



2020 Election Resources for Nonprofits

Last updated 10.28.20

Pre-Election & Get Out the Vote

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 General Election will be like no other. In typical years, many NGOs work to make sure their audiences are motivated to vote, are registered to vote, and know where and how to vote. Now, with COVID-19, there's a new, crucial role NGOs can play – make sure your audiences know how to VOTE BY MAIL.

Here is how you can help more people in your state know how to vote in the upcoming election:

- Share reminders to **register to vote** and **verify registration status** on your social media, newsletters, e-blasts, etc.
 - Share links to **register to vote** (e.g. <https://www.vote.org/register-to-vote/>)
 - Share links to check **registration status** (e.g. <https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/>)
 - Share **deadlines** to register to vote in your state
 - [Find your deadlines here](#)
 - Plug a form into your website that lets people **register to vote** (e.g. <https://www.vote.org/technology/>)
 - Plug a form into your website that lets people **check if they are registered** to vote (e.g. <https://www.vote.org/technology/>)
- Share reminders on dates and information for **in-person early voting** in your state
 - [Find dates and other information on in-person early voting for your state here](#)
- Share reminders and information on **how and where to vote on Election Day**, Tuesday, November 3, 2020
 - [Find information on how and where to vote in your state on Election Day here](#)
- Share information on how to **Vote-From-Home** (i.e. Absentee Vote) in your state
 - Share links to **request an Absentee Ballot** (e.g. <https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot/>)
 - Share deadlines and information how to **request and return an Absentee Ballot** in your state
 - [Find your deadlines here](#)
 - Find and share information on how to EITHER Mail-in OR Drop-off an Absentee Ballot in your state

- Share information on how to **properly cast and check an Absentee Ballot** in your state
 - [Find information here](#)
- Plug a form into your website that lets people request an Absentee Ballot (e.g. <https://www.vote.org/technology/>)
- Share information on how to sign-up to become a Poll Worker
 - [Find information on becoming a Poll Worker here](#)

Resources

- [State-by-State voting information](#)
- [State-by-State voting information on how to vote from home, rules, and deadlines](#)
- LINKS:
 - [Link to Register to Vote](#)
 - [Link to Verify Registration Status](#)
 - [Link to request a Vote-From-Home Ballot](#)
- Choose Clean Water Coalition/Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed River Watershed's [Civic Engagement Toolkit](#) – includes sample social media posts, email messages, images, and other valuable information and resources
- Clean Water 4 All Coalition's [#VoteForCleanWater Community Toolkit](#) – includes social media guidance for both 501c3 and 501c4 organizations.
- #VoteForCleanWater Day – September 1
- [National Voter Registration Day](#) (NVRD) – September 22
- Website plug-ins:
 - [Register to vote tool](#): a form you can plug into your website that lets people register to vote
 - [Verify voter registration status tool](#): a form you can plug into your website that lets people check if they are registered to vote and if their information is up to date
 - [Absentee ballot tool](#): a form you can plug into your website that lets people request an absentee ballot
- Rules for 501c3s and elections:
 - [Bolder Advocacy: Get Out the Vote](#)

Post-Election

After you do what you can to ensure your supporters know when and where to vote, it's also important to prepare now for election uncertainty and ensure we take the necessary time to count every vote. [Click here to read more from Combined Defense Project](#) about what might lead to election uncertainty and what you can do now to prepare and ensure we #CountEveryVote.

Prepare Now to Ensure We Count Every Vote

Typically, we expect a decisive outcome on election night. This election will be different. It could be days, weeks, or even months, before the election is decided. This uncertainty is due, in part,

to the unprecedented numbers of Americans voting by mail, the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing extreme weather and fire disasters, and voter suppression efforts. Counting all votes could take days, weeks, or even months.

Therefore, it's important that we plan and prepare for a period of post-election uncertainty, and think of this as an *election season*.

What's most important, if there is a period of post-election uncertainty, is that Americans stand together to protect our democracy and demand that every vote is counted.

As water protection organizations, our ability to achieve policy goals on everything we care about—from environmental justice to river protections to climate action depends on a free and fair election where every vote is counted. Only when every vote is counted will we achieve a legitimate result that sets the stage for us to pursue or defend mandates for elected leaders to ensure access to clean water for all, protect the environment, tackle the climate crisis, and protect the public's health. Our waters, our health and safety, our environment, and our climate depend on the health of our democracy.

The network of water protection organizations across the country can make a difference to help ensure all votes are counted.

To learn about potential post-election scenarios and actions your organization can take to ensure we #CountEveryVote check out Combined Defense Project's [#CountEveryVote Community Toolkit](#) for 501c3s. In the toolkit they have resources to support you taking the following actions if there is post-election uncertainty:

- Prepare now for what actions you will take if there is post-election uncertainty, such as:
 - Sending alerts directly to your membership to support #CountEveryVote actions
 - Amplifying #CountEveryVote actions via your communication channels (e.g. newsletters, social media channels, blogs, etc.)
- Participate in CDP's social media days of action by amplifying 2-3 social media posts every Tuesday (see the [CDP messaging toolkit here](#))

We look forward to working together with our network to spread the word that our priority is a fair election, not a fast one. #CountEveryVote

Protecting Democracy Resources

- [Protect Democracy](#)
- From Combined Defense Project (CDP)
 - [#CountEveryVote Post-Election Digital Campaign](#)
 - [Legal memo](#)
 - [Community Toolkit](#) for 501c3 organizations
 - CDP staff contact Phillip Ellis
- [National Task Force on Election Crises](#) and their [Roadmap to a Free and Fair 2020 General Election](#)

- Protect Our Election's ["Election Integrity Index"](#)
- Navigating Elections in Unprecedented Times October 26 webinar from Training Resources for the Environmental Community (TREC). [Watch the recording here.](#)
- Bolder Advocacy's [Post-Election Advocacy Podcast](#)

Notes on Post-Election Timing:

Nov 4 – Vote Counting Continues

Dec 8 – Certification "Safe Harbor" Deadline

Dec 14 – Electoral College Votes, States Submit Election Results to Congress

Jan 3 – A New Congress Convenes

Jan 6 – Congress Ratifies Election Results

Jan 20 – Inauguration