rules regarding voter registration, special populations and important deadlines.

Why Voting should be part of Social Work Practice

There are significant benefits to communities and individuals who vote:

- ✓ Higher levels of civic participation;
- ✓ Stronger connections within communities; and
- ✓ Better health, mental health and overall well-being outcomes for voters.

Research has shown that 70% of health is determined by social, environmental and behavioral conditions (social determinants of health)-- all of which are affected by access to resources, power and money.

Voting is a Form of Empowerment

Voting basic expression of power. Groups most underrepresented are young, low income and persons of color. The consequences of giving up this power can be great.

- ✓ *Ferguson, MO revealed a community in which only 13% of the electorate voted* resulting in a mostly white city council, school board and police department in a town where two thirds of the residents are African American.
- ✓ **Formerly incarcerated persons who have their civil rights restored are less likely to return to prison.** (Florida Parole Commission study, 2010)

Voting Benefits Nonprofits and the Communities They Serve

- ✓ Nonprofits whose communities vote have more access to elected officials, increased clout on issues, and therefore can be more effective in advancing their work.
- ✓ *Elected officials (who control access to power, resources and money) pay attention to individuals and communities that vote!*

Nonprofits can reach people missed by traditional campaigns and can encourage people to vote in less publicized elections. For example, *local primaries often have the lowest turnout and usually determine who will be elected in the general race.*

BENEFITS OF VOTING

BENEFITS FOR NONPROFITS

Voter engagement efforts build stronger nonprofits. Nonprofits whose communities vote have more access to elected officials, increased clout on issues, and are better positioned to advance their mission. Nonprofits reach people missed by traditional campaigns, contributing to more active citizenship and an electorate that more fully represents the communities we serve.

We create a more representative electorate. Nonprofits disproportionately reach individuals who are younger, lower-income, and more diverse than the general public—groups that historically participate at lower rates. Because of our trust, personal relationships, and nonpartisan approach, the individuals that we serve are more likely to respond to our appeals to vote.

Candidates and campaigns seek out and respond to communities with higher voter registration and turnout rates and to organizations that care about voting.

Voter engagement boosts our advocacy. Voter engagement gets us a seat at the table and enhances our ongoing advocacy efforts. Elected officials pay attention to who votes. When our staff and communities participate, we have more access to decision makers, increased clout for our organization, and a greater chance to have our issues addressed.

Voter engagement makes us relevant during elections. Voter engagement raises our profile. Candidates and campaigns seek out and respond to communities with higher voter registration and turnout rates and to organizations that care about voting. While campaigning they're more likely to come to our neighborhoods, attend our events, respond to our questions, and listen to our concerns.

Voting gives power and voice to the people we serve. By encouraging voting, nonprofits can help people become more active and engaged citizens. Compared to nonvoters, voters are more likely to talk to elected officials and connect to their neighbors. As community members are mobilized to vote, leaders from within the community often emerge, including those interested in seeking office.*

We are effective. Nonprofit VOTES 2012 evaluation showed that voters contacted in-person by nonprofits during services voted at higher rates than other registered voters in their state across all demographics. Nonprofits had the biggest impact on turnout among least-likely voters—those that campaigns typically disregard based on low "voter propensity scores" assigned before the election to predict the likelihood that they will vote.*

For more information, contact:
Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work
860-570-0158, politicalinstitute@uconn.edu

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*See "Benefits for Voters" fact sheet, www.nonprofitvotes.org
*See "Nonprofits Increase Voting Among Traditionally Disenfranchised Communities" fact sheet
An Evaluation of the Track the Vote Program, 2012. www.nonprofitvotes.org

Nonprofit VOTE
www.nonprofitvote.org

**ZERO DEGREES OF SEPARATION:
THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS**

Reasons People Don't Vote?

- They think their vote won't count
- Don't know where to vote
- Didn't know about the election
- Don't know candidates
- Registration requirements
- Too busy

Organizations can help address these many of these barriers.

Why More Organizations Don't Encourage People to Vote?

- Don't want to be seen as political
- Don't know process
- Too busy
- Don't see voting as form of empowerment
- Don't know that it's legal (and in some cases required by law)

Nonpartisan is not nonparticipation.

Nonpartisan Voter Registration is LEGAL

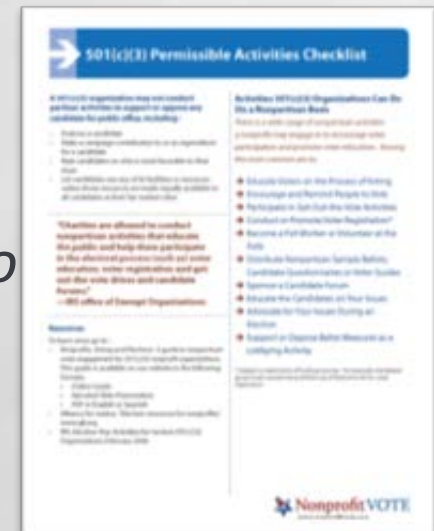
Nonprofits may conduct nonpartisan voter engagement activities designed to educate the public and help them participate in elections

- Voter Registration
- Voter Education
- Get Out The Vote (GOTV)
- Candidate Engagement

A 501(c)(3) MAY NOT:

- Make an endorsement
- Donate money or resources
- Rate/rank candidates on their positions

The 1993 National Voter Registration Act requires nonprofits that sign clients up for public benefits to offer voter registration opportunities.



