



National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence

## Nonpartisan Advocacy, Elections & Voter Engagement Resource Collection

Engaging in advocacy with policy makers and participating in political elections processes can be daunting. Nonprofit organizations, including most rape crisis centers and sexual assault and dual programs, are bound by important legal restrictions related to lobbying and partisan political activity. However, there are a great many ways that nonprofit organizations can engage in advocacy, elections, and voter engagement in nonpartisan and legal ways. Voices of nonprofit organizations and the people and communities that they serve are essential to informing policymakers and raising up issues that can be addressed by government officials.

This collection contains a number of existing resources that can help guide coalitions and local programs through engagement in a wide variety of nonpartisan political activities and action. Some of these resources are overlapping in content, demonstrating a collaborative commitment among organizations to uplift nonprofit engagement.

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## **General Resource Links**

# Nonprofit Advocacy Resources

## **Empower & Educate: Advocating for Sexual Assault Services and Prevention (NAESV Toolkit)**

This toolkit includes information about understanding various forms of public policy advocacy, lobbying vs. educating policymakers, what is effective policy, tools for meeting with policymakers, and other ways to engage.

[English version](#)

[Spanish version](#)

## **2020 Webinar: Nonpartisan Advocacy in Partisan Times**

Presentation by Bolder Advocacy, co-sponsored by NAESV and the Sexual Assault Coalition Communications Workgroup (Sept, 2020)

[Webinar Recording](#)

[Webinar Slides](#)

## **501(c)3 guidance**

- Election [Checklist](#) for 501(c)3 Public Charities (Bolder Advocacy)
- IRS Lobbying [Flowchart](#) (Bolder Advocacy)

# Nonpartisan Election Engagement

An important part of nonpartisan election engagement is ensuring that whatever your activity or action, you are engaging with all candidates in a particular election. Your efforts cannot involve trying to influence voters in one political direction or another. The intention should be to engage candidates to better understand the issues that you care about and to share that information with constituents. These resources will help you understand your current election landscape and guide you in ensuring that your activities are truly nonpartisan.

 **Tip:** If you do not have the capacity to initiate nonpartisan election work, you can reach out to other allied organizations in your community or state who might have leadership in this area. Collaboration may allow you to ensure that questions about sexual assault survivors, services, and prevention are included in candidate questionnaires or in candidate forums. Partners could include the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, Women's Commissions, Clubs or other nonpartisan advocacy groups.

## Know your Candidates

- Vote 411 [local election information](#)
- Voting in your [state](#) (Nonprofit Vote)

## Candidate Questionnaires

- Candidate Questionnaire [Guide](#) (Nonprofit Vote)
- Candidate Questionnaire [Sample Questions](#) (National Council of Jewish Women)  
Includes questions on a number of topics including sexual violence, human trafficking, and reproductive rights

## Candidate Forums

- Guidelines for Organizing a Candidate [Forum](#) (League of Women Voters)
- How to Organize a Candidate Forum [Toolkit](#) (American Association of University Women)

## Ballot questions

- Ballot Measure Advocacy for Public Charities: [Key Laws and Activities to Consider](#) in 2025 and Beyond (Alliance for Justice)
- Nonprofits and Ballot Measures [Guide](#) (Nonprofit Vote)
- Ballot Measures and Public Charities. Yes, You Can Influence that Vote [factsheet](#) (Bolder Advocacy)

## Coalition Shared Resources

- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) [candidate questionnaire](#)
- New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) [First In the Nation Candidate Forum Series](#)

# Voter Engagement

Voting in local, state, and federal elections is an important component in advocating for violence-free communities. Sexual assault coalitions and local programs play an important role individual service providers, but as local hubs of healing, support, and advocacy. Supporting survivors and the broader community to participate in the election process is an important role that nonprofits can play. Educating the survivors and the community about local elections and ballot questions in a nonpartisan way is yet another way to empower individuals to have a voice and a role in who is leading their communities.

## General Information on Voting

- [Vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) : Federal government website that includes voter registration information including state-by-state information about your voting options (early voting, mail-in voting, etc), and connections to state voting websites.
- Voter Engagement [Guide](#) (National Council of Nonprofits & Nonprofit Vote)
- *National Voter Registration Day*: [September 16, 2026](#) (Nonprofit Vote)
  - ◆ Become a NVRD [Partner](#)
- State Voter Registration Drive [Guides](#)
- Nonprofit GOTV Efforts - Can We Say That? [Blog](#) (Alliance for Justice)
- In what districts may a non-citizen vote? [State/local laws](#)
- Primary Election [Toolkit](#) (Election Protection)

## Voting Safety

- Preventing Voter Intimidation at the Polls [Brief](#) (Brennan Center for Justice)
- Vote Safely in 2026 [Guide](#) (Brennan Center for Justice with Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Fair Immigration Reform Movement, and Unidos)
- Practicing Self-Care During Election Season [Resource](#) (Vote4MentalHealth)
- Election Protection: Everything to Know about Voting in Your State [866OurVote](#)
- Black Voter Survival [Guide](#) (Election Protection)
- ACLU [Know Your Rights](#)
- *How Nonprofits Can Contribute to Voter Safety for Free and Fair Elections*:
  - ◆ Webinar [Slides](#)
  - ◆ Webinar [Recording](#)

## Survivor Voting

- Survivors Vote [Toolkit & Resources](#): Learn how survivors can safely vote in your community (Survivor Justice Network—**updates coming soon**)

- ◆ Survivors Vote Voter Registration [Guide](#)
- ◆ Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) Resource by State
- ◆ National Survivors Vote Day TBD
- Address Confidentiality Programs state by state [list](#) (National Association of Address Confidentiality Programs)
- Assistance with [IDs to Vote](#) (Vote Riders)

## Coalition Shared Resources

- Vermont Network  
[Survivor Voting Guide](#)
- Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA)  
[Voting Support](#) and [Survivors Vote Guide](#)
- Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WSCADVSA)  
GOTV 2024 Guide [Vote with Love](#)

## General Resources

[League of Women Voters](#)

[Nonprofit Vote](#)

[Resource Library](#)

[Upcoming and past webinars](#)

[Bolder Advocacy](#)

For more info: [info@endsexualviolence.org](mailto:info@endsexualviolence.org)

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