

FROM HOUSING TO THE BALLOT

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2020 ELECTION BASIC INFORMATION

2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Sept. 20-26:** National Voter Registration Week of Action
- **Oct. 5:** Deadline to register to vote in Ohio's Nov election.
- **Oct. 6:** Early voting starts
- **Nov. 3:** Election Day



WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR?

Federal races:

President

ALL of US Representatives

Statewide races:

- ALL of State Representatives
- Some State Senators
- 2 *Ohio* Supreme Court Justices

Local races:

- Judges
- Prosecutors
- ballot issues & levies
- City-wide offices
- County-wide offices
- Miscellaneous other officials

VOTING OPTIONS

1. In person, early
2. In person, on Election Day
3. Via Vote by Mail (absentee voting)

ALTERNATIVE VOTING OPTIONS - SUDDENLY HOSPITALIZED

- If you or your minor child are confined in a hospital as a result of an unforeseeable medical emergency, you may apply to the county board of elections to vote by absentee ballot. **You must submit this written absentee request by 3 p.m. on Election Day.**
- If you are **hospitalized in a different county** than the one in which you are registered to vote, you can request that your home county board of elections fax or email your absentee ballot to the county board of elections where you are hospitalized. If this happens, [contact Disability Rights Ohio](#) immediately.

HOW COVID19 AFFECTS THE 2020 ELECTION

- Precinct worker shortage
- Increased stress on mail-in voting
- Increased voter confusion over rules, dates, locations
- Potential short-notice changes to procedure or operations

HOW IT AFFECTS OHIO VOTES OPERATIONS

- Adapt to digital options for outreach
- Increased training to organizers
- Moving target for planning purposes
- Ride to polls – had to cancel for primary, likely cancel or heavily modify for general

CONFUSION OVER MAIL-IN VOTING

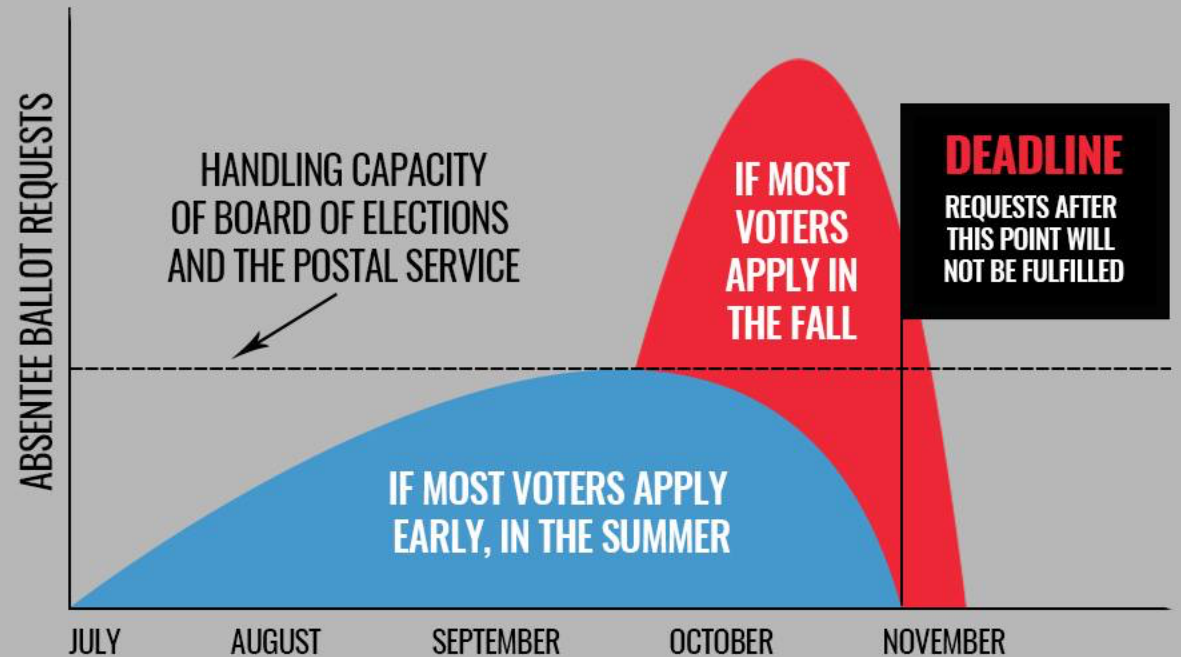
When to apply: Technically any time before Oct 31 technically, but **THE SOONER THE BETTER!**

When you get your ballot: Ballots are mailed to voters beginning early October

When you return your ballot: Must be postmarked by Monday, Nov 2 or dropped off at the Board of Elections by Nov 3

There may be drop boxes available in some counties, but to be determined.