Organizations Can Significantly Increase Voter Turnout in Communities

A 2012 study by Nonprofit VOTE showed that:

- ▶ Nonprofits reached individuals who are younger, lower-income, and more diverse than the general public—groups that historically participate at lower rates.
- ▶ Voters contacted in-person by nonprofits during services voted at higher rates than other voters in their state across all demographics. Nonprofits had their greatest participation impact on voters considered less likely to vote.

What is a *Culture of Voting*?

When organizations embed voting into their work with clients and communications with staff.

Voter registration, education and outreach is not a one-time event but an ongoing “conversation” about:

- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Information about where/when/how to vote
- ✓ Encouragement to vote on election day!

Nonprofit Voter Engagement

**+1
Inform**

Use website, social media & email to promote voting and National Voter Registration Day

**+2
Partner**

Invite Good Government & Organizing groups to do non-partisan voter registration at your sites
Co-sponsor a candidates forum

**+3
Lead**

Identify a lead, create a plan & train staff
Integrate voter registration within programs
Use pledge forms & track voter contacts
Create & distribute voter guides
Send out reminders to vote
Measure success
Conduct voter engagement year-round

RESULTS

Staff, volunteers, participants, & community members recognize their votes matter

so that

Voter turnout increases

so that

More informed political decisions are made

Including Voter Registration in your Service Model

- Embed voter registration into your agency's operations:
 - Check in/waiting rooms
 - Intake/renewal forms
 - Voter registration tables at special events
- When engaging clients, remind them that elected officials pay attention to communities who vote.
- Set a goal of how many people you want to register to vote.
- Make voter registration visible
 - Use social media
 - Put up posters
 - Keep clients and colleagues informed

Remember: Changing an address requires a new registration form.

Voter Education Includes:

- ✓ Information on the process of voting
 - Inform clients and constituents of the date of the election, polling place hours, where to get help voting, early voting opportunities, etc.*
- ✓ Information on candidates/offices and issues
 - Pass out nonpartisan voter guides or a sample ballot. PARTNER with other organizations!*



Getting People to Vote on Election Day

✓ Create visibility:

- Make the election visible at your agency (posters, emails, signs)

✓ Promote Early Voting

- Provide information about Absentee ballots when appropriate


✓ Promote Election Day voting

- Last week and final two days most important
- Connect clients to ride services/community partners
- Send reminders to vote via email, postcards or phone calls.

Getting People to Vote on Election Day

- People who sign a pledge to vote are more likely to vote on election day.
- Pledge cards can collect contact information so they can be reminded to vote.
- Reminders can be calls, texts or emails. Also an opportunity to give someone information about when and where to vote.
- Pledges can be compared to voter databases to demonstrate an organization's impact on voting.

Sample Pledge Form

<p>Please remind me about upcoming election dates!</p>	
<p>Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____ Call me <input type="checkbox"/> Text me <input type="checkbox"/> Email me <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Election Day 2016: Tuesday, November 8, 2016 Polling Place:</p> <p>For more information visit the Secretary of State's website: http://www.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp or call (860) 509-6200</p>

Voter Registration in NY

How and Where to register to Vote

- Register in person at your [county board of elections](#).
- At any New York State [Agency-Based voter registration center](#).
- Call **1-800-FOR-VOTE** hotline to request a voter application.
- Download a PDF version of the New York State Voter Registration Form.
 - [Download English Form](#)
 - [Download Spanish Form](#)

Print the form, complete and sign it, and mail it to your [county board of elections](#).

If you've moved, changed your name, want to change party affiliation, have not voted in 5 years or otherwise have to update your voter registration status, you must submit another voter application form.



New York State Voter Registration Form

Register to vote

With this form, you register to vote in elections in New York State. You can also use this form to:

- change the name or address on your voter registration
- become a member of a political party
- change your party membership

To register you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be 18 years old by the end of this year;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction;
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

Send or deliver this form

Fill out the form below and send it to your county's address on the back of this form, or take this form to the office of your County Board of Elections.

Mail or deliver this form at least 25 days before the election you want to vote in. Your county will notify you that you are registered to vote.

Questions?

Call your County Board of Elections listed on the back of this form or 1-800-FOR-VOTE (TDD/TTY Dial 711)

Find answers or tools on our website www.elections.ny.gov

Verifying your identity

We'll try to check your identity before Election Day, through the DMV number (driver's license number or non-driver ID number), or the last four digits of your social security number, which you'll fill in below.

