

# 2008 RECOVERY VOICES COUNT

A Guide to Non-Partisan  
Civic Engagement

**FACES &  
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OF RECOVERY

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**Dear Recovery Advocate:**

Growing numbers of recovery community organizations and recovery advocates across the country are getting involved in non-partisan civic engagement activities so that their voices can be heard in the local, state and national arenas. They are conducting voter registration and Get-Out-The-Vote activities, sponsoring candidate forums and getting candidates for political office on record about critical policies that will make recovery a reality for even more Americans.

Faces & Voices of Recovery is pleased to bring you **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** – a non-partisan Civic Engagement Guide. This effort is one part of our national movement to make it possible for even more of our friends, neighbors and family members to experience long-term recovery from addiction by building recognition of the recovery community as a constituency of consequence. As recovery community organizations and recovery advocates register voters, educate candidates for public office about key issues and turn out voters in growing numbers, we will have an even greater impact on the lives of people who still need help with their addiction, people in long-term recovery, their family members and communities.

Recovery community organizations and our allies can engage citizens in the electoral process and encourage them to exercise their right to vote in the November 2008 elections. With less than half of eligible Americans voting, your **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** campaign is a great way to help people take the first step in civic participation and build your recovery community organization. Civic engagement also allows us to increase the visibility of the growing addiction recovery advocacy constituency and the issues that we care about. Faces & Voices of Recovery's Right to Addiction Recovery Platform (See Appendix D) describes those critical issues at greater length. Every individual eligible to vote needs to be encouraged to register to vote and, if already registered, encouraged to vote.

Join us in reaching out and organizing the recovery community to participate in our electoral process. Use this guide as your best resource for practical hands on information. For more information, you can use the resources listed in Appendix E. Please let us know what you've accomplished by filling out Appendix F. Buttons and bumper stickers are available from Faces & Voices of Recovery through our website [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).

Join us in engaging the recovery community and making **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Merlyn Karst". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Merlyn Karst  
Board Chair

**PS.** One policy issue that is very important to the recovery community is restoring the right of people with criminal convictions to vote. More than five million Americans are barred from the polls because of these restrictions. Many of these disenfranchised people have experience with addiction and face lifetime bans on participating in our civic life as voters. Recovery community organizations around the country are working in coalition with allied organizations to right this wrong. Go to [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org) to get involved in efforts in your state.

# RECOVERY VOICES COUNT

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## WHAT IS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT?

Civic engagement simply means being involved in your community. It's probably no surprise that the number of Americans who are active in civic life has declined over the years. Civic engagement is one strategy recovery advocates are using effectively to change discriminatory public policies and make sure people with addiction get the help that they need.

You do not have to run for public office to participate in the political process of your community. While some have chosen to do this, there are many other ways. In this guide, we'll provide you information about how to organize civic engagement activities in your city or town. We suggest that you read through the many ways you can get involved and begin planning your project today. Civic engagement is not something that we can wait for others to do – WE must take action.

### Three Common Civic Engagement Activities Are:

#### **Voter Registration**

Every successful civic engagement campaign starts with registering people to vote. This guide provides you with detailed information about: who's eligible to vote, how to conduct voter registration drives, overcoming objections that people have to registering to vote.

#### **Voter Education**

Education is a powerful predictor of civic engagement. The more people know about the issues that affect them, the more likely it is that they will participate in civic affairs. If we expect those who we register to vote to exercise that right, then we must provide them with good information about the issues they care about and the candidates' positions on those issues. This guide provides you with some tools to do just that.

#### **Voter Participation**

Finally, you can register people to vote and give them all the information in the world, but if they stay home on Election Day, then we've not done a good job of engaging them as citizens. This is called Get-Out-the-Vote. This guide gives you strategies and techniques for getting people to the polls to exercise their right to vote.



Courtesy of: PAR-Louisville

*Kentucky recovery advocates register and educate voters at their Rally for Recovery*

# GETTING STARTED

## Forming a Committee

Forming a committee of individuals in your community who are interested in working on the **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** civic engagement campaign is your first step. The committee can include representatives from your organization (or individual recovery advocates if you haven't organized a recovery community organization yet), representatives from allied organizations, and people who might not be members of your organization but share the same beliefs as you. The committee should be involved in planning the civic engagement activities that will be carried out through Election Day, November 4, 2008.

We suggest you take some time and brainstorm who would be helpful to you on your committee. There's quite a bit you can do, so the larger and more diverse the committee, the better. Here are some suggestions for committee members:

- ▶ Recovery Community Organizations other than your own
- ▶ National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) affiliate
- ▶ Treatment Providers / Employees / Alumni
- ▶ Medication-Assisted Recovery Groups
- ▶ Recovery Houses / three-quarter houses / Sober Houses / Oxford Houses
- ▶ Community Anti-Drug Coalition (CADCA) and prevention Coalitions / Student Groups
- ▶ Alcohol and Drug Agency Representatives
- ▶ Drug Court staff and/or graduates
- ▶ Criminal Justice Reform Advocates
- ▶ Medical professionals / Health Care Workers / Social Workers
- ▶ Parent (PTA and other) / Family Groups
- ▶ LGBT Community Organizations
- ▶ Faith Based Organizations / Churches / Synagogues / Mosques, etc.
- ▶ Workplace Union Representatives
- ▶ Local groups you may be working on other projects with
- ▶ Others (Use space below to list).

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After you figure out who you want to invite to join your committee, get their contact information including email addresses, and send out an invitation to an organizational meeting. At the meeting, you can lay out the strategy and start the planning using some of the tools on the next page.

## Planning Is the Key to Success

Planning is critical to a successful campaign. After you've set up your committee, use the information below to put together an organizational meeting. At the meeting, develop your voter registration, voter education and Get-Out-the-Vote strategies. Here are some things that the committee should think about:

**1. What are your resources?** Volunteers; upcoming events; newsletter, website and other communications; relationships with the recovery community and allied organizations. Do you have money to fund the campaign, print and mail brochures and other materials, provide refreshments at events, etc.

**2. What are your goals?** The number of individuals who you want to register to vote; the number of individuals who you want to get out to vote.

**3. What are your targets?** What potential voters are you hoping to engage? Where do they live; are they already members of your organization or are they people that you hope to involve in your organization?

**4. Who are your likely allies and partners?** Is everyone that should have been invited to your organizing meeting there? Are there other groups or individuals not represented that should be?

**5. Who will be responsible for carrying out the campaign?** Does your organization have staff who can be involved in these activities? What can volunteers do, such as voter registration at community events or get-out-the-vote activities?

**6. What will be your theme?** Here are some suggestions: Recovery Voices Count; We Recover and We Vote; Another Voter for Recovery; Keep it simple, non-partisan, and inspiring!