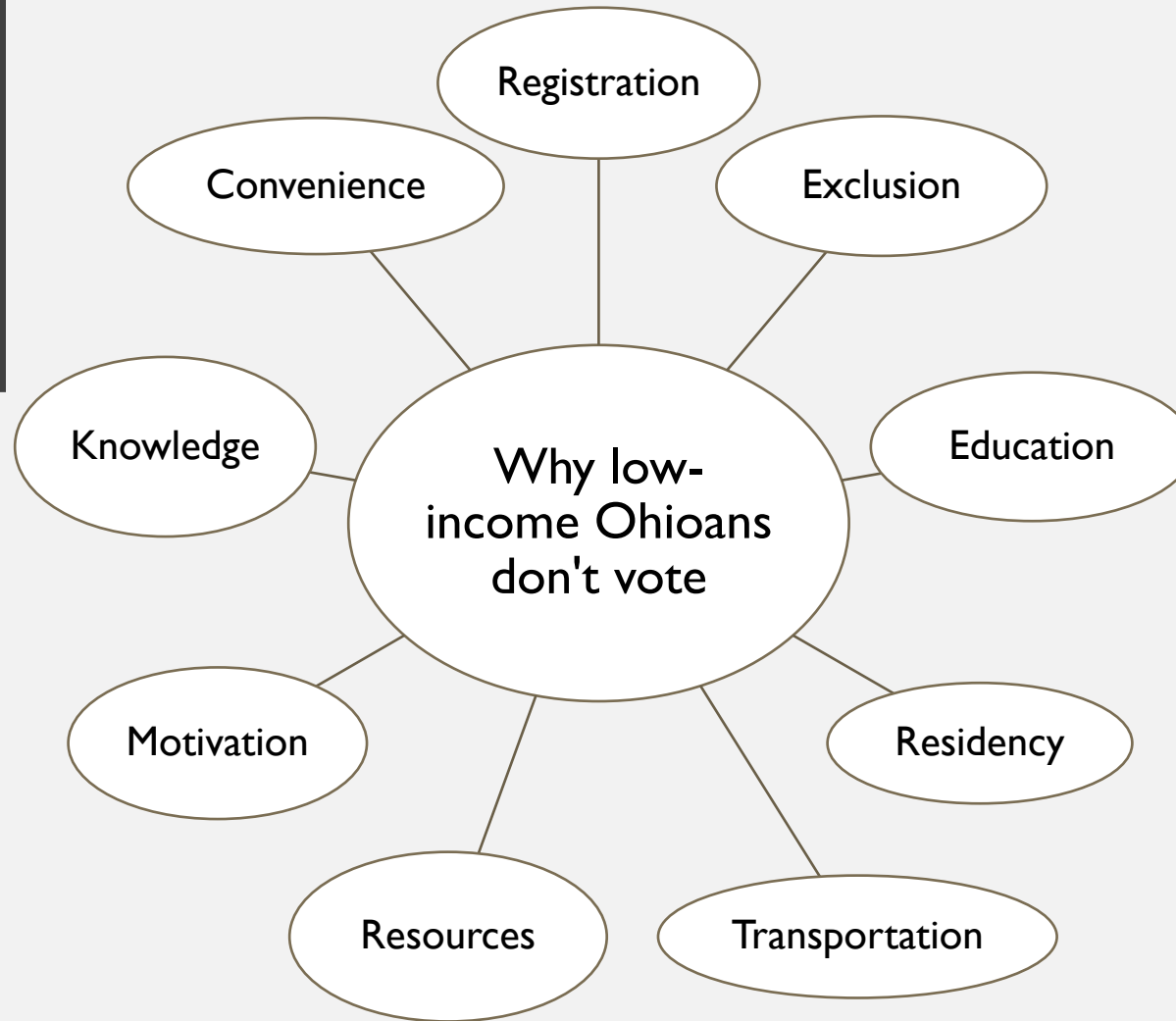
Flatten the ballot request curve!



Apply for your absentee ballot **TODAY**

VULNERABLE VOTERS NEED A LITTLE
**EXTRA HELP AND
ENCOURAGEMENT**

REASONS LOW-INCOME OHIOANS DON'T VOTE



WHY LOW-INCOME OHIOANS DON'T VOTE

Registration: “I never registered to vote”

- Registration opportunities

Exclusion: “They won’t let me vote” or “I have been turned away in the past”

- Election protection

Education: “I don’t even know who’s running or what’s on the ballot”

- Accessible voter education material

Residency: “I moved” or “I don’t have a permanent address”

- Opportunities to update address and educate nonprofits on rules around homeless voting

Transportation: “I don’t have a ride”

- Rides to the polls

Resources: “I don’t have an ID”

- Emphasize options of voting early or by absentee

Motivation: “This system doesn’t represent me so who cares?”

- Voter empowerment programming that increases voters’ knowledge of system and willingness to participate

Knowledge: “I don’t know where or when to vote”

- Voter education directly and through partners

Convenience: “I don’t have time to vote/have to work, etc”

- Rides to polls, education on voting options

THIS WORK IS **MEANINGFUL**
AND **EFFECTIVE**

501(C)3 VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

WHY REGISTER VOTERS?

