 **Voting Template for Libraries**

**Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Round Table (HHPTF)**

As libraries, we can provide voter support to help ensure every one of our community members who qualifies to vote is able to do that. The following non-partisan Word document asks specific questions to guide you in providing that support.

**The goal of this template is to help your library:**

* Research and offer local/statewide voting and registration information tailored to your community
* Provide that specific information both in print (posting on the door, posting inside the library and in other places in the community) and virtually (on your website, Facebook page and however else you are able to reach them).

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Below are questions to be answered for the community your library serves.**

**REGISTRATION AND VOTING INFORMATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

**Registering to vote**

**Who?**

* Who is eligible to register?
* What is the minimum voting age? How much in advance of attaining this minimum voting age can a person register? (e.g., if the minimum voting age is 18 and I will turn 18 before the next election, can I register?)

**How?**

* What is the deadline for registering to vote?
* Is there same-day registration? If so, how do I do that?
* Exactly what documentation is needed?
  + Proof of address?
  + Photo ID?
  + State ID?
  + Other?
* Where can I get the documentation?
* Where can I get the ID?
* How do I find out if I’m already registered?
* Can I register by filling out a paper form? If so, where do I get the form? Where do I submit the form? How do I submit my documentation if that’s needed?
* Can I register online? If so, what is the url? How do I show any needed documentation?
* Are a mailing address and a physical address the same thing? Can a person register at one address but use another one to receive mail? Do these addresses have to be in the same city/town? Same county? Same state? Can a post office box be used for the physical address? Can a post office box be used for the mailing address?

**Voting**

* Can I vote in person? If so, where do I vote? How do I find my polling place? What do I need for voting in person? Documentation?
* What is voting by mail called? Can I vote by mail? If so, how do I receive my ballot? Where do I send my ballot? When does it need to be sent? What do I need? Can I drop it off somewhere: At a polling place? At the registrar of voters’ office? At a ballot dropbox? Can I submit a ballot online?
* Are ballot dropboxes allowed in my state? Can the library provide one?
* Does a ballot have to be filled out in pen? Is there a specific ink color? If I don’t have access to a pen, can I use a pencil?
* Can I track my mail-in ballot? If so, how do I do that? How do I know if my vote was counted?
* Do I need a stamp? If so, where can I get one? Could my library provide stamps?
* What should I know about signing my ballot (e.g., I have to have my signature witnessed)?
* What is a provisional ballot?
* Where do I report problems, such as: intimidation, not receiving my ballot, being refused a provisional ballot, other issues?

**Specific circumstances**

For people who are unhoused/don’t have a permanent address:

* Can an unhoused person register to vote?
* How do I register? What do I need?
* How do I receive my ballot?
* How do I vote? Are there special instructions for voting?
* Can I vote by mail? In person? If I am mailed a ballot, how will I receive it without a permanent address? Is there a place I can pick it up? Could your library offer your mailing address for my ballot?

For people who are or have been incarcerated:

* Can a person who is incarcerated in jail register to vote? Can a person who is incarcerated in prison register to vote? On parole? Convicted of a felony? Sentenced to state prison?
* Can a person who has been previously incarcerated register to vote? Are their specific instructions for me to vote?
* If I am incarcerated, how do I register? What do I need?
* If I am incarcerated, how do I vote? What do I need?

**Places to find information**

Below are recommended websites for information about voting. The information available can be overwhelming, so we recommend finding one or two sites that work best for your library and your community. You can use these sites for gathering the local information you need for your community members. If your community members still have questions, these sites can help you answer their questions.

* Fair Elections Center: <https://www.fairelectionscenter.org/state-specific-resources>

Includes state-specific information, as well as information for student voters.

* Find state or local election office website: <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>

How to find state or local election offices.

* Non-profit Vote: <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/special-circumstances/voting-as-an-ex-offender/>

Voting rights for people with past felony convictions.

* Democracy Works/TurboVote: <https://www.democracy.works/tools-for-voters>

Provides information for voter registration, voting by mail and election reminders.

* How to Vote: <https://howto.vote/>

“Everything voters need to know.”

* VoteRiders: <https://www.voteriders.org/>

Provides information about each state’s voter ID laws and helps people get IDs

* Photocopy My ID (from VoteRiders): <https://www.voteriders.org/photocopy-my-id/>

Helps voters get a free copy of their ID.

* abcVote: <https://abcvote.org/>

Registration information specifically for students and their teachers.

* National Mail Voter Registration form for all states except Wyoming, North Dakota and New Hampshire: <https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>

**Final notes**

As time and staff allow, we also hope you will be able to provide needed support as you are able. For example, helping someone find a website, showing them how to attach a file or create an email account or maybe just providing a stamp. Sometimes it can be these simple small actions that remove barriers to voting.