PROMOTING VOTER REGISTRATION IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS
A Toolkit for Health Professionals and Leaders

VOTE FOR THE HEALTH CARE YOU WANT

VOTE FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR PATIENTS

VOTE FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR DEMOCRACY
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

THREE STEPS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND LEADERS TO PROMOTE VOTING

PRE-MADE EMAILS, SIGNATURES, AND FLYERS

TROUBLESHOOTING

NATIONAL RESOURCES

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INTRODUCTION

Our patients, peers, and colleagues need help voting

Just as poverty and systemic racism adversely impact the health of our patients, these factors also impact our patients' ability to vote on the people and policies that shape vital determinants of health - The Atlantic

The Problem

Voting is framed with inequities. Voters tend to be whiter, wealthier, more educated, even healthier than the general population. This means that some of our patients are vastly electorally underrepresented. And it is not just our patients! While data does not exist for all health professions, doctors historically tend to vote less than the general population and other professionals, including lawyers. As voter registration rates fall precipitously around the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have an opportunity to ensure our patients, peers, and colleagues have the ability to vote and vote safely.

The Solution

Voting is a social determinant of health. Promoting civic engagement is a mechanism by which health centers can improve community health and meet their organizational mission. By fully and energetically working to engage staff and patients, health centers can ensure that the promise of our democracy is fully realized. We have the power to help our communities vote and vote safely.
THREE STEPS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND LEADERS TO PROMOTE VOTING

Step One

Know the Basics

Step Two

Promote Voter Registration in Your Spaces

Step Three

Promote Voter Registration Through Your People

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STEP ONE

Know the Basics

ELIGIBILITY

Voter registration rules & eligibility vary by state but typically a voter must be:

• A U.S. Citizen
• At least 18 years of age
• A legal resident of the state and the county in which they will register

WHAT PATIENTS NEED

• Name
• Legal residence address
• Date of birth
• Citizenship status
• Check state websites for additional requirements

IMPORTANT DATES

General Election:

• November 8, 2022
• Click here to look up state-specific voter registration deadlines

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STEP TWO

- Identify a champion to advocate for your project among clinic staff and administration (see page 8 for draft email)

- Remind patients to vote while they wait in clinic

  a. Post these pre-made flyers around the waiting room

  b. Place informational resources at the check-in desk

    i. Want to track how many people are registering at your health care sites? We can provide you with customized QR codes and de-identified data to help you tailor your efforts!

      1. Email info@civichealthalliance.org with subject line “FLYER QR CODE” with your health clinic name, address

      2. Copy/paste QR code into our flyer template

- Use your digital space to remind patients to vote

  a. Use the social media resources on our website

  b. Upload banners and your QR codes to websites
STEP THREE
Promote Voter Registration Through Your People

One of the goals of Civic Health Alliance is to get physicians, nurses, and other health professionals to register to vote.

- Ask health professionals and health professions students to join the RxVote Campaign, register to vote & spread the word using the resources available on our website.

Colleagues can amplify the Rx Vote message to help reach more peers and patients.

- Use our template to print Rx Vote badge stickers.
- Ask health professionals and health professions students to adopt an Rx Vote email signature.
- Use an RxVote slide in your team presentations.
Dear __________:

I am writing you about an important issue that impacts our patients. As a [insert role], I believe that the outcomes of elections have a tremendous impact on the health of our patients and our communities.

Therefore, I am supporting the efforts of a non-partisan movement, RxVote, to get out the vote and to do so safely. I would like our organization to support these efforts because [insert reasons why you personally believe this is important].

Here are a few ways that we, as an organization, can help and pledge to RxVote in 2022. [insert suggested actions]. Can we count on your leadership and support?
Let’s RxVote together in 2022. Click here to register or here to request an absentee ballot.

I’ve taken the pledge to RxVote in 2022. Have you? Join me by registering to vote here.

We are committed to helping our staff, patients, and communities vote safely in 2022. Please remember to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot.
Pre-Made Flyers and Stickers

All flyers are printable on 8.5" x 11" paper

Available for download at this link

Stickers can be printed using both laser and ink jet printers

Sticker paper available via Amazon.

$6 for 300 stickers

Click here to order sticker paper!
Are there legal barriers or rules against voter registration promotion in clinics?

- 501(c)(3) hospitals are permitted to engage in voter education and registration activities as long as all activities are conducted in a nonpartisan manner.

- All materials provided in this toolkit are permissible voter registration materials under legal guidelines for hospitals and clinics.

- For a more detailed description of permissible activities versus prohibited “election-related” activities: Click here for a legal brief from the American Hospital Association.

Can patients with felony convictions register to vote?

- Refer patients to the Restore Your Vote website to screen for eligibility: https://campaignlegal.org/restoreyourvote

What if my patient is homeless?

- The patient can register using an address of a place they frequent, such as a church that agrees to accept mail for the individual, or a shelter. It may even be informal locations, such as a park bench.

Research your state’s policies on collecting paper forms, deadlines, voter ID requirements, and more at vote.org
Nonprofit VOTE
- Official voting information directly from your state's election website
  https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/

US Vote Foundation
- Election dates and deadlines by state
  https://www.usvotefoundation.org/vote/state-elections/state-election-dates-deadlines.htm

RxVote*
- Three steps to ensure safe voting
  https://www.rxvote.org/

Health Begins*
- The relationship between health and healthcare is broken. Everyone knows it. Few know how to fix it. Until now.
  https://healthbegins.org/

Patient Voting
- Help hospitalized patients vote by emergency absentee ballot
  https://www.patientvoting.com/

Doctors for America
- Doctors for America is a national movement of physicians and medical students working together to improve the health of the nation and to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, high quality health care
  http://www.drsforamerica.org/

Map the Vote
- See a map of neighbors and others in your area who have not registered
  https://mapthe.vote/

Vote.org
- Vote.org uses technology to simplify political engagement, increase voter turnout, and strengthen American democracy
  https://vote.org/
References


Civic Health Alliance is a growing non-partisan coalition of health professionals collaborating to increase the number of our peers registered - and voting safely - this November.

Check the website periodically for updates on how you can get involved civichealthalliance.org or email info@civichealthalliance.org.

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