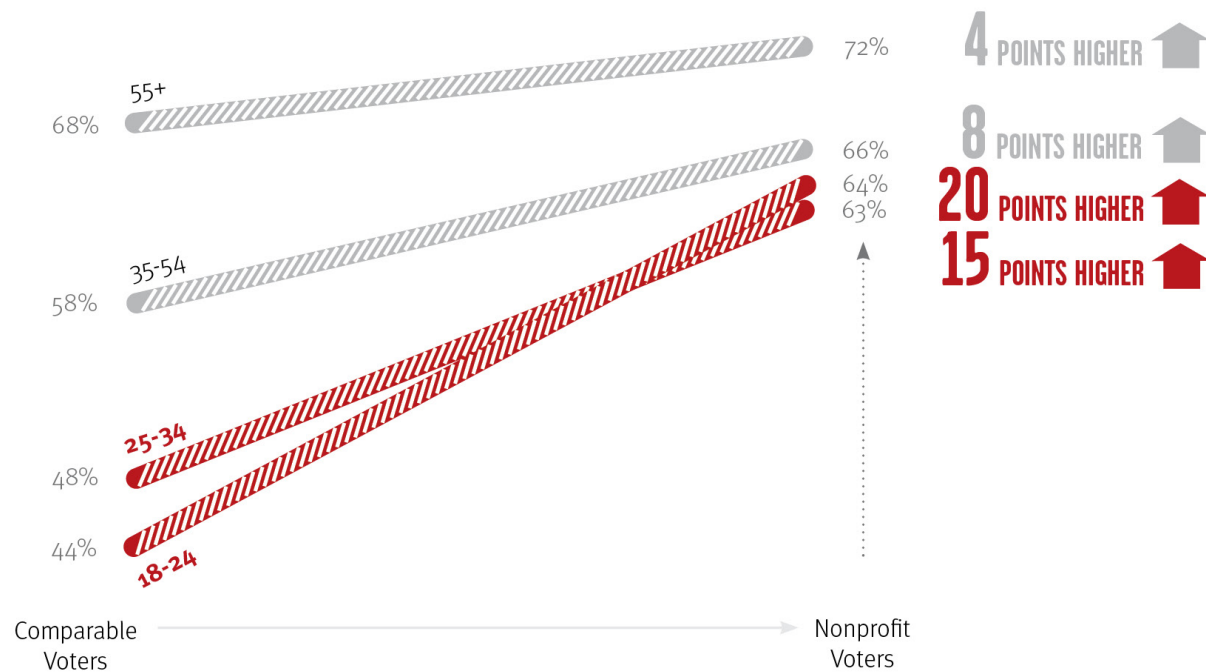
- Low-income communities are under-represented in election turnout
- Voter registration is the first step to creating a more active and engaged citizenry and community
- Registered voters are more likely to join neighborhood activities, contact elected officials and be active citizens
- Elected officials pay attention to communities that show up to vote- We want our communities to be valued

WHY NONPROFITS?

- Already a trusted organization embedded into the community
- No ulterior motives/partisan agendas
- In touch with the needs of under-represented populations

Younger Voters Had the Largest Turnout Advantage

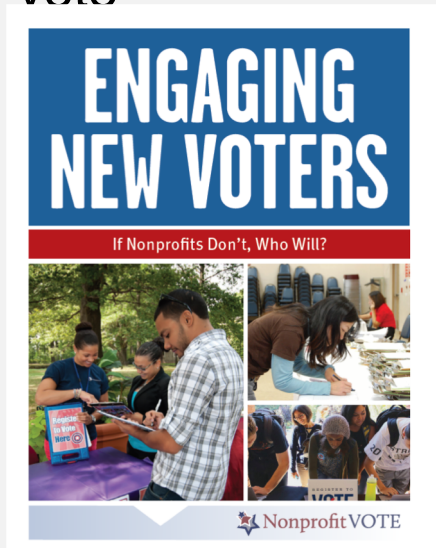
Turnout
by Age



- 50% of all voters engaged by nonprofits in Ohio were earning less than \$30,000 annually.
- Black voters who were engaged by nonprofits were 12% more likely to vote
- The lowest propensity voters who were engaged by nonprofits were 17% more likely to vote

Source:

https://www.nonprofitvote.org/engaging_new_voters/



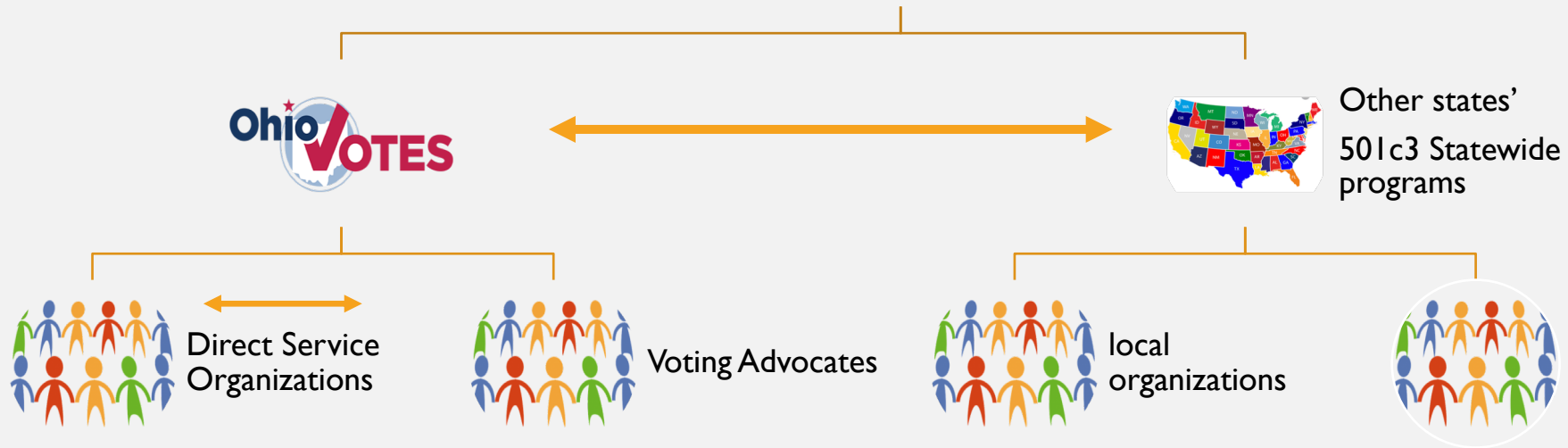


A voterization initiative of COHHIO (Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio)