**7. What non-partisan voter registration activities will you do?** Register voters at Recovery Month observances; Recovery Centers; Trainings that you have scheduled, etc. (See the information on page 4 about how to organize your non-partisan voter registration program.)

**8. What type of voter education will your group be involved in?** Will you prepare a voter information guide that educates voters on the candidates for office and the important issues facing the recovery community this election season?

**9. What Get-Out-the-Vote activities will you do?** Be sure to include as part of your strategy to contact every new voter that you register and all of the members of your organization by phone, reminding them to vote. (See the information on page 10 about how to organize Get-Out-the-Vote activities.)

**10. Finalize a timeline for your campaign.** Working backwards from November 4, 2008, lay out the dates and times for the activities that you would like to do.

**11. How are you going to evaluate your campaign?**

Make sure the committee clearly understands what non-partisan civic engagement is and what types of activities you are allowed to do under the law. (See KEEPING IT NON-PARTISAN: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT on page 12 for more information.)

# NON-PARTISAN VOTER REGISTRATION

## Information and Guidelines

The first step in exercising our right to vote is registering with local election officials. In most states people must register before Election Day, although some states allow “same day registration” (see registration deadlines in Appendix A-1). Non-partisan voter registration is simply registering eligible citizens without connecting it to any candidate or political party. Here’s information on organizing a Voter Registration Drive in your community.

### How Do You Organize a Voter Registration Drive?

- 1. Your RECOVERY VOICES COUNT organizing committee should designate one person as the lead coordinator for the drive.** This person should act as the liaison between the elections board and the participating voter registration volunteers. It takes some amount of planning and preparation to conduct a voter registration drive and will require teamwork to organize (see checklist of activities in Appendix A-3).
- 2. Contact the local elections office in the county where you will hold the drive.** Let them know that you want to hold a voter registration drive. They can give you information about your state’s voter registration requirements and the materials you will need voter registration information manuals, voter registration forms and voter’s guides. Ask them how to store the completed voter registration forms and make arrangements for their timely return to the appropriate elections office.
- 3. Contact registration outreach programs,** sponsored by such groups as the League of Women Voters, to obtain voter educational information and materials that can be distributed to registrants (optional).
- 4. Make up a list of possible locations** for your voter registration drive. You might include clinics, day treatment programs, peer advocacy organizations, self-help organizations, or “high-traffic” public areas such as community centers, schools, libraries, shopping centers, grocery stores, churches, or community festivals or rallies. Don’t forget to include September 2007 and 2008 Recovery Month activities on your list.
- 5. Contact the appropriate organizations for permission to register voters on their premises.** You may want to stress the non-partisan aspect of your drive as many property or business owners may not want partisan activity happening on their premises but will not mind non-partisan activities.
- 6. Set the date and time(s) for your drive.** Pick a date that gives you enough time to register voters and return their completed registration cards before the deadline in your state (See Appendix A-1 for voter registration deadlines in your state). You can decide how long the drive should be depending upon where you’re going to hold it. For example, it’s good to schedule lunchtime drives between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Drives at libraries, grocery stores, shopping malls and similar locations can last four to six hours between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. And if you’re setting up a voter registration table during a community festival, you may want to be there the entire day.
- 7. Figure out how many people you will need and sign up volunteers to staff the drive.** You will need a team of at least two people to staff the registration table. If you have a list of your members, you can develop a phone bank to recruit volunteers and let them know that you’ll be registering people to vote and where. Set up time-slots and make your assignments.

**8. Gather all of the necessary equipment and supplies several days before the drive.** You will need a table, chairs, clipboards, pens, voter registration applications, voter's guides and your organization's literature, e.g. fact sheets, pamphlets, newsletters, etc. Be creative with your table. Decorate it with banners, balloons and/or signs encouraging people to "Be Another Voter for Recovery" and "Register to vote here. (see Appendix A-7 for a sample sign). In preparing a voter registration banner, don't forget the name of your organization or group and its logo. Because this activity is non-partisan, make sure that you do not have any materials endorsing a particular candidate on your table.

**9. Keep track of those you have registered to vote.** If you have contact information for the people you register, you can create phone-bank lists to contact these new voters before Election Day to remind them to exercise their right to vote and offer them transportation to the polls. While this may seem like an invasion of privacy, it is perfectly legal and will be a major advantage in following up with registered voters (see Appendix A-5 for sample registration sign-up sheet).

**10. Publicize your voter registration drive.** Put up posters and flyers around your community and hang them in your Recovery Community Center, Drug Court, office, store windows or other locations. You can also send out press releases to local media announcing the date, time and location of your voter registration drive. This is a great way to publicize your drive and to raise awareness in the community (see Appendix A-6 for a sample flyer).

**11. Train your volunteers.** Schedule a training session to review your state's guidelines for registering voters. Make sure that each volunteer is thoroughly familiar with the registration forms. If required in your state, volunteers should attend any mandatory training sessions conducted by the local elections board.

**12. On the day of the drive, set up the table.** Make sure you have plenty of pens, voter registration applications and instructions, voter's guides and your organization's literature. Volunteers may stand by the registration table with clipboards and voter registration applications in-hand, ready to ask passers-by if they are registered to vote (see Appendix A-2 for tips on how to ask people if they're registered).

**13. Tell people who register that they will receive a voter registration card in the mail.** This usually takes two or three weeks and, if not, they should contact the local board of elections.

**14. Turn in completed voter registration applications to the local elections official in a timely manner.** It's really important that you know the laws in your state and be sure to get the card turned in to the right place within the correct amount of time. Legally-mandated time limits vary by state.

Contact your local elections board or consult the rules governing voter registration drives on your state's web site which can be accessed via the web site of the National Association of State Elections Directors at <http://www.nased.org/membership.htm> (See Appendix A-2 for more information about voting eligibility).



Courtesy of: RI CARES

*Rhode Island voter education on the successful campaign to end the long standing discriminatory rule that disenfranchised over 16,000 voters.*

## NON-PARTISAN VOTER EDUCATION

Education about issues is a powerful predictor of civic engagement. The more people know, the more likely it is that they will participate in civic affairs. If we expect those who we register to vote to exercise that right, then we must provide them with good information about the issues they care about and information about the candidates' positions on those issues.

Faces & Voices of Recovery is working with allied organizations to develop non-partisan background materials for the major political parties on addiction prevention, treatment and recovery issues. That information will be available on our web site in late 2007. In addition, you can develop one-page fact sheets about these issues in your community and present them to all of the candidates that you will be contacting as well as local and state political parties. You can refer to our Right to Addiction Recovery platform in Appendix D for additional information.

There are many ways to educate the electorate and get candidates on the record. Here are a few forums and ways that you can do this. There's more detailed information on each on the following pages.

