

GIVING RIDES TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

For nonprofits of many varieties, providing rides to polling places will be a must on Election Day. For some groups, providing rides will be their only activity. Bringing someone directly to the polls is the best way to ensure that they vote. Here are some tips for creating an effective “Rides to the Polls” program:

- Know the rules regarding:
 - Your state’s Voter ID requirements (if any)
 - Provisional voting in your state
 - Toll free help lines for voters like 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA
 - Same day registration (if available in your state)
- Create a plan
 - How many people can you involve? How many staff? How many volunteers?
 - Where do you want to focus?
 - What resources are available?
- Form coalitions
 - What other groups can you work with?
 - Who has done this before?
- Start thinking about drivers and vehicles RIGHT NOW! Election Day will come sooner than you think, and it is better to have more people than you can use, then to not have enough.
 - Consider reserving vehicles that can be used to transport wheelchairs.
 - Recruit volunteers who will remain nonpartisan, and whose vehicles will not have political bumper stickers.
- Train staff and volunteers before Election Day
- When reminding people to vote, ask if they need a ride to the polls. Start thinking about routes and minute details.
- Ideally you have things planned out to the point that drivers know where they are going, and voters know when they are being picked up, at least a few days before the election.
- Ideally you also have a couple drivers who are available for last minute calls and problems. These drivers could be shared with other organizations in the area.