

Do's and don'ts

Here are some important best practices to follow when registering voters:

✓ **DO be proactive in starting conversations with voters.** Greet voters, smile, and use open and friendly body language to start the conversation. Get up from your table or chair if you are able.

✓ **DO keep it nonpartisan.** This program is nonpartisan in accordance with the rules for 501(c)(3) organizations. No part of the event or outreach for the event should advocate or be coordinated on the behalf of any candidate, political party, or measure on the ballot. You should not ask for a voter's political leanings.

✓ **DO know the local rules and regulations.** There may be specific rules related to voter registration activity in your state, county, or locality. Research and comply with any and all applicable rules, permitting, or regulations.

✓ **DO ask follow up questions.** "I'm already registered" is a common response. Many people will assume that their voter registration is up to date or are not aware that they need to update their registration after major life changes. Use the script to guide them.

✓ **DO go to public places.** If you are on private property make sure to ask permission and no matter where you are, leave if asked.

✗ **DON'T use incentives for voter registration.** Federal law prohibits providing incentives or anything of value, no matter how small, to encourage or reward voting or registering to vote. If your event is providing food, buttons, stickers, etc., it must be provided to voters and non-voters alike.

✗ **DON'T get discouraged if you don't have dozens of people approaching you to register to vote.** If someone refuses to participate, be kind and thank them for their time. You're helping people participate in our democracy, and that's worth celebrating!

✗ **DON'T forget to follow CDC guidelines.** However you're planning to take action, it's important to follow [CDC guidelines](#) and bring masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant with you when you engage with voters.

✗ **DON'T use paper registration forms unless you know and understand the rules and restrictions** for paper registration in your state.

✗ **DON'T answer questions you aren't sure about.** States have different eligibility requirements and rules for registering to vote. If a voter isn't sure if they are eligible to vote, have them call 866-OUR-VOTE.