- ✓ **Attend Campaign Events, Forums, and Town Meetings**  
Organizing to create a unified presence and convey a consistent message at events.
- ✓ **Encourage Local Media to Focus on Our Issues**  
Providing information to the media about addiction prevention, treatment and recovery issues.
- ✓ **Debates**  
Making sure that issues that are important to the recovery community are raised at candidate debates.
- ✓ **Organize an Event**  
10 Easy Steps to Organize Your **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** event

### Attend Campaign Events, Forums, and Town Meetings

Call the candidates' schedulers or the candidates' campaign directors to find out when and where the candidates will be in your area. You can obtain candidates' contact information at the Faces & Voices web site located at <http://capwiz.com/facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/home/>. Once you're there, scroll down to Elections and Candidates where you can either type in your zip code or click on Elections and Candidates to pull up information about candidates in your state. Project Vote Smart, located at <http://www.vote-smart.org>, is another comprehensive web page that you can use to find out about upcoming events.

Publicize each event with advocates in your Recovery Community Organization and through other networks of allied organizations and treatment and recovery networks. Make sure that you have recovery advocates or volunteers at each event for the candidate in the election you are targeting to ask questions to get the candidates on record using the questions in Appendix B. If your Recovery Community Organization publishes a newsletter, you may qualify for a press credential for campaign events. If you do, try to attend events and forums as part of the press corps.

Organize recovery advocates and other volunteers at each event with signs that say: **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** and the name of your organization. Make sure to tell the sign holders to position themselves in front of any TV cameras or reporters. It will be very powerful if signs with these messages show up in the press coverage of events in your community. We also suggest that all of the sign holders wear purple T-shirts. This will create a visual effect that ties the centralized message to a uniform color around the country.

## Encourage Local Media to Focus on Our Issues

Make your own news. Find out when candidates will be on talk radio shows and call in with questions about alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery issues (for sample questions, see Appendix B). Send letters to the candidates asking them to respond to locally-tailored variations of the sample questions. See if your local daily newspaper will agree in advance to print the candidates' responses to your questions. If so, let the candidates know this, and they will very likely respond. If they respond, publicize the responses locally through your newsletter, letters to the editor, editorials, etc. If you get a commitment from one candidate, tell the other candidates "Candidate X is on board, where do you stand?" Publicize the answers.



Courtesy of: RI CARES

Brief your local press corps (print, radio, TV). Try to get them interested in raising questions about the candidates' positions on addiction recovery issues. Schedule an editorial board meeting to discuss these issues. You can also write an op-ed piece that will draw attention to drug and alcohol issues when it is published in your local newspaper. For more information on planning an editorial board meeting or writing an op-ed, visit [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/about/trainings\\_events/webinar.php](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/about/trainings_events/webinar.php).

## Debates

A growing number of radio and television stations are asking viewers to email questions to candidates during and after televised debates. For the first time web-only debates allow internet users to directly ask candidates questions, either through text or video submissions. These are excellent opportunities to get our questions before candidates and their answers on public record. Online debates provide a new forum for getting candidates on record about drug and alcohol prevention, treatment and recovery issues. Yahoo, *The Huffington Post*, and *Slate* web sites have announced plans to jointly host online debates after Labor Day in 2007 – one for Democrats and the other for Republicans. The Republican debate will be hosted by longtime PBS host, Charlie Rose and the Democratic debate will be opened by Former Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean. As we move toward November 2008, there will probably be more of these online opportunities to address local, state and national candidates.

## Organize an Event

### 10 Easy Steps to Organize your RECOVERY VOICES COUNT Event

**1. Organize** a planning committee. Use your **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** committee to plan the event. Contact all of the members of your committee and ask if they will help plan it. Set up a meeting within one or two weeks of your initial conversations with people to keep the momentum going.

**2. Set** a date and time. You will want to hold your event well before the election. It will require a couple of months lead time and lots of patience. Remember that federal candidate events will require more lead-time than those for state or local candidates.

**3. Find** out when candidates might be able to attend. After your first meeting, send out informal invitations to each campaign's scheduler (the person who knows where candidates will be on any given date) to identify some possible dates.

**4. Decide on a theme** and if your event will be "closed" (candidates from only one party will be allowed to participate) or "open" (candidates from all parties will be allowed to participate). Create a theme that will interest as many candidates as possible with a catchy title that will engage the press.

**5. Consider** all of the logistics and put together a plan that includes a timeline and who will be responsible for the different tasks. Make a list of things that you will need to do for a successful event including the theme; location; food and beverages; budget; identifying a fair, reputable moderator; and meeting the needs of reporters. Make sure to include contacting all of the individuals and groups who you want to attend. You should use newspapers, fliers, emails, editorials and letters-to-the editor, community calendars, and personal phone calls to publicize the event for several weeks ahead of time.

**6. Extend** a formal invitation to each campaign and the political parties. The schedulers need to put possible dates on the candidate's list of events, so contact them as soon as you have the basics down. The scheduler will then try to narrow down dates and events the candidate wishes to attend – the process requires a great deal of patience and flexibility. If there's someone in your planning committee with a personal connection to a candidate or political party, ask them to be the contact person to the scheduler. Your formal invitation should be enthusiastic, yet polite. Ask the candidate to attend your event. (You may want to invite each candidate's proxy, e.g., spouse, other family member or elected official, in case the candidate isn't available.) Make sure to include the names of all of the other organizations that are sponsoring the event in your invitation. Don't make false promises about the amount of press or the number of people who will attend your event. It's important to contact the local and/or state political parties as soon as possible and invite them to attend as well.

**7. Follow-up.** When you receive a commitment that a candidate or his/her proxy will attend, hope fully six to eight weeks prior to the event, you can carry on with your planning. Stay in regular contact with the campaign offices as well as the offices of the state political parties, especially as you draw near to the event. Any time you have legitimate news about your event (e.g., a new sponsor signs on) contact the candidates to show them how successful you have been. Two to four weeks before the event, request a definitive answer on whether or not the candidate or proxy will be at the event. If the answer is yes or probably, then ask what you can do to help "advance their team," which means help with travel and other arrangements. Maintain regular contact with the campaign and the state and/or local party and inform them of the candidates and VIPs who have agreed to attend the event. Finally, call the week of the event to serve as one last reminder.



Courtesy of: Wonder Works Studios 2007©

*Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Hon. Andrew Romanoff, speaks to Advocates for Recovery members and guests, Denver, Colorado.*

**8. Plan and execute** your media strategy. Two to three weeks before your event, fax a media advisory to all of the television and radio stations that you've identified. Remember to keep the state and/or local political parties and all of your collaborators abreast of developments. Follow up with a phone call, confirming that the correct person received the advisory and ask if he or she is planning to cover your event. Call again two days before to make sure that the person will be attending. Try to generate media interest several weeks ahead of time by meeting with editorial boards, writing letters to the editor and writing Op-Eds. Send your press coverage to the candidates, state political parties and to Faces & Voices!