Targets low-income and disenfranchised Ohio communities

Nonpartisan & 501(C)3 compliant

Nonprofit VOTE



REGIONAL LIAISONS



Akron/Canton Metro Area Akron Votes, Deb Lemire

Cincinnati Metro Area Ohio Votes, Coby Williams

Cleveland Metro Area Cleveland Votes, Jen Lumpkin

Columbus Metro Area League of Women Voters of Metro Columbus, Elizabeth Greiser

Dayton Metro Area Ohio Votes, Sarah Kuhns

Toledo/Bowling Green Metro Area Ohio Votes, Liam Walsh

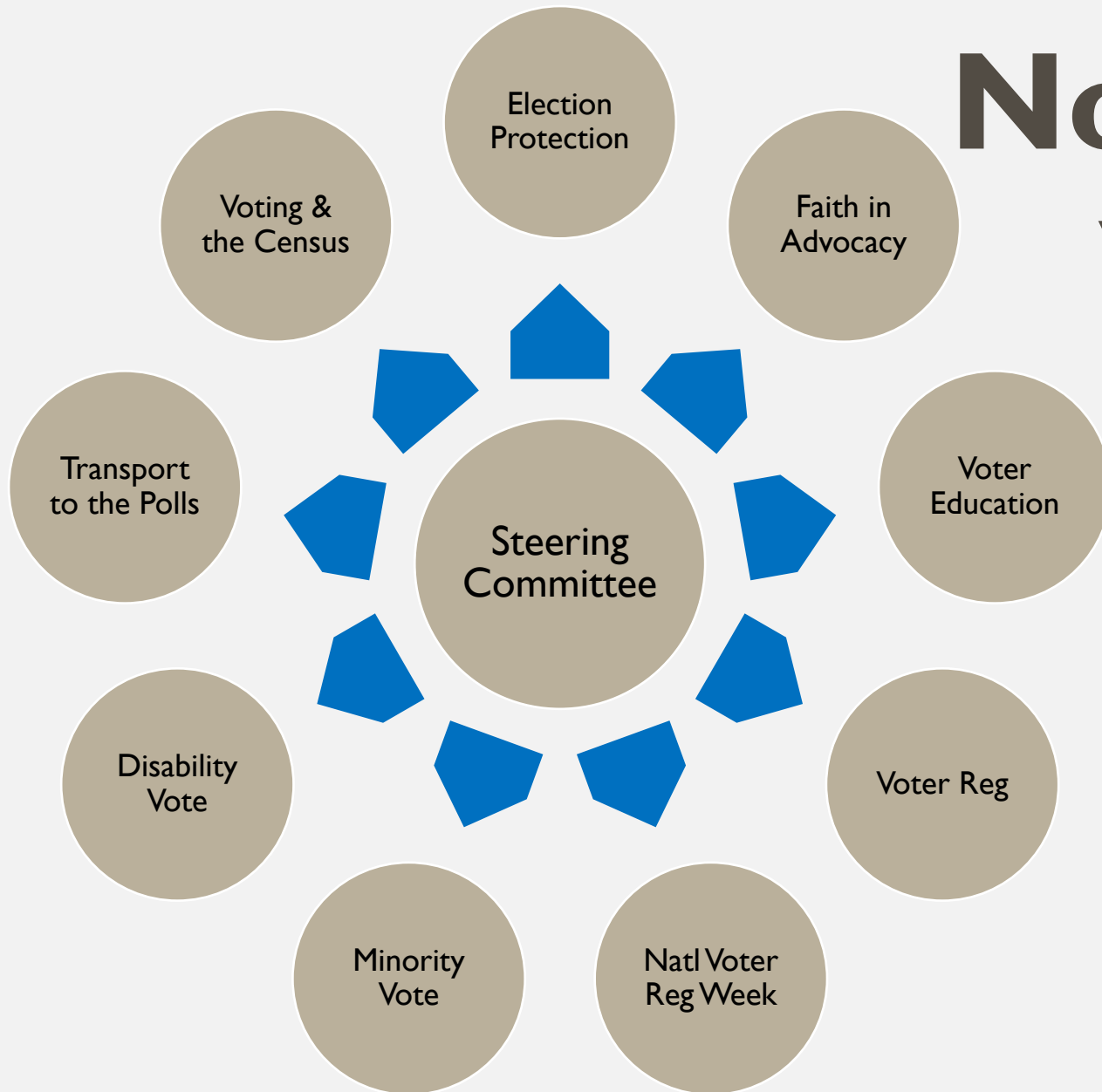
Youngstown Metro Area League of Women Voters of Youngstown, Elizabeth Nalepa

