

10 Simple Civic Engagement Activities

. . . that every nonprofit can do to get involved

- ① Appoint/Vote/Choose a "civic engagement cheerleader" for your organization.
- ② Start staff meetings by asking people to share an "issue" that motivates them to vote, or that they wish other people would consider when voting.
- ③ Call your Secretary of State and ask for multilingual Voter Registration Cards. Make sure **all** staff have at least 10-20 with them at all times. Have them at your front desk.
- ④ Create a cool Voter Registration drop-box for your front desk.
- ⑤ Make sure all staff, board members, volunteers and interns are registered. Encourage all your staff and board members to vote.
- ⑥ Create a quarter-page flyer that includes:
 - One reason to vote
 - How to get a voter registration card at your office
 - Important election information (such as last day to register, what to bring to polls)
 - Contact information for your organization's "civic engagement expert"
- ⑦ Write an article or letter to the editor about the importance of voting, and how it relates to an area of interest in your organization. Submit it to your local newspaper.
- ⑧ Put a message on your Web site encouraging people to vote, offering voter registration cards/assistance, and linking to an online voter registration tool.
- ⑨ Create a "voter list" out of your current database. Add new voter registrants to your list. Get permission to contact registrants. Add registrants to your GOTV list.
- ⑩ Add an "Election Updates" box to your newsletters. Be creative! Share success stories about your civic engagement work. Include a quote from someone who registered for the first time or who is going to be a poll watcher. Or include a picture of your volunteers hard at work!

Main Street Project's Community-Based Civic Engagement program works to give rural residents of all ages, cultures, economic and immigration status the opportunity to more actively participate in community life.