**9. Include** making signs, banners, and t-shirts with the centralized messages: **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** and the name of your organization. Organize a core group of 10 to 20 people who will hold these signs or wear the t-shirts facing the cameras and press during the event.

**10. Prepare** a list of questions for the candidates and pick people who will be prepared to ask them. You can use the questions in Appendix B of this Guide and prepare additional questions on issues of importance in your community.

## NON-PARTISAN GET-OUT-THE-VOTE ACTIVITIES

We've talked about registering voters as the first step. Then, educating voters about the issues as an important part of your civic engagement campaign. Next is the fun part – getting people out to vote. This is where you engage your members and newly-registered voters in actually exercising their right to vote. Once people are registered and educated about the election, the final step is to make sure that they get to the polls and cast their ballot.

There are many reasons that people who are registered fail to vote on Election Day. There may be transportation problems getting to the polls and sometimes people are hesitant about actually voting. Your campaign should focus on encouraging the individuals you have registered and your members, friends and allies who are registered to vote, to get to the polls! Your non-partisan Get-Out-the-Vote activities can be a lot of fun, building community spirit and commitment to your organization. They're also a great way to engage volunteers in specific, important activities.



*The Honorable Jim Ramstad (R-MN) (left), and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) (right), both in long-term recovery, have been speaking out, telling their stories and advocating for issues that are important to our community.*

Here's a list of some suggested Get-Out-the-Vote activities for your **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** civic engagement campaign committee to consider. Think about what makes the most sense for your organization to take on and plan accordingly.

### Two weeks before Election Day:

- Mail reminders to vote. Use this as a reminder for folks to check that they have received their voter registration cards, know when elections are and where to vote and a phone number for them to call if you are providing transportation to the polls on Election Day.
- Organize a group of volunteers who are willing to drive people to the polls.

### Five days before Election Day:

- Call registrants – remind them to vote and ask if they need transportation to their polling place. This is a great activity for volunteers (See Appendix C for a sample telephone script).

### The day before Election Day:

- Go door-to-door. Remind people to vote and leave written reminders for people who aren't home.

### Election Day:

- Offer transportation to and from the polls. This is a very important activity because it's the best way to make sure that people have an opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Publicize that your organization is offering rides to the polls and keep a list of people who have said that they would like a ride. You should have someone who is specifically in charge of giving rides and a phone number that you can use for people to call to sign up for rides.

Make sure that your volunteer drivers use a car that is not covered in candidate or party-specific bumper stickers and that they do not mention candidates on the phone or at the door.



Courtesy of: CCAR

*Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) Annual Recovery Walks shows the power of the recovery community as they march to the State Capitol in Hartford, CT.*

## KEEPING IT NON-PARTISAN: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

For organizations with nonprofit 501(c)(3) status, it is critical that you remain non-partisan in all aspects of your voter engagement campaign. There is a great deal that nonprofits may do legally to participate in the electoral process. Here is a basic guide to general rules. However, laws may vary by state and circumstance. When in doubt, consult a lawyer or go to [www.afj.org](http://www.afj.org) for guidance.

Partisan political activity involves explicit support for candidates and political parties. For example, individuals or certain groups may use their time or resources to support the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or any other party. Or they may use their time and resources to support Candidate X or Candidate Y in the upcoming election. Individuals and certain groups have the right to support or oppose any candidate or party and to engage in all kinds of partisan activity.

Non-partisan activity is different. By definition, non-partisan activity does not support or oppose specific candidates or political parties. Instead it engages people in the electoral process itself, without regard to parties or candidates. It encourages democratic participation by enlarging the electorate, informing people of their rights and responsibilities, and educating on issues of concern to various constituencies.

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations are restricted to non-partisan political activity due to their tax status. Despite some restrictions, they are learning that it is possible to be political without being partisan. In doing so, they are contributing to a renewal of our democracy.

### General Rules for 501(c)(3) Organizations in Election Season

#### Remain non-partisan

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations must remain non-partisan. Never endorse or express a preference for any candidate or political party in an election. Even messages that don't mention a candidate or don't explicitly support or oppose a candidate might be too partisan if the language implicitly suggests support or opposition.

#### Speak broadly about issues

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations must talk about issues in ways that don't appear to favor one candidate over another. Raising important issues in the context of their electoral work is a powerful tool for nonprofits working to mobilize voters, but nonprofit 501(c)(3)s need to be careful. Mention several issues, not just one or two. You don't want to look as if you're selectively choosing issues to favor one candidate over another. It's OK to remind voters that health care is a critical issue in the election, but a nonprofit 501(c)(3) should not promote a particular candidate's plan to address the issue.



Courtesy of: The RASE Project

*Recovery advocates in Harrisburg, PA marched as part of the 2007 Rally for Recovery!*

## Permissible Election Activities Checklist

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity organizations are strictly forbidden from engaging in any political activity in support of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. The IRS will consider all of the facts and circumstances surrounding an activity to determine whether the activity violates this prohibition. However, 501(c)(3) public charity organizations can engage in non-partisan voter education activity and in a limited amount of lobbying.

### **501(c)(3) s MAY:**

- ▶ Engage in limited lobbying, including work on ballot measures.
- ▶ Conduct non-partisan public education and training sessions about participation in the political process
- ▶ Educate all of the candidates on public interest issues
- ▶ Publish legislative scorecards (with certain restrictions)
- ▶ Prepare candidate questionnaires and create voter guides (with certain restrictions)
- ▶ Canvass the public on issues
- ▶ Sponsor candidate debates (with certain restrictions)
- ▶ Rent at fair market value mailing lists and facilities to other organizations, legislators, and candidates (with certain restrictions)
- ▶ Conduct non-partisan Get-Out-the-Vote and voter registration drives
- ▶ Establish a controlled 501(c)(4) organization
- ▶ Work with all political parties to get its positions included on the party's platform (with certain restrictions)

### **501(c)(3) s MAY NOT:**

- ▶ Endorse candidates for public office
- ▶ Make any campaign contributions
- ▶ Make expenditures on behalf of candidates
- ▶ Restrict rental of their mailing lists and facilities to certain candidates
- ▶ Ask candidates to sign pledges on any issue (tacit endorsement)
- ▶ Increase the volume or amount of incumbent criticism as election time approaches
- ▶ Publish or communicate anything that explicitly or implicitly favors or opposes a candidate.

Thank you to the Wellstone Action Fund for the use of these materials from "Non-partisan Voter Engagement Manual" available at [wellstoneaction.org](http://wellstoneaction.org). The above list is from the Alliance for Justice.

