

Best Practices for Voter Registration

Be visible

- ✓ Posters everywhere. Buttons for all volunteers. Stickers for new registrants.^{1,p16}
- ✓ Set up an eye-catching table or stand with colorful clipboards in a high-traffic area. "Move around, be assertive and friendly, and let everyone know how much you are enjoying this!"^{2,p7}

Talk about voting

- ✓ Have voters explain their own reasons for voting.^{3,p7} For example, ask "How important is it for you to be a voter in the upcoming election?"
- ✓ Share a personal story.⁴ "I remember my first time voting. I was 18 and was...."
- ✓ Don't talk about how people aren't voting or low voter turnout—it can suppress voter turnout.^{3,p9;5} Say "More and more people are voting," or "We're expecting a high turnout."

Be nonpartisan

- ✓ Don't advocate voting for issues or candidates, engage in political discussions, or tell your personal opinions.^{3,p9;6,p9}
- ✓ Don't link voter registration to an issue.^{6,p9} An issue-focused message is unlikely to increase voter turnout.^{3,p9}
- ✓ The League does not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party.

Maintain privacy^{6,p9}

- ✓ Don't ask applicants to provide you with personal information.
- ✓ Don't make a copy of the applicant's voter registration form.
- ✓ Applicants can sign up for election reminders at <https://lwvtexas.turbovote.org/register>

Work with special populations^{6,p8}

- ✓ Assure victims of domestic violence, assault, or stalking that they can keep their address private if they register to vote through the Address Confidentiality Program <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/the-address-confidentiality-program-acp>
- ✓ People who are homeless can use the address of a shelter or outreach center as their mailing address.
- ✓ People with a past felony conviction can register if they have completed their term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or probation (i.e., "off paper").

Educate new voters^{6,p16}

See *Educating New Voters* at http://www.lwvtexas.org/Best_Practices_GOTV.html

Know the law^{1,p32}

- ✓ National Voter Registration Act of 1993 <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-national-voter-registration-act>
- ✓ Texas Voting <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/largepamp.shtml>
- ✓ Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrar Guide <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/deputy.shtml>

References

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