

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE IN A STATE WITH STRICT VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS

While the vast majority of states welcome the help of third-party organizations in collecting completed registration forms, a few states make it difficult or outright prohibit third-party voter registration drives. Wherever you live, rest assured that this work continues despite restrictions your state may have. Don't be discouraged. There are many partners just like you who are on the ground and looking for ways to continue registering their communities in spite of such restrictions. Your community needs support with registering to vote and updating their forms.

HERE'S A COUPLE OF THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- ◆ **Make sure you're educated about your state's laws.** Community members are looking to you as a trusted source to be knowledgeable and up to date. Review our [state by state guides for third-party registration drives](#) or contact your local elections office to learn more about your state's laws, deadlines, and requirements for third-party groups collecting registration forms.
- ◆ **Become familiar with other organizations that may be registering voters in your city or state.** Share ideas and learnings about what works and strategies for success. You're not alone in this work, so build community wherever possible.

If you're in a state where third-party, nongovernmental organizations are not allowed to register voters, there are a few things you can do that require just a couple of extra steps. As of this writing, only NH and WY explicitly prohibit third-party registration drives. Other states may still have significant limits.

- ◆ **Partner with local election officials:** Reach out to your local election office to find out if you can get a town clerk or election official to attend your drive and register voters at your college or community event. Make sure you have all the details on hand, ask for written confirmation, and follow up with the office to confirm their attendance. While you handle promotion, the election office representative will be able to register voters, check the forms, and ensure that voters are providing the appropriate documentation.
- ◆ **Use pledge to vote / register cards.** Start a digital or paper [pledge to vote campaign](#)! Asking people to commit in advance to registering and voting can be a powerful tool to start a conversation. You can also use this as a way to capture contact information from your community members. Let them know how you'll be using their information (like phone or email) upfront. That can include sending them voter registration reminders, key dates and deadlines, nonpartisan candidate guides, and reminders of what to bring to register to vote.
- ◆ **Distribute palm cards both print and digitally.** The palm cards should highlight any important things to know, around what key documents to bring to the polls, election day reminders, or maybe even a QR code to an information page where they can learn more about the upcoming elections and requirements.
- ◆ **Promote state online registration portals, if available.** Some states that make it very difficult for third-party groups to collect completed registration forms may have online portals where voters can register themselves. In such cases, you can create a scannable QR code or handouts with the URL address of the state's voter registration portal. Use these tools at your community event and celebrate democracy with the rest of the nation!