## APPENDIX A-1 State Voter Registration Deadlines

### General Election, November 4, 2008

State	Registration Deadline*	2008 Date
Alabama	11 days before the election	October 24
Alaska	30 days before the election	October 5
Arizona	29 days before the election	October 6
Arkansas	30 days before the election	October 5
California	15 days before the election	October 20
Colorado	29 days before the election	October 6
Connecticut	14 days before the election (in person, 7 days before the election)	October 21
Delaware	4th Saturday before the election	October 11
District of Columbia	30 days before the election	October 6
Florida	29 days before the election	October 6
Georgia	5th Monday before the election	October 6
Hawaii	30 days before the election	October 6
Idaho	25 days before the election (election day registration allowed)	October 10
Illinois	28 days before the election	October 6
Indiana	29 days before the election	October 6
Iowa	10 days before the election (postmark deadline, 15 days)	October 25
Kansas	15 days before the election	October 20
Kentucky	29 days before the election	October 6
Louisiana	30 days before the election	October 6
Maine	21 days before the election (in person, no deadline)	October 14
Maryland	21 days before the election	October 14
Massachusetts	20 days before the election	October 15
Michigan	30 days before the election	October 7
Minnesota	21 days before the election (election day registration allowed)	October 14
Mississippi	Postmarked 30 days before the election	October 4
Missouri	4th Wednesday before the election	October 8
Montana	30 days before the election	October 6
Nebraska	3rd Friday before the election (in person, 2nd Friday before the election)	October 17 (October 24)
Nevada	1 month before election by mail, 3rd Tuesday before the election in person	October 4 October 14
New Hampshire	10 days before the election (election day registration allowed)	October 25
New Jersey	21 days before the election	October 14
New Mexico	28 days before the election	October 7
New York	25 days before the election	October 10
North Carolina	25 days before the election	October 10
North Dakota	No Voter Registration	

## APPENDIX A-1 State Voter Registration Deadlines

State	Registration Deadline*	2008 Date
Ohio	30 days before the election	October 4
Oklahoma	25 days before the election	October 10
Oregon	21 days before the election	October 14
Pennsylvania	30 days before the election	October 6
Rhode Island	30 days before the election	October 4
South Carolina	30 days before the election	October 4
South Dakota	15 days before the election	October 20
Tennessee	30 days before the election	October 6
Texas	30 days before the election	October 7
Utah	30 days before the election	October 6
Vermont	Wednesday before the election	October 27
Virginia	29 days before the election	October 7
Washington	30 days before the election (in person, 15 days)	October 4 (October 20)
West Virginia	20 days before the election	October 14
Wisconsin	13 days before the election (in person in municipal clerk's office, day before election) (Election day registration allowed)	October 22 (November 3) (November 4)
Wyoming	30 days before the election (election day registration allowed)	October 6 (November 4)

\* If this date falls on a Sunday, your state may extend the deadline to the following day.

**Dates are subject to change.** Please check with your state to confirm the last day to register.

Up to date information can be found by visiting [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org), or by contacting your Secretary of State's Office.

## APPENDIX A-2 Voter Registration Background Information

### Here are some tips about how to register voters:

#### *“Are you a registered voter?”*

- If the person says no, encourage him or her to fill out an application. Review each completed application for accuracy and completeness: Can you read the writing? Are all the sections filled out? Is the form signed?
- If the person says yes, ask whether there has been a change in name or address since the last time he or she voted. If so, you can show them where to update that information on the application.

### If the person is reluctant to register, here are some possible answers to common responses:

#### *“I don’t have time.”*

**Response:** “That’s why we’re here. This will take less than a minute. What’s your last name?”

#### *“My candidate always loses.”*

**Response:** “That’s why we’re here. So many people just didn’t vote in the last election. We’re going to register people and encourage them to vote so we can make a difference on Election Day. What’s your last name?”

#### *“My vote doesn’t make a difference.”*

**Response:** “That’s why we’re here. A lot of people feel that way, but if we all voted we could make a difference. We’re going to register people and encourage them to vote so we can hold politicians accountable on Election Day. What’s your last name?”

**Response:** “I think it’s important that you register to vote. We need more people in the community to get involved and support candidates who will help our neighborhood.

**Response:** “We can’t keep electing politicians who don’t care about addiction recovery. We need to elect officials who care about our community.”

*The U.S. Election Assistance Commission points out that “Just” one vote can and often does make a difference in the outcome of an election. Here are a couple of examples:*

- ▶ In 1997, Vermont State Representative Sydney Nixon was seated as an apparent one-vote winner, 570 to 569. Mr. Nixon resigned when the State House determined, after a recount, that he had actually lost to his opponent Robert Emond 572 to 571.
- ▶ In 1989, a Lansing, Michigan School District millage proposition failed when the final recount produced a tie vote 5,147 for, and 5,147 against. On the original vote count, votes against the proposition were ten more than those in favor. The result meant that the school district had to reduce its budget by \$2.5 million.

## APPENDIX A-2 Voter Registration Background Information

**Although every vote does count, if an individual further refuses to register to vote, wish him or her a good day and look for your next voter registrant prospect.**

**When you're talking to people about registering to vote, please remember that because you are conducting a non-partisan voter registration drive, you must:**

- ▶ Never mention the name of a candidate or a party, and staff and volunteers should make sure that none of their materials or clothing contains candidate or party information or advertising.
- ▶ If asked how you plan to vote, do not answer the question.
- ▶ If you are asked what party you prefer, do not answer the question. Rather explain that your purpose is to promote the democratic process and not particular candidates.
- ▶ Do not ask the persons you are working with how they plan to vote or what their party preference is or make any effort to find out their allegiance to any candidate or party – whether directly or indirectly.
- ▶ Do not select a target area or group because you believe the voters in that group or areas will favor a particular candidate even if the candidate is a member of a group that your organization serves.
- ▶ Do not publicize which candidates agree with the positions that your organization supports.
- ▶ Avoid any appearance that your voter registration activities are timed to coincide with politically significant events in a particular candidate's campaign.
- ▶ **Smile, make eye contact, be enthusiastic!!**

### **Who has the right to vote?**

In general, an individual must be

- ▶ a United States citizen by birth or naturalization
- ▶ 18 years old on or before the date of the next general election following the date of registration
- ▶ a resident of the state in which he or she wishes to vote

Each state has different voter eligibility rules. For instance, many states have eligibility requirements that permanently or temporarily disqualify citizens for felony conviction or adjudication as mentally incompetent by a court of law. The conditions for restoration of these voting rights are listed on state voter registration application forms. There's information elsewhere in our **RECOVERY VOICES COUNT** civic engagement campaign materials about efforts to restore the voting rights of individuals with criminal convictions.

