

STAND FOR YOUR MISSION

Your Guide to Allowable
Nonpartisan Voter
Engagement
for Wisconsin-based
501(c)3 Nonprofits

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Resources You Can Trust | Resources You Can Use
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This guide has been developed by the Nonprofit Advocacy Network for nonprofit organizations wishing to carry out permissible nonpartisan election activities. The guide includes some of the best resources available to nonprofits. All of the materials have been field tested and are ready to use.

Permissible activities include:

- Conducting candidate debates and forums
- Compiling and distributing voting records and candidate questionnaires
- Voter registration campaigns
- Operating Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) drives

The guide is especially geared to tax-exempt, 501(c)3 nonprofits providing direct services, some of which may have never carried out such nonpartisan voter engagement efforts before.

Guides and Fact Sheets

- **Learn what is allowable nonpartisan election activities for tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofits like yours:**
Staying Nonpartisan: Permissible Election Activities Checklist For 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organizations by Nonprofit VOTE. <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/nonpartisan-election-activities-501c3-nonprofits-1.pdf>
- **Learn what a Wisconsin resident should know in order to register to vote, to vote in-person, and to vote by mail:**
Wisconsin State Fact Sheet by Nonprofit VOTE. <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-Wisconsin-no-primaries.pdf> Also see Milwaukee Election Commission <https://city.milwaukee.gov/election>
- **Learn step-by-step how to plan and conduct a nonpartisan voter registration and engagement effort in your community or service area:**
Getting Started on Voter Engagement Checklist and Worksheet by Nonprofit VOTE. A step by step guide to planning a voter engagement plan for your nonprofit and the people and communities you serve. <http://tinyurl.com/3jszb3xx>
- **Learn how to host a nonpartisan candidate forum in your community:**
Hosting a Candidate Forum: A Step-by-Step Nonprofit's Guide to Planning, Publicizing and Hosting a Candidate Forum, by Nonprofit VOTE. <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/hosting-candidate-forum-nonprofit-guide-1.pdf>

- **Access Wisconsin State Resources for Increasing Voting by Persons with Disabilities:**
Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition. <https://disabilityvote.org/>
Wisconsin Disability Rights: Voting Rights. <https://disabilityrightswi.org/resource-center/voting/>
- **For more detailed information about state and local regulations that may apply to your existing or proposed voter engagement and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) work in Wisconsin.**
Practical Guidance: Wisconsin Nonprofit Voter Assistance by Bolder Advocacy/Alliance for Justice. <https://afj.org/resource/practical-guidance-wisconsin-nonprofit-voter-assistance/>

RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS

Greater Milwaukee

- **Souls to the Polls WI** <https://www.soulstothepollswi.org/rides> FREE Rides to the Polls is a program from Souls to the Polls WI, a nonprofit organization that matches voters with drivers, offering free round-trip rides to Milwaukee area voters who would like to go vote or return their absentee ballots. At this time, the program is only available in Milwaukee.
- **League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County/Voter Services.** The League presents present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.

The League partners with other organizations to inform voters through candidate forums: https://lwvmilwaukee.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=152606&module_id=481962

Online tutorials in Spanish and English on learning how to register to vote: https://lwvmilwaukee.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=152606&module_id=481898
- **Wisconsin Voices** <https://www.wisconsinvoices.org/>
- **Supermarket Legends** <https://www.legendsvote.org/online-training/>

National Resources

- **Bolder Advocacy.** <https://afj.org/resource-library/> Bolder Advocacy, a program of the Alliance for Justice provides nonprofits with the knowledge they need to become confident advocates. Staff conducts training workshops around the country and offer one-on-one technical assistance by phone and email. Bolder Advocacy maintains an extensive collection of how-to's, fact sheets, and reports that help nonprofits stay up-to-date on advocacy. Submit an online question to their advocacy coaches by **email** or call 866-675-6229 during normal business hours.
- **Nonprofit VOTE.** www.nonprofitvote.org Founded in 2005, the organization is a leading source of nonpartisan resources to help nonprofits integrate voter engagement into ongoing activities and services.
- **VoteRiders.** <https://www.voteriders.org/states/wisconsin/> VoteRiders is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that informs and helps citizens to secure their voter ID as well as inspires and supports organizations, local volunteers, and communities to sustain voter ID education and assistance efforts.
- **Board Source Stand for Your Mission Campaign.** <http://standforyourmission.org/> The Campaign is a program of Board Source focused on increasing board member involvement in nonprofit advocacy. The Campaign has assembled an excellent collection of resources to position your board for effective advocacy including nonpartisan election activities. Go to: <https://standforyourmission.org/resources/>