If you do not have a DMV or social security number, you may use a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address. You may include a copy of one of those types of ID with this form—be sure to tape the sides of the form closed.

If we are unable to verify your identity before Election Day, you will be asked for ID when you vote for the first time.

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 1-800-367-8683. 中文資料: 若您有興趣索取中文資料表格, 請電: 1-800-367-8683. 한국어: 한국적 상식을 원하시면, 1-800-367-8683 으로 연락하십시오. श्री भाषीं अरु धर्मी कागज पर छपे छपे कयन 1-800-367-8683 पर कल कलन

It is a crime to procure a false registration or to furnish false information to the Board of Elections. Please print in blue or black ink.

Qualifications

1 Are you a citizen of the U.S.? Yes No
If you answer *No*, you cannot register to vote.

2 Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day? Yes No
If you answer *No*, you cannot register to vote unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.

For board use only

Your name

3 Last name Suffix
First name Middle Initial

More information

Items 5, 6 & 7 are optional

4 Birth date 5 Sex M F
6 Phone 7 Email

The address where you live

Address (not P.O. box)
8 Apt. Number Zip code
City/Town/Village
New York State County

The address where you receive mail

Skip if same as above

Address or P.O. box
9 P.O. Box Zip code
City/Town/Village

Voting history

10 Have you voted before? Yes No 11 What year?

Voting information that has changed

Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before

Your name was
12 Your address was
Your previous state or New York State County was

Identification

You must make 1 selection

For questions, please refer to *Verifying your identity* above.

13 New York State DMV number
 Last four digits of your Social Security number X X X - X X -
 I do not have a New York State driver's license or a Social Security number.

Political party

You must make 1 selection

Political party enrollment is optional but that, in order to vote in a primary election of a political party, a voter must enroll in that political party, unless state party rules allow otherwise.

14 **I wish to enroll in a political party**
 Democratic party
 Republican party
 Conservative party
 Green party
 Working Families party
 Independence party
 Women's Equality party
 Reform party
 Other
I do not wish to enroll in a political party
 No party

Affidavit: I swear or affirm that

- I am a citizen of the United States.
- I will have lived in the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election.
- I meet all requirements to register to vote in New York State.
- This is my signature or mark in the box below.
- The above information is true. I understand that if it is not true, I can be convicted and fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed for up to four years.

Sign

Date

Optional questions

15 I need to apply for an Absentee ballot.
 I would like to be an Election Day worker.

Sample NY Form

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Important Dates in NY

Voter Registration Deadlines

- Friday, Oct. 14th, 2016 (application postmark deadline)
- Friday, Oct. 14th, 2016 (in-person application)
- General Election is **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016**; Polls Open: 6:00am-9:00pm.

Change of Name and/or Address

- The [voter registration form](#) should be used as a change of address form. Notices of change of address from registered voters received at least 20 days before a special, primary or general election by a [county board of elections](#).

Special Populations in NY

- **Individuals with a felony conviction** are eligible to vote once their parole ends. They should re-register to vote.
- **Persons who are homeless:** The homeless have the right to vote in all 50 states. Acceptable addresses can include a shelter, street corner or park.
- **Victims of Domestic Violence:** should contact local board of elections for their confidential registration and special ballot procedures.
- **Persons with disabilities:** complete an Accessible version of the New York State Voter Registration Form on-line [Accessible English Form On-line](#); [Accessible Spanish Form On-Line](#)

Important Things to Remember

- Use Videos: [History of Voting](#) by Rock the Vote
- Get Leadership Buy-In
- Recruit Interested Staff
- Identify Point Persons
- Partner with experts (e.g., Community Votes, Common Cause NY, NYC Campaign Finance Board, League of Women Voters)

National Voter Registration Day: September 27, 2016

- Day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts to create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities across the country
- Set for the fourth Tuesday of September by resolution of the National Association of Secretaries of State.
- Sign up to be a partner:

NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org

Resources

- ▶ Elections.NY.gov
- ▶ NonprofitVote.org
- ▶ CommunityVotes.org
- ▶ Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work (Tanya.smith@uconn.edu)
- ▶ NYC Campaign Finance Board
- ▶ Common Cause/NY (212-691-6421, Susan Lerner)
- ▶ New York City Campaign Finance Board (212-409-1872, Sean O'Leary)
- ▶ Community Voices Heard (Westchester)
- ▶ VotingIsSocialWork.org

Voter Registration

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Social Work

Register Your Clients Today

Nancy A Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work:
Advancing Political Social Work

University of Connecticut School of Social Work
1001 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ROOM 320 | GALLERIA, 860-570-9282 | EMAIL: POLITICALINSTITUTE@UCONN.EDU



Questions?

Contact Information

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