### **When is the deadline for registering to vote in the 2008 General Election?**

Each state has its own deadline for registering to vote. Although deadlines vary, many states require the receipt of completed voter registration application forms 30 days before the November 4 general election date. See Appendix A for a state-by-state listing of voter registration deadlines for the 2008 general elections.

### **Who can conduct a voter registration drive or project?**

Any group or organization may conduct a voter registration drive. In most states, anyone who is eighteen years or older may register other people to vote. However, each state has its own laws governing voter registration. For instance, to qualify as a voter registration volunteer in some states, a person must first become deputized, attend a training session, or meet other special requirements. To find out about your

## APPENDIX A-2 Voter Registration Background Information

state's voter registration requirements and its rules governing voter registration drives, you can go to the National Association of State Elections Directors' web site at <http://www.nased.org/membership.htm> and click on the link for your state elections director. Each state site also includes information about how to contact your local elections boards or officials who can answer any questions you have concerning your voter registration drive.

### **What does a voter registration volunteer do?**

A voter registration volunteer helps to register voters individually or as part of an organization or group. The voter registration volunteer offers eligible individuals the opportunity to apply to register to vote by distributing voter registration applications, providing assistance with completion of the application and, when requested, returning promptly the completed applications to a state or local election official for processing.

### **Voter registration drives must be conducted in a non-partisan manner.**

All activities conducted by a non-profit 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization during the election season must remain non-partisan. Organizations and individuals engaged in voter registration drives cannot make any statements in support of or in opposition to any particular candidate or party, or carry on any activity designed to reflect a preference or recommendation for a political party or candidate. This means that you can never endorse or oppose any candidate for any public office. When you do voter outreach, please talk only about the issues affecting our recovery community, not the candidates who support or oppose them. Absolutely no attempts may be made to sway the voters to register for a particular candidate and/or political party. The Alliance for Justice has published single page checklists of rules for non-profit-election related activities which can be obtained at [www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/index.html](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/index.html).

When conducting non-partisan voter registration drives, volunteers and staff of nonprofits are frequently confronted by individuals who would like to engage in a partisan discussion. Here are some helpful suggestions for disengaging from these conversations:

### **How does a volunteer respond to partisan statements?**

*"Which of the two mayoral candidates should I vote for?"*

**Response:** "I'm not here to tell you who to vote for. I respect your ability to make that decision for yourself. I would encourage you to check the candidates' websites, attend a candidate forum, or speak with the candidates directly to see who is most in line with your values and the issues you care about."

*"We need to get out the vote for Candidate X – I hope you are telling everyone who she is and to vote for her!"*

**Response:** "This is a non-partisan voter registration drive. We just want to make sure that everyone is participating in our democratic system and getting their voice heard in the upcoming election!"

The Federal Election Commission requires that a sign or written notice (see Appendix A-6) be posted stating:

*Our voter registration services are available without regard to the voter's political preference. Information and other assistance regarding registering or voting, including transportation and other services offered, shall not be withheld or refused on the basis of support for or opposition to particular candidates or a particular party.*

## APPENDIX A-3 Drive Checklist

Activities	Responsible Person	Notes/Completion Date
Contact local elections office for rules governing voter registration drives		
Decide on location(s) for your drive		
Get permission from business/property owner		
Set the date and time(s) for your drive		
Sign up volunteers to staff the drive		
Advise local election office of your drive and obtain voter registration cards, guides and manuals		
Obtain voter educational information and materials for registration outreach programs		
Gather equipment and supplies		
Prepare banners, voter registration signs, sign-in sheets and name tags		
Publicize your drive. Prepare flyers and press releases		
Train your volunteers. Make sure volunteers are registered voters and attend mandatory training conducted by local elections board		

## APPENDIX A-3 Drive Checklist

### Drive Checklist

Activities	Responsible Person	Notes/Completion Date
Set up table & chairs.		
Pens & clipboards		
Voter Registration Cards		
Voter Guides and Information Brochures		
Name tags		
Sign-in Sheets		
Your organization's brochures		
Banners		
Post sign "Register to Vote Here"		
Post sign "Our voter registration services are available without regard for the voter's political preference..."		
Approach people with a smile and offer them the opportunity to register to vote or update their registration information		
Make sure voter registration applications are properly completed and signed		
Account for all voter registration applications		
Deliver completed cards to your local elections office		
Thank everyone for their assistance, including the volunteers and the organization hosting the drive		
Evaluate your voter registration drive for possible improvements		

# BE ANOTHER VOTER FOR RECOVERY!

REGISTER TO VOTE at the  
RALLY FOR RECOVERY!

Saturday, September 20th

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Capitol Steps, Your town

This non-partisan voting registration drive is sponsored by the xxxx organization.

**BE ANOTHER  
VOTER FOR  
RECOVERY!  
REGISTER TO VOTE HERE**

Election Day is Tuesday  
November 4, 2008

This non-partisan voting registration drive is sponsored by the xxxx organization.

**Our voter registration services are available without regard for the voter's political preference. Information and other assistance regarding registering or voting, including transportation and other services offered, shall not be withheld or refused on the basis of support for or opposition to a particular candidate or particular political party.**

## APPENDIX A-7 Voter Registration Sign-up

**Event Day/Time/Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____	Name _____ Address _____ City & Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____



## FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

.....

- 1) Untreated addiction is the cause of other problems and illnesses like heart disease, lower work productivity, overcrowded jails and broken families. Yet millions of Americans can't access the treatment and recovery services they need. ***If elected, will you support an increase in funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to all who need them?***
- 2) Many in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, myself included, have experienced insurance discrimination, which means we have been denied life-saving treatments. ***Will you vote for a bill to end insurance discrimination by offering the same coverage – parity – for addiction services as for other health issues?***
- 3) The war on drugs has proven that despite spending \$40 billion a year to fight it, drug use has not decreased. America's mayors, along with local law enforcement officials, are pushing for a new approach that puts an emphasis on treatment and alternatives to jail. ***Do you agree or disagree with this new direction and why?***
- 4) Millions of Americans are in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, yet many still find it difficult to get an education, a good job, or health insurance due to discriminatory policies and laws. ***Do you support the repeal of these laws, which basically prevent people who have paid their debt to society from contributing to their families and communities in a positive way?***
- 5) Recovery support services have been critical to helping people sustain their recovery from addiction for the long term. The President has eliminated funding for recovery community organizations providing these services from his 2009 budget. ***Do you support restoring this funding and extending the Recovery Community Services Program which has proven to be successful in communities across the country?***

## CANDIDATE PLEDGE

.....

Recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs is a real achievement for millions of Americans. There is hope for families affected by addiction, and for healthier and safer communities – if we treat addiction as the health crisis that it is. Our failure to provide help to the over 21 million Americans who need it is costly to our nation and causes a host of other problems and illnesses – heart disease, lower work productivity, overcrowded jails and broken families. Access to recovery and support services should be readily available to all Americans who want it.

***If elected, I pledge to:***

- 1) Ensure coverage for equitable and effective addiction prevention, treatment and recovery care in all public and private health care plans
- 2) Fund addiction prevention, early intervention and research as an investment in America's future
- 3) Implement policies that promote long-term recovery from addiction as integral to overall health and end the criminalization of addiction
- 4) Prohibit discrimination against people in long-term recovery who seek a brighter future for themselves and their families through education, gainful employment, safe housing and health insurance.

## APPENDIX C – Sample Get-Out-the-Vote Telephone Script

Hi, is \_\_\_\_\_ (first name) there?

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ (your first name) and I'm a volunteer with \_\_\_\_\_ (your organization). On Tuesday, we have a chance to have an impact on who's elected to represent us in Congress and in \_\_\_\_\_ (other seats that are being voted on in your community) and we want to make sure that every registered voter in our community goes to the polls. Do you intend to vote?

### **If they say yes, I intend to vote:**

Great! Do you have any questions about where to vote?

*[If yes, tell them to look on their voter registration card where the information about where to vote is listed. If no, thank them and say good night.]*

### **If they say no, I'm not voting:**

Well, we are the only people that can make change in our community. If we all vote on Tuesday, we win! Can we count on your vote? Do you have any questions or need help to make it easier to vote? Like a ride to the polls?

*[Allow them to answer the question. If they want to vote, but have an obstacle, help them solve it. If they have given up on voting, let them know how vital it is for everyone to vote.]*

### **Thanks and have a great night!**

## APPENDIX D – Right to Addiction Recovery Platform

Faces & Voices of Recovery believes that everyone has a right to be free from addiction, regardless of the particular path taken. Recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs is real for millions of Americans and tens of thousands more get well every year. There is hope for those affected by addiction – for healthier and safer families and communities – if we treat addiction as the public health crisis that it is.

Access to recovery and support services should be readily available to all who seek it. It is time to implement public and private policies at the local, state and federal levels to maximize support for those who are committed to ending active addiction. It is time to strike down laws, policies and practices which interfere with the ability to achieve and to sustain recovery. Below is our Right to Addiction Recovery Platform, an agenda that Faces & Voices of Recovery, the national organized recovery community, will be promoting over the coming years.

### **An informed public and policymakers**

- ▶ The Surgeon General should commission a report on Addiction Recovery, similar to previous reports on mental health and other critical health issues, to draw public attention to the hope of addiction recovery and the means to achieve and support it.
- ▶ The Institute of Medicine's recommendations for addressing addiction as a public health issue in the context of general health care should be adopted by state and federal legislative bodies.
- ▶ A national media and education campaign to complement existing campaigns to discourage drug use should be launched to inform the public about addiction and recovery, funded by raising the excise tax on alcoholic beverages.
- ▶ Members of the US House of Representatives should join the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery and members of the US Senate should form a similar organization.
- ▶ State lawmakers should formally join together to educate themselves about the disease of addiction, learn from people in recovery, their family members and friends, and take action to support addiction recovery.

### **A healthcare system that fully addresses the medical needs of people with addiction to alcohol and other drugs and provides a recovery continuum of care**

- ▶ Public and private insurance should provide access to coverage for the disease of addiction equivalent to other medical conditions.
- ▶ A recovery continuum of care should provide a range of support services to help people stay free from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.
- ▶ Essential publicly-funded health care programs such as Medicare and Medicaid should be improved and expanded to include a full array of addiction and recovery services.
- ▶ Insurers should honor claims for the care of any injury sustained by an insured person if he or she was under the influence of alcohol or other drugs at the time of the injury.

## APPENDIX D – Right to Addiction Recovery Platform

### **Educational opportunities to help young people make smart choices and get back on track**

- ▶ Repeal the ban on federal financial aid to students with drug convictions under the Higher Education Act.
- ▶ Give students in recovery the opportunity to continue their education at Recovery high schools and colleges.

### **Housing to sustain recovery**

- ▶ Support programs that fund low-income housing and homeless initiatives and protect and advance opportunities for individuals in recovery and their families.
- ▶ Help people get treatment for their addiction and provide recovery supports, rather than permanently barring them and their families from federally-assisted housing.
- ▶ Support appropriate community-based housing and other support services to individuals returning to their communities from prison.
- ▶ Support local and state zoning and other regulations that allow the development of sober housing, recovery and treatment centers.

### **Employment to be productive members of society**

- ▶ Employers should make reasonable accommodations for people to get help and recover, including providing employee assistance programs with addiction-related services and insurance coverage at the same level as for other illnesses.
- ▶ Employees who voluntarily seek treatment for alcohol or other drug use should not be subject to discriminatory actions or termination. Past alcohol or drug use should be considered only when relevant to the job.
- ▶ State licensing boards for attorneys, physicians, addiction treatment and other professionals should not single out past alcohol or drug use as a bar to licensing or a requirement for special restriction any more than they would for other past health-related conditions.
- ▶ An expedited pardon process for those in sustained recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs whose prior conviction was of a nonviolent nature at the state and federal levels.

### **Income support to return to full productivity**

- ▶ Count addiction treatment as a work activity under the federal welfare law so that states can expand addiction treatment for those on welfare whose addiction is blocking their ability to work.
- ▶ Repeal or modify the life-time ban on cash assistance and food stamps to individuals with drug felony convictions so that an estimated 92,000 women and 135,000 children have some basic subsistence.
- ▶ Include people who are disabled as a result of their addiction under programs such as Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

## APPENDIX D – Right to Addiction Recovery Platform

### **A recovery-oriented criminal justice system that provides alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders and restores the voting rights of individuals who have served out their sentences**

- ▶ Reform mandatory sentencing laws to enable community sanctioning, including mandated alcohol and drug treatment, of appropriate offenders.
- ▶ Support and expand Drug Court programs that bridge the gap between the courts, the private and public health systems, and families and communities.
- ▶ Provide appropriate treatment and recovery services for incarcerated individuals with workable recovery plans with adequate resources upon release.
- ▶ The voting rights of people with felony convictions should be expeditiously restored once they have served their sentences and these individuals should be informed of their voting rights.

### **Enforcement of existing laws to fight discrimination and promote recovery**

- ▶ Enforce state and federal laws in employment, housing, health care and other critical areas.
- ▶ Strengthen the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide protections for people who are seeking recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.
- ▶ The General Accounting Office should conduct a study of the level of enforcement of all federal laws that protect people in recovery from addiction from discrimination in the areas of housing, employment and health care.

### **A significant federal investment in relevant addiction research that develops evidence-based practices that will improve services to people with the disease of addiction and expands understanding of addiction and long-term addiction recovery**

*The research agenda of federal agencies should prioritize effective programs and policies that increase understanding of alcohol and other drug addiction and recovery including the causes of addiction, new medications and other paths in the treatment of addiction, and barriers to recovery including stigma and discrimination.*

February 2006

## APPENDIX E – Other Useful Resources

### **Voter Awareness Resources:**

**Organization:** Alliance for Justice

**Website:** [www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/index.html](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/index.html)

**Resources Available:** Permissible Election Activities Checklist, Election Activities of Individuals Associated with 501(c)(3) Organizations. Training conducted.

**Organization:** American Votes

**Website:** [www.americavotes.org](http://www.americavotes.org)

**Resources Available:** Coalition of large membership-based organizations engaged in grassroots voter mobilization and education effort in nine targeted states: Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

**Organization:** Declare Yourself

**Website:** [www.declareyourself.org](http://www.declareyourself.org)

**Resources Available:** Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about Registering to VOTE and Voting in the United States: A Guide for Young & First Time Voters (2004) ([www.declareyourself.org/press/voter\\_guides/voter\\_guide\\_download.pdf](http://www.declareyourself.org/press/voter_guides/voter_guide_download.pdf))

**Organization:** League of Women Voters

**Website:** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Resources Available:** Voter Information: voter's guides and candidates' information, registration deadlines, state boards of elections contact list.

**Organization:** Nonprofits Help America Vote/NPAction

**Website:** [www.npaction.org](http://www.npaction.org)

**Resources Available:** Tools and information for nonprofit advocacy, including a state advocacy guide for each state. See articles in "Voter Participation and Electoral Advocacy": Practical Tips for a Successful Voter Registration. Getting People Involved in the Voting Process.

**Organization:** Project Vote

**Website:** [www.projectvote.org](http://www.projectvote.org)

**Resources Available:** Has developed a scalable, model voter registration and voter education program and provides comprehensive training and program management to local organizations ([www.projectvote.org/resource-pages/civic-participation-organizations.html](http://www.projectvote.org/resource-pages/civic-participation-organizations.html)). Site includes voter registration guides for California, Colorado, Minnesota, and Rhode Island. Contact Project Vote for permission to use.

**Organization:** Project Vote Smart

**Website:** [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)

**Resources Available:** Links to local election offices and voter registration information for each state, current candidates for each state (where available) and current elected state and local officials for each state, federal candidates and members of Congress and online voter registration with Rock the Vote.

## APPENDIX E – Other Useful Resources

**Organization:** Wellstone Action Fund

**Website:** [www.wellstone.org](http://www.wellstone.org)

**Resources Available:** Non-Partisan Voter Engagement Manual: Instructions, references, tools and sample materials for voter registration, education and transportation. (111 pp)

### Non-Profit Resources:

**Organization:** Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

625 Slaters Lane, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314

**Website:** [www.cadca.org](http://www.cadca.org)

**Resources Available:** Election Guide 2007 ([www.cadca.org/CoalitionsOnline](http://www.cadca.org/CoalitionsOnline)) includes 10-step guide to organizing a candidates forum, sample candidates questionnaire, sample op-ed, state boards of elections contact list (Appendix 1) and Federal Tax Laws and Federal Election Laws for Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations.

**Organization:** Congress.org by Capital Advantage

**Website:** [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org)

**Resources Available:** Election 2006: Candidates and Information. State Voter guides include candidate profiles for federal and state candidates and links to state sites for voter registration and polling place information.

**Organization:** NCADD-New Jersey

**Website:** [www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org)

**Resources Available:** Decision 2006 New Jersey General Election Guide Promoting the Awareness of Key Issues Surrounding Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Programs to be released in September 2006; Decision 2004 available until then.

**Organization:** NMHA National Consumer Supporter Technical Assistance Center

**Website:** [www.ncstac.org](http://www.ncstac.org)

**Resources Available:** Launching a Successful Voter Empowerment Campaign (September 2002) includes forming an advisory committee, keeping records/maintaining a database, registering voters and recruiting volunteers, educate registrants, bring registrant to the polls, and tally voters ([www.ncstac.org/content/materials/vote.pdf](http://www.ncstac.org/content/materials/vote.pdf)).

**Organization:** National Low Income Housing Coalition

**Website:** [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

**Resources Available:** Your 2006 Voterization Plan is a checklist of activities on how to incorporate voter registration, education and mobilization into an agency's work ([www.nlihc.org/VOTE](http://www.nlihc.org/VOTE)).

**Organization:** Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)

**Website:** [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

**Resources Available:** 2006 Pflag Voter Registration Handbook contains several all-states charts, including one on felony disenfranchisement ([www.pflag.org/Tabling\\_Activity.482.0.html](http://www.pflag.org/Tabling_Activity.482.0.html)). Click on "Education and Programs," then "Get Out the Vote 2006."

## APPENDIX E – Other Useful Resources

### Governmental Agency Resources:

**Organization:** Federal Election Commission

**Website:** [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

**Resources Available:** Official source on federal election regulations.

**Organization:** Internal Revenue Service

**Website:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Resources Available:** IRS Fact Sheet ([www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=154712,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=154712,00.html))

**Organization:** National Association of State Election Directors

**Website:** [www.nased.org/membership.htm](http://www.nased.org/membership.htm)

**Resources Available:** Roster of State Election Directors with links to each state director's web site.

**Organization:** US Election Assistance Commission

**Website:** [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)

**Resources Available:** National Mail Voter Registration Form includes state-by-state registration requirements.

**LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR RECOVERY VOICES COUNT ACTIVITY**

Please let us know about the work that you and other recovery advocates did.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities you organized: \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thanks! Please FAX to Faces & Voices of Recovery at 202.737.0695 or email us at [info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)

## Faces & Voices of Recovery Merchandise

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### Buttons

These buttons are a great way to make your Recovery Voices Count campaign more visible to the media and candidates.

**\$30/100 pack**



**"I'm in Recovery and I Vote"**



**"We Recover and We Vote"**

### Bumper Stickers

Recovery community organizations and recovery advocates across the country are using these bumper stickers as part of our Recovery Voices Count campaign.

**\$40/100 pack**

**"Another Vote for Recovery"**



To order merchandise for your **Recovery Voices Count** campaign, please visit our easy to use online store at:  
<http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/store/>

*We gratefully acknowledge the work of Faces & Voices supporter and advocate Jean A. Walker in preparing these materials and are grateful to NCADD-New Jersey, The Wellstone Action Fund and Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) for allowing the use and adaptation of some of their materials.*



**1010 Vermont Ave. NW #708  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.737.0690  
[www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)**

For further information and assistance in putting together a Recovery Community Civic Engagement campaign in your city or town, please contact Faces & Voices' National Field Director Tom Coderre at [info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).