Outside Major Metro Area (catch-all) Ohio Votes, Jack Brandl

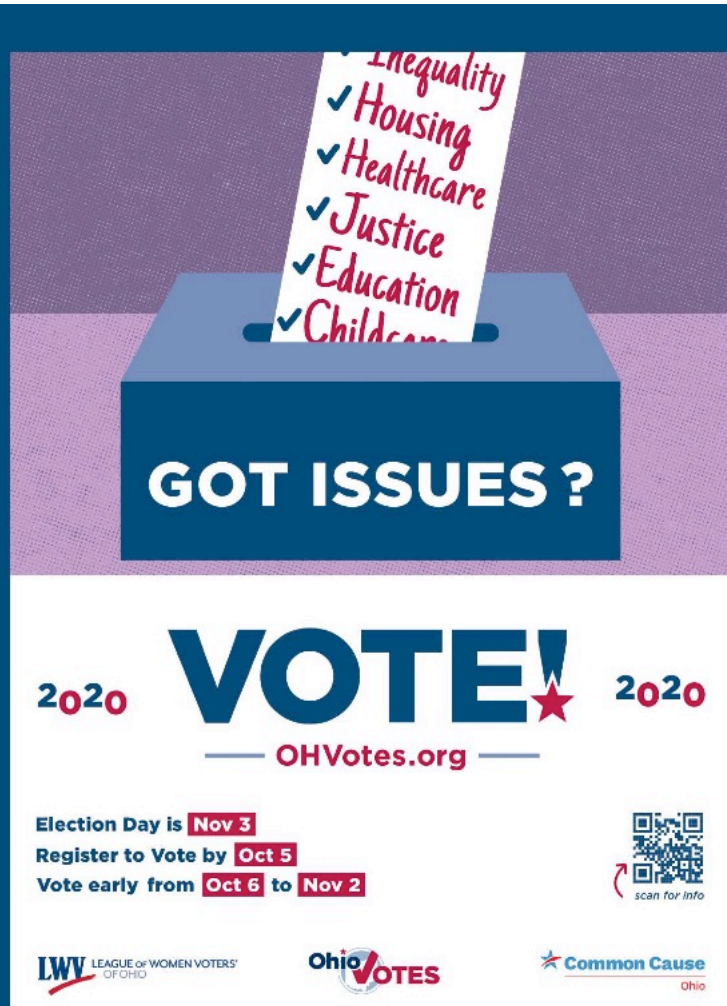
NONPARTISAN OHIO VOTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE (NOVOC)

- Initiative of Ohio Voter Rights Coalition (OVRC)
- Organizing circle for voter advocates and 501c3 organizations engaged in nonpartisan voter activities
- Centralize communications among 501c3 organizations doing voter engagement and minimizes duplicative work
- Work with people from other parts of the state on special issues
- Connect with local nonprofits also doing voter engagement work or willing to host events
- Provide engagement opportunities for volunteers looking to get involved

Nonpartisan Ohio Voter Outreach Committee



OHIO VOTES EDUCATIONAL & OUTREACH RESOURCES



- Organizer training
- One pagers on ID requirements, Registration rules, Voter Protection information, messaging strategies
- Swag – stickers, buttons, candy, pens
- Signage
- Peer-to-peer learning exchanges
- Localized support through regional liaisons

REGISTRATION TOOL IN THE FIELD

OHVOTES.ORG

- Domain Name - NOT Ohio spelled out, OHvotes.org
- **What is it?**
 - Ohio Votes' voter portal
- **Why use it?**
 - Simple interface designed to easily and quickly load on smart devices
 - Collects information so we can send voters updates and text voting reminders (if they opt-in)
 - Allows us to track voting patterns for people who use our website to check their registration
 - Cross references with the voter files as well as purge list



NAVIGATING OHVOTES.ORG

ohvotes.org

Check my voter registration

 CHECK NOW

Register to vote

 REGISTER

Pledge to vote

→ I'M IN

Am I Registered to Vote?

First name

Last name

Birth year (optional)

County

Email address

Phone number

☐ Text me with important voting updates!

By checking this box I am agreeing to opt in to the SMS program. Msg&Data rates may apply, expect periodic messages.

Check my
registration!

Results

This is
me!

John M Smith
306 Willipie St
Wapakoneta Oh 45895
Date Of Birth: Nov 28, 1928

Wrong
address

This is
me!

Jon A Smith
702 Linden Ave
St Marys Oh 45885
Date Of Birth: Dec 18, 1970

Wrong
address

No match?

RESOURCES DURING A PANDEMIC

Identify existing points of contacts and add voter registration!

- Drive-thru
- Tabling
- Lit stuffing
- Newsletter announcements
- Posters and voter education materials
- Voter education events – remote or with social distancing

WE CAN HELP!

Community conversations

Right question institute curriculum

Candidate forum or issue education events

Staffing assistance

Supplies & mini-grants

city or town _____
 zip code _____
 HO
 number and street _____
 full name _____



I WILL VOTE!

