

## **HOW TO HOST A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**



## **About voter registration drives**

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) launched the High 5 for Kids campaign to ensure candidates and voters prioritize children in the 2018 elections. One of the best ways someone can be a voice for kids is with their vote! You can help by registering new voters by hosting a voter registration drive (VRD) in your community.

SCAN is using a tool called TurboVote to register new voters and provide already registered voters with polling information and other updates. With TurboVote, people can register to vote or sign up for election updates from their smartphone, tablet or computer.



Voter registration drives are a popular way to promote community involvement and civic participation around the country. Drives can take place in your home or in a public area. This toolkit lays out the steps to carry out a successful voter registration drive.

## Planning your registration drive

When planning a voter registration drive, the first step is to research your state's voter registration laws. Some states have few or even no laws about VRDs, while other states have more restrictive rules around helping others register to vote. The best source for up to date information on voter registration is your state election office. Check out this directory of state election offices to locate your state's website. If you can't easily find a web page on voter registration and drives, type "voter registration drive" into the website's search bar to find the most relevant information.

In most states, anyone may set up a voter registration drive. However in some states, people and organizations participating in registration drives need to undergo special training before they can register

new voters. In other states, people who wish to register new voters must provide their information and register with the state.

## Do's and don'ts for your registration drive

Keep these important guidelines in mind when conducting your voter registration drive:

- **Don't** worry about who is and is not eligible to vote. TurboVote collects information from registrants to ensure they meet the state's voting requirements. It can also help people check their registration status so they don't submit a duplicate registration form.
- Do have the TurboVote link posted largely enough that registrants can easily type it into their phones. You can download a sign with the link from SCAN's website or make your own poster. If you have a laptop or tablet, you could also bring it in case people don't have a smartphone.
- **Don't** discuss your own political leanings or candidate preferences. Remember that SCAN is a bipartisan organization and you are a voice for kids when representing this organization.
- Do engage passersby and grab their attention with a question like, "Are you registered to vote?"
- **Don't** fill out any forms for applicants; you can only provide them with the TurboVote link and answer questions. The exception is for registrants with disabilities who request help, and in some states you must indicate on the form that you provided this assistance.

Best of luck with your voter registration drive! Know that you are helping others exercise their constitutional rights and be represented in government leadership. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at <a href="mailto:action@savethechildrenactionnetwork.org">action@savethechildrenactionnetwork.org</a>.

