



# SOCIAL ACTION ELECTION GUIDE

VOTER REGISTRATION • EDUCATION • MOBILIZATION • PROTECTION  
INFORMATION • RESOURCES • TOOLS





As “A Brotherhood, of Conscious Men Actively Serving Our Communities”, our commitment to civic engagement is clear. During the election cycles, chapters are charged to implement comprehensive voter registration, education and mobilization efforts. This information is being provided as a guide to assist chapters. The resources and links are tools; however, chapters should always consult their state and local Board of Elections for the most comprehensive, up-to-date information. Also remember that as a nonpartisan organization, we do not promote any particular party or endorse candidates. We do however roll up our sleeves and be a part of the process.



**Hon. Micheal E. Cristal**  
International President



**Bro. Michael Baslee**  
International Director of Social Action





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# VOTER REGISTRATION

## Know Your State's Rules on Voter Registration

Voter registration rules and requirements differ by state. As you work to conduct voter registration, be sure you know the requirements in your state.

Identify your state's requirements for conducting a voter registration drive. Be sure you know the answers to the following questions, so you can conduct your voter registration activities:

- Is there a required training for volunteers to be able to register voters?
- What is the age requirement for volunteers registering people to vote?
- How must registration forms be submitted to election officials?
- What are the applicable deadlines for registering and when forms must be received by election officials?

## EARLY VOTING & ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Many states allow citizens to vote early or by absentee ballot. It is important that you understand these powerful voting options for your community. Candidates can win elections without run-offs with a strategic early/absentee voting strategy in many states. In order to vote early or by absentee, you must know the dates and locations for early/absentee voting in your area.





# EARLY VOTING STRATEGY

The following is a strategic early voting strategy that can be used to help increase voting turn out:

1. Select an early voting day;
2. Organize large numbers of voters;
3. Find a meeting location for the group of voters;
4. As a group, go to the polls and early vote; and
5. Text, tweet, and email the amount of people in your group that voted early;
6. Example: "Today, 150 people voted early in Jefferson County. Vote today and avoid long lines on Election Day!"

# VOTER EDUCATION

**Help your community be prepared for Election Day.**

**Prepare** voters by ensuring they know the following things for election day:

- What offices are on the ballot?
- What are the ballot initiatives or referendums or propositions on the ballot?
- How to find your polling place?
- What times are the polls open?
- Does your state have early voting?
- Who can vote by absentee ballot and how?

**Distribute** the contact information for the election protection coalition throughout the community. The coalition is available to help with any questions, concerns or problems on election day.



**Election Protection Contract Information:**

1-866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683 @866ourVote, and [facebook.com/866OurVote](https://facebook.com/866OurVote).

**RESOURCE:** Election Protection Coalition <http://866ourvote.org>

**Engage** with the community through candidate forums, issue forums and other opportunities designed to educate voters. Many organizations such as local Urban League chapters, NAACP branches and the League of Women Voters host events and create voter guides that can be good resources.

## VOTER MOBILIZATION

**Your vote is your voice! Getting voters to the polls is key.**

There are many election activities throughout the community that chapters can participate in or host. We are encouraging chapters to participate at every point of the election process before and during Election Day.

**Contact** family, friends and community members to make sure they are prepared for the polls, whether its absentee voting, early voting or Election day voting.

- Each brother should reach out to 14 friends and family to ensure that they are prepared to vote: registered to vote, educated about issues/candidates, know their polling and voting locations on Election Day.
- Brothers should host a Get Out The Vote community rally in their neighborhood to help educate and prepare their neighbors to vote.
- Brothers should attend political events and local strategy sessions to ensure election information is being distributed throughout the community.

**Mobilize** community member to get to the polls! Use a variety of tactics to encourage people to the polls on Election Day. Some of the best practice's chapters have employed include:

- Transport people to the polls. This requires securing the right liability insurance or partnering with another organization who has already made the appropriate legal arrangements to transport people to the polls.
- Support local churches efforts. For early voting and Election Day, churches often organize "Souls to the Polls" efforts - the church goes to the polls together and vote.





- Organize a neighborhood group to meeting up and walking to the polls – “Stroll to the Polls”.
- “Corner Waving” is a fun election activity. A team of volunteers are strategically placed on street corners waving election signs to remind people to vote or to provide important election information.
- Support your local NAACP and others phone banking efforts to encourage people to go to the polls and vote.
- Stay in contact with people you registered to vote and remind them to vote.

**Adopt a Prescient** in your community. Each chapter should select a prescient that will be their main target. On election day and/or during early voting if that particular prescient is a designated early voting site, that adopted prescient should have Sigma’s as poll judges, poll watchers, or transporting people to the polls.