OhioVotes is a nonpartisan
 501(c)(3) civic engagement
 initiative and not affiliated with
 any political party or candidate



☐ By Mail

- ☐ I have submitted my **Absentee Ballot Request Form** or plan to before Nov. 2
- ☐ I have **postage** ready for my ballot
- ☐ I will postmark or drop off my **Absentee Ballot** to the Board of Elections by Nov. 4

☐ In Person

☐ Early In Person

- ☐ I know the **last 4 digits of my SSN** (No ID necessary)
- ☐ I will vote on _____ at _____
date time

☐ On Election Day

- ☐ I will bring as ID (check one):
☐ Unexpired Ohio ID or License, or Military ID
- ☐ **Or** an original or copy of a current ID* (check one):
☐ Utility Bill ☐ Bank Statement
☐ Paycheck ☐ Government check or document**

* Current ID means dated within the past 12 months
 ** Excludes voter registration confirmation postcard

I'm voting in 2019 because:

Location:

Time: _____ : _____ AM PM

Transportation: _____

Remind me via:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

REMINDER CARDS

Our reminder cards will be **MAILED** back to the **VOTER** during early voting. Essentially, people will be mailing *themselves* a voting reminder!

JOIN OUR STATEWIDE CELEBRATION! PEOPLE'S POWER PARTY



- Register underserved communities to vote while educating and empowering them about the 2020 election
- Connect with local organizations doing the on-the-ground work
- Build relationships between underserved communities and voting advocates

WHY USE OHIO VOTES' INTAKE PROCESS?

Benefits to organizations

- Nonpartisan Resources -- Access to voter education and engagement resources and guidance
- Quality Control – We can help follow up with voters whose registrations are not successfully processed
- Performance tracking – Keep track of your own program's success through knowing which and how many voters you are effectively reaching
- Network building -- Contribute to Ohio's nonpartisan registration count, build relationships with other community organizations
- Increase your impact: Use data for future funding requests, learn more specific information about your audience's demographics and voting habits
- Help Ohio Votes and local partners understand and improve their on-the-ground impact

Benefits to voters

- Nonpartisan Voting Reminders
- Extra confidence that their registration will be processed

Don't worry! We DON'T:

- Share voter data with political parties
- Share voter data with any commercial entity
- Use data for campaigning
- Need voters' SSN: If you don't feel comfortable sharing social security numbers, feel free to put a sticky note over the SS/ID # prior to scanning
- Require sole custody of voter forms (you may use form copies for your own grant purposes, but not to political campaigns without voter's consent.)

**Voter data is used for
research purposes only**

NONPROFITS HAVE A ROLE IN
HELPING VOTERS NAVIGATE THE
ELECTION PROCESS

501(C)3 ORGANIZATIONS DO'S AND DON'TS

501(C)3 ORGANIZATIONS MAY:

- Register voters
- Educate voters
- Engage in issue-based advocacy
- Explain what it means to register with a party or as an independent
- Provide nonpartisan voter guides

501(C)3 ORGANIZATIONS MAY NOT:

- Endorse a specific candidate or party
- Host candidate forums without *inviting* all parties' candidates
- Produce "scorecards" or other ranking of candidates
- SUPPORT OR OPPOSE A CANDIDATE for public office
- Endorse candidates or political parties
- Donate money or resources to candidates
- Rate candidates on single issues

FEDERAL FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Nonprofits who receive Community Service Block Grant funding (e.g. Community Action Agencies) and Head Start agencies may not:

- Use CSBG or Head Start funds to pay for staff or materials to conduct voter registration.
- Use CSBG or Head Start funds to provide rides to the polls.

AmeriCorps members cannot conduct voter registration during work hours.

RULES AROUND HELPING OTHERS TO VOTE

RULES FOR HELPING VOTERS VOTE

Can we pay for postage?

- This is an open question of law. We believe it is legal to provide a service that includes providing postage for correspondence to government offices and/or the Board of Elections, but others disagree

Can we mail or drop off ballots for voters?

- Anyone may return an absentee ballot request form, but only immediate family members may return absentee ballots

Can we provide a ride to vote?

- Yes!

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

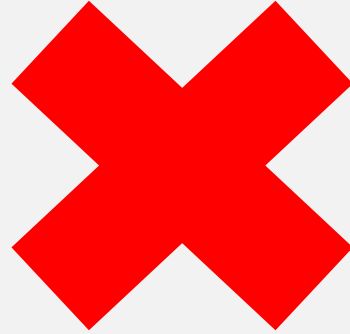
▶ **Who can help others register to vote?**

- ▶ Eligible voters *other than those convicted of a felony after May 2, 2006.*
- ▶ Minors
- ▶ Non-citizens

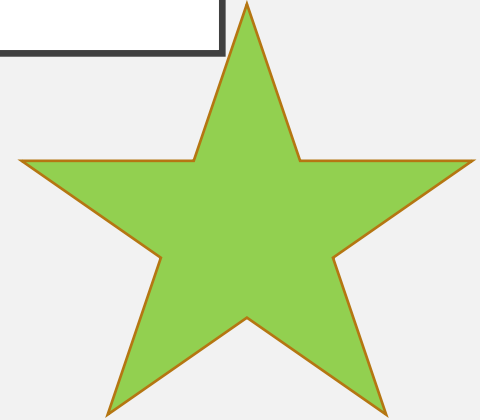
WHEN DOES THE **HELPER** HAVE TO PUT *THEIR OWN* NAME ON THE FORM?



- **VOTER** completes the registration form and signs it themselves



registration form and the **VOTER** signs the form themselves



registration form and **HELPER** signs the form on behalf of the voter

- **HELPER** completes the
- **HELPER** completes the

**ONLY IF THE VOTER CANNOT SIGN THE FORM
DOES THE **HELPER** HAVE TO **PRINT** THEIR NAME
UNDERNEATH THE SIGNATURE.**

EXAMPLE SIGNATURE BOX:

I declare under penalty of election falsification I am a citizen of the United States, will have lived in this state for 30 days immediately preceding the next election, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the general election.

14. **Your Signature** →

Date / /
MO DAY YR

Voter Name or "X"

HELPER NAME

SOME OTHER IMPORTANT **RULES** AND **BEST PRACTICES**

WHAT ADDRESS SHOULD I USE?

You have the right to vote even if you are homeless or don't have a permanent address

- ▶ Voter registration forms require an address
- ▶ State law defines home as the **place you intend to return** to live
- ▶ Voters can use the address of a homeless shelter or other **agency where they can receive mail**

College Students and others with both a permanent address and temporary address elsewhere in Ohio may use either address

- ▶ While students should not need additional proof of residence, it can be helpful to **bring proof of address just in case** their residence is in question
- ▶ Students in dorms may request an **address verification** from their university
- ▶ Students from outside another state may register to vote in Ohio using their Ohio address, but **may not be registered in multiple states**

****The address on your State ID DOES NOT need to match your voter registration address****



CAN I VOTE WITH A FELONY CONVICTION? ANYONE OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE AND NOT CURRENTLY INCARCERATED FOR A FELONY CONVICTION MAY VOTE.

**If you have been convicted of a crime,
you still have the right to vote.**

- If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor, you have the right to vote, even if you are incarcerated.
- If you have been arrested for a felony but have not been convicted, you still have the right to vote.
- If you have been convicted of a felony, you may not vote while incarcerated. Once you are out of prison or jail, you must re-register to vote, even if you were previously registered. You have the right to vote.
- If you live in a halfway house, are on house arrest or any sort of correctional control that does not involve a jail term, you have the right to vote.
- If you are on parole, or probation for a felony that does not involve a jail term, you have the right to vote.



**For more information on voting rights,
visit www.acluohio.org/vote**

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Within 20 business days after receiving your properly completed voter registration form, your county board of elections must register you to vote and promptly notify you by mail of your precinct, polling location and the identification requirements for voting.

MOST COMMON ERRORS

- Incomplete registration form
- Illegible handwriting
- Invalid or outdated registration (wrong address, former name, purged from the rolls)
- Wrongly believe they are registered but they are not
- Wrongly believe requesting an absentee ballot registers them to vote
 - For example, in 2016, 15-21% of low-income voters in Cuyahoga County who requested a mail-in ballot were not properly registered, significantly higher than other income brackets



Voters most often SKIP the boxes marked by purple circles or MIX UP the boxes connected by green arrows.

1. Are you a U.S. citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
2. Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general election? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If you answered NO to either of the questions, do not complete this form.			
3. Last Name	First Name	Middle Name or Initial	Jr., II, etc.
4. House Number and Street (Enter new address if changed)		Apt. or Lot #	5. City or Post Office
		6. ZIP Code	
7. Additional Rural or Mailing Address (if necessary)		8. County where you live	
9. Birthdate (MO-DAY-YR) (required)		10. Ohio driver's license No. OR last 4 digits of Social Security No. (one form of ID required to be listed or provided)	11. Phone No. (voluntary)
I declare under penalty of election falsification I am a citizen of the United States, will have lived in this state for 30 days immediately preceding the next election, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the general election.			
14. Your Signature →			
Date MO DAY YR			

VOTER FORMS AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Voter Registration and Information Update Form

Please read instructions carefully. Please type or print clearly with blue or black ink.
For further information, you may consult the Secretary of State's website at: www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov or call (877) 767-6446.

Eligibility

You are qualified to register to vote in Ohio if you meet all the following requirements:

1. You are a citizen of the United States.
2. You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election.
3. You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote.
4. You are not incarcerated (in jail or in prison) for a felony conviction.
5. You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court.
6. You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violations of election laws.

Use this form to register to vote or to update your current Ohio registration if you have changed your address or name.

NOTICE: This form must be received or postmarked by the 30th day before an election at which you intend to vote. You will be notified by your county board of elections of the location where you vote. If you do not receive a notice following timely submission of this form, please contact your county board of elections.

Numbers 1 and 2 below are required by law. You must answer both of the questions for your registration to be processed.

Registering in Person

If you have a current valid Ohio driver's license, you must provide that number on line 10. If you do not have an Ohio driver's license, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number on line 10. If you have neither, please write "None."

Please see information on back of this form to learn how to obtain an absentee ballot.

I am: ☐ Registering as an Ohio voter ☐ Updating my address ☐ Updating my name

1. Are you a U.S. citizen?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general election?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered NO to either of the questions, do not complete this form.	

