

What Is Allowed?

Dos & Don'ts for Nonprofits & Voter Registration



Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Voter Engagement Project

"Mercy Housing Northwest is engaging in voter registration and education because we hope that by making this information accessible, residents will be inspired to become more proactive advocates for themselves and their communities."

— Katie Parker, Mercy Housing Northwest

Why Nonprofits?

The nonprofit sector serves underrepresented populations with a history of lower voter participation. For these community members, nonprofits are a trusted messenger. Nonprofits are empowered by the law to participate in specific civic engagement efforts, including voter registration.

Nonprofit employees CAN:

- Register voters
- Provide information about upcoming elections and ballot measures
- Encourage people to vote
- Help voters understand elections and the voting process
- Allow people to take a voter registration form and submit it themselves
- Take completed voter registration forms and mail them individually or in batches
- Assist in filling out forms

Nonprofit employees CANNOT:

- Encourage people to vote for a particular candidate, or publicize which candidates share the organization's view on contested issues
- Give incentives for people to register or to vote
- Refuse to give anyone a registration form
- Accept registrations you know to be fraudulent
- Provide postage, unless it is specifically requested

To learn how your organization can register people to vote, contact:

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