## VOTER PROTECTION

**Defend** our right to vote. Protect the integrity of our vote. There are opportunities to support the community through voter protection activities on Election Day.

**Volunteer** to work in some voter protection capacity on election day.

- Sign up to be a poll captain, worker or election monitor in your area. Contact your local Board of Election to find out how.
- Brothers and Sorors who are attorneys can volunteer with the Election Protection Coalition’s 866- OUR-VOTE help line or to work in the field.
- Ensure you report all issues or concerns that come to your attention on Election Day to the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline. If you see (or heard of) something, say something.  
RESOURCE: Information on Election Protection Activities <http://866ourvote.org>

# SUPPORTING CANDIDATES

The National Social Action Team has been encouraging brothers to run for elected office and **WIN**.

Below are some ways to support these candidates.

- **As INDIVIDUALS**

You as an individual have the right to support brothers running for elected office by volunteering, giving a donation, and voting for any candidate of your choice.

As individuals can come together to host a fundraising event. Below are the steps to hosting a Blue and White Fundraiser

## Blue and White Fundraiser

**1. Form a Host Committee:** The host committee can be comprised of any number of members deemed necessary for a successful event. The host committee should:

- Find a location, time, and date for event; and
- Create an invitation to send out to their friends and network.

**2. The fundraiser program:**

- Create an event program to allow each of the candidates an opportunity to give a quick 90-second stump speech.
- "Questions and Answers" should be allowed after the stump speeches.

**3. The fundraiser logistics:**

- The fundraiser participants should be given an envelope for their donations at the door of the event.
- An envelope should be provided for each candidate.
- The participants should decide their donation amount and select the candidates that they would like to support.
- All donations collected will be distributed to the candidates at the end of the Blue and White fundraiser.

**REMEMBER:** You may not use Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. name, symbols or trademarks in any way when hosting a Blue and White Fundraiser. These events are conducted as individuals and not as members of the fraternity. Such fundraisers are not activities of a chapter or the fraternity. In addition, you can't wear your letters to a political fundraiser. Please be mindful not to be photographed in your letters with a candidate. This act might be viewed as an endorsement and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. cannot endorse candidates.





# AS A CHAPTER

While chapters can't endorse candidates. They can help candidates in other ways:

- **Congratulatory Announcements** - Chapters can make congratulatory announcements of a brother's candidacy.

**FOR EXAMPLE:** *"Congratulations to Brother Thomas for running for School Board for more information visit- [www.ThomasforSchoolBoard.com](http://www.ThomasforSchoolBoard.com)."*

- **Candidate Forum**

We encourage chapters to host a candidate forum in their community. A candidate forum is a great way to interact directly with the candidate to gain a better understanding of his/her position on various issues.

To host a candidate forum, you should:

- Confirm a date and time at a good centralized location for the event.
- Create a planning committee to invite ALL candidates to participate and to handle the event logistics.
- The Committee should decide if they're going to allow candidate representatives to participate on the candidate's behalf, if the candidate is not available the day of the event.
- Create promotional materials: flyers, social media and other materials to promote the event and the confirmed candidates.
- Find a moderator for the event. The moderator will develop questions to ask each candidate. (Usually, the candidate wants the questions in advance to prepare their answers before the event.)
- "Questions and Answers" from the audience, the moderator should allow time for the audience to have questions and answers near the end of the event.

Other Candidate Forum tips:

- On the day of the event, a holding room for the candidates are recommended. A holding room will provide a private place for candidates to come and collect themselves before the forum.

- It is always a nice gesture to have the Planning Committee greet their guest and to provide their guest with an overview of the night, program flow, introduction to the moderator, and to answer any final questions.
- It is always good to provide comfortable chairs for each candidate along with a bottle of water.
- At the end of the event, please remember to thank everyone for coming out, the candidates, and the Planning Committee.
- Finally, **Remind Everyone To Get Out and Vote!**

## OTHER HELPFUL ELECTION RESOURCES

Provided below are some highly-useful resources and information about elections in the United States from voter registration, sample ballots, political polls, political articles and much more.

### ELECTION RESOURCES

#### CNN Politics

<http://www.cnn.com/POLITICS/>

The politics page from the popular cable news channel. Provides latest news and video related to U.S. politics and upcoming elections

#### C-SPAN

<http://www.c-span.org/>

Videos on events and programs related to upcoming elections covered by C-SPAN, "a private, non-profit company, created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service...to provide public access to the political process."

#### Politics - FoxNews.com

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/>

The politics page from the popular cable news channel. Provides latest news and video related to U.S. politics and upcoming elections.

#### NBC Politics on NBCNEWS.com

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032553/ns/politics>

The politics page from NBCNEWS.com. Provides latest news and video