3. Last Name	First Name	Middle Name or Initial	Jr., II, etc.
4. House Number and Street (Enter new address if changed)		Apt. or Lot #	5. City or Post Office
6. ZIP Code			
7. Additional Mailing Address (if necessary)		8. County (where you live)	
9. Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY) (required)	10. Ohio Driver's License number OR Last Four Digits of Social Security number (one form of ID required to be listed or provided)		11. Phone Number (voluntary)
12. PREVIOUS ADDRESS IF UPDATING CURRENT REGISTRATION - Previous House Number and Street			
Previous City or Post Office		Previous County	Previous State
13. CHANGE OF NAME ONLY Former Legal Name		Former Signature	
14. I declare under penalty of election falsification I am a citizen of the United States, will have lived in this state for 30 days immediately preceding the next election, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the general election.		Your Signature ↓ Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	

Registering by Mail

If you register by mail and do not provide either an Ohio driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number, you must enclose with your application a copy of one of the following forms of identification:

Current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address.

Residency Requirements

Your voting residence is the location that you consider to be a permanent, not a temporary, residence. Your voting residence is the place in which your habitation is fixed and to which, whenever you are absent, you intend to return. If you do not have a fixed place of habitation, but you are a consistent or regular inhabitant of a shelter or other location to which you intend to return, you may use that shelter or other location as your residence for purposes of registering to vote. If you have questions about your specific residency circumstances, you may contact your local board of elections for further information.

Your Signature

In the area below the arrow in Box 14, please write your cursive, hand-written signature or make your legal mark, taking care that it does not touch the surrounding lines so when it is digitally imaged by your county board of elections it can effectively be used to identify your signature.

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE

Form No. 11-A Prescribed by the Secretary of State (08-17)

Absentee Ballot Application

print clearly

R.C. 3509.03

Voter Name Required	1	First _____ Middle _____ Last _____ Suffix _____
Date of Birth Required	2	Date of Birth (do not write today's date here) _____ MM/DD/YYYY
Address at Which you are Registered to Vote Required	3	Street Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ County _____ City/Village _____ ZIP _____
Mailing Address Required only if you wish to have your ballot mailed to a different address than the address at which you're registered to vote.	4	Street Address (or P.O. box) _____ City/Village _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Identification Required	5	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Ohio driver's license number (2 letters followed by 6 numbers) _____ OR <input type="checkbox"/> Last four digits of your Social Security number _____ OR <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of a current and valid photo identification, military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that contains your name and current address.
Election Required	6	Date of Election (do not write today's date here) _____ MM/DD/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> General Election <input type="checkbox"/> Special Election <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Election For a PARTISAN primary election only, you must choose the type of ballot: <input type="checkbox"/> Political party ballot Name of Political Party _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Issues only ballot
Affirmation Required	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I wish to have an absentee ballot mailed to me at the address listed above.• I understand this request must be received by my board of elections no later than noon on the Saturday before Election Day if by mail or by 2 p.m. the day before the election if in person.• I understand that if an absentee ballot is mailed to me and I change my mind and go to my polling place to vote on Election Day, I will be required to vote a provisional ballot that cannot be counted until at least 11 days after Election Day.• I understand that, if I do not provide the required information, my application cannot be processed.• I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that I am a qualified elector and the statements above are true. Signature X _____ Today's Date _____ MM/DD/YYYY

To assist the board of election in contacting you in a timely manner if your application is incomplete, please provide the following information.

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.

- Check registration PRIOR TO providing absentee ballot request form, even if they say they are registered.
- Absentee ballot request forms may be submitted AT THE SAME TIME as submitting voter registration forms.

**FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS WITHIN**

**10 DAYS
OF COMPLETION**

**AT A MINIMUM, DO A WEEKLY SWEEP
OF FORMS TO AVOID RUNNING INTO
10 DAY DEADLINE.**

ELECTION PROTECTION RESOURCES

ELECTION PROTECTION

Nonpartisan Voter Hotline: Provides nonpartisan information about registration status, polling location, and voter rights, and has an intake process for voter rights violations

1-866-OUR-VOTE (English)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish)

1-888-API-VOTE (Chinese)

ALL VOTING LOCATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO BE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Disability Rights Ohio operates a voter hotline every Election Day while polls are open. On every other business day, intake department is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., though you can leave a message 24 hours a day and someone will return your call.

CALL 1-800-282-9181 for disability assistance

MOBILITY:

- Handicap accessible location
- OR
- Curbside voting

BALLOT COMPLETION:

- Bring someone to help you (other than employer, union agent, or candidate)
- Or
- Request help from two precinct election officials

NOTE: Precinct **MUST** have blind accessible voting machines

BALLOT RESEARCH RESOURCES

VOTE411.ORG

League of Women Voters' website generates voter-specific voter guides.
Reach out to your local league to get local voter guides.

GOOGLE IS YOUR FRIEND! Look for:

- Local write-ups of elections, ballot issues, and candidates
 - Campaign websites for candidates and parties
- Find an interest group you trust, and find out their support or opposition to ballot issues or specific campaign positions

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us

MariaBruno@cohhio.org

OhioVotes@cohhio.org

Regional Liaisons: Check our website!

More information about

- **Ohio Votes:** <https://cohhio.org/advocacy/ohio-votes/>
- **Ohio Voter Rights Coalition:** <https://ohiovoterrights.org>
- **Election Rules and Procedures:** VoteOhio.gov