



How to Host a Voter Registration Drive

Hosting voter registration drives is one of the most powerful tools you have to grow the electorate and build long-term Democratic power. Thank you for doing this amazing work. Use this guide to put together voter registration drives in your communities.

Section 1: Review Your State Voter Registration Laws

Before you start planning your VR drive, it's crucial that you understand the rules in your state. Each state has their own requirements and regulations for voter registration.

Here's what to check on your state's Secretary of State website:

Are Voter Registration Drives allowed in your state?

- Some states do not allow third parties to collect and submit completed voter registration forms on behalf of registrants.

Volunteer Eligibility

- Who is eligible to collect and submit voter registration forms in your state (age, citizenship, residency requirements)?
- Do volunteers need to be registered with the state, or need to have received a special training, before collecting any VR forms? Is there any documentation they need to register?

Submitting the Forms

- Are there deadlines for how quickly you must turn in a completed form?
- Are there any other rules for how forms are handled before they are submitted to your local elections office?

Partisan Guidelines

- Are there restrictions on how explicitly partisan your drive can be (signage, messaging)?

Fields in your State's Voter Registration Form

- What information will the registrant need to provide on the form?



Registration Deadlines

- What is the deadline to register for upcoming elections?
- Are there different deadlines for in-person / mail / online registration?

Methods of Registering

- Are voters in your state allowed to register online?

Once you have reviewed all the state-specific guidelines, decide if during the event you will be able to:

- (1) Directly register voters, using paper forms and/or QR codes to register online, **OR**
- (2) Ask potential voters to commit to register, and share information about how they can register on their own.

Section 2: Planning Your Event

Choosing a Date + Location

- **Target days with high foot traffic or community activities**
 - Holidays, festivals, campus move-in days, farmer's markets, and sporting events
 - For example, March 28 is No Kings Day this is a great opportunity to register voters
- **Identifying strong spaces for voter registration drives:**
 - Types of effective locations:
 - High-traffic areas, holidays, and special events
 - Community centers and public squares
 - Parking lots of big box stores, bus stations, and parks
 - If on a **college campus:**
 - High-traffic areas for freshmen: dining halls, dorms, and large introductory classes
 - Lawns, heavy foot traffic paths, outside of local businesses (with permission), Greek row, etc.
- **Tips for finding upcoming community events:**
 - Local news
 - Facebook events and other social platforms
 - Eventbrite
 - Community bulletin boards and partner organization calendars



Creating Your Event Listing

- [Register your voter registration drive](#) with us! By filling out the form, we can support your drive. Make sure to share the sign-up link in your circles for people to RSVP to staff the drive.
- The first 30 voter registration drive registrations will receive 10 National Voter Registration Week of Action tote bags!

Recruiting Volunteers:

- **Identifying community partners**
 - Partners may already be doing registration programming; come together to make it even stronger!
 - Reach out to local Democratic clubs and student organizations to help advertise the drive!
- **Requesting recruitment support from the DNC**
 - If you would like support from the DNC to brainstorm or need help staffing the voter registration drive, please email digitalorganizing@dnc.org with any questions.

Section 3: Preparing for Your Drive

Event Checklist:

Core checklist (all events)

- Check your state's voting deadlines on your State's Secretary of State Website and **Voter Registration requirements on IWillVote.com.**
- If you are doing direct voter registration:
 - See if your state requires paper forms or allows online forms for voter registration. If your state requires paper forms, reach out to your local board of elections office or county registrar to receive the physical voter registration forms and to confirm any rules you'll need to follow during the drive.
 - Your state may have training requirements in order to register voters. Refer to the [National Voter Registration Day State-by-State guides](#) for guidance on how you can conduct registration in your state.
- Waters and snacks – assign a volunteer captain to bring these!
- Sign-up sheet or QR code for potential volunteers you might meet who want to get involved with your work
- Shift plan or assignments
- Phones or tablets
- WiFi hotspot or identify a location with WiFi
- Tables and signage



If using digital forms:

- Printed QR codes for [IWillVote.com](https://www.IWillVote.com). You can [generate a QR code](#) for free online!
- If doing commit to register: generate a QR code to commit to register!

If using paper forms:

- Paper registration forms from your local elections board/registrar's office.
- Clipboards
- Pens
- Secure envelope or folder to store completed forms**

If setting up a table:

- Folding table
- Chairs
- Large signage — we recommend using [Canva](https://www.Canva.com) to create your graphic, and don't forget to add the [official National Voter Registration Day logo](#) to all graphics.
- Clipboards!

Section 4: During the Drive:

Volunteer Training

Hosting a quick training huddle before each shift at a nearby public location should just take 10 or so minutes! This can be a quick huddle in a public park or at a meeting beforehand.

Cover key legal details:

- State-specific eligibility
- ID laws
- Registration deadlines

Role of volunteers:

- Making a **hard ask** ("Are you registered to vote at your current address?")
 - NOTE: states vary in how explicitly partisan you can be when registering voters (in terms of what you wear, and what you say); verify this with your state's Secretary of State website.
- Answering questions with [IWillVote.com](https://www.IWillVote.com)
 - If there are questions you can't answer, call the National Voter Assistance Hotline at **833-336-8683**
- Directing people to paper vs. digital forms, depending on your state

Best practices during the shift:



- Volunteers should spread out — don't cluster in big groups
- Approach people with confidence and warmth
- Have volunteers practice their opening line!
 - "Are you registered to vote at your current address?"

Section 5: Facilitating Registration

Ensure that you are familiar with your state's laws about paper and online voter registration.

Visit the [National Voter Registration Day State-by-State guides](#) for guidance on how you can conduct registration in your state.

Use the following steps to register voters:

1. If the voter is NOT registered, register them using the following procedure, OR whatever the best way to register them is in your state.
 - a. **If virtual registration is allowed:** Provide them with a QR code to either [IWillVote.com](#) or your state's voter registration portal. Have them complete the form on their own device if they are able.
 - i. **TIP:** Walk them through the virtual registration form while they are standing with you! Don't let them walk away and say they will do it later.
 - b. **If paper forms are required:** Hand them a clipboard with the form, and walk them through the process of filling it out. Once completed, slide the form into a manila folder.
 - i. **TIP:** Let the voter know that you will be submitting it for them, and that they should check back on their registration status on [IWillVote.com](#) within a few weeks to make sure it goes through.

Section 6: After the Drive

Compliance & Submission (If using physical forms)

- Designate one volunteer to manage the forms and turn them in. They are responsible for:
 - Collecting and storing completed forms securely after the shift
 - Ensure all forms are submitted to the elections office within the state-mandated timeframe

Follow Up with New Voters and the DNC

- We want to cultivate and build relationships with new Democratic voters! After registering them, build a process to follow up via text or phone.
 - If you don't have the capacity to do so, we can help! Direct them to our [DNC](#)



[Volunteer Slack](#) so they can get involved!

- We want to hear how the drive went! Please report back on the success of your drive and any suggestions for our team using [this form](#).

Thank you for hosting a voter registration drive in your community! If you have any questions, please contact digitalorganizing@dnc.org and refer to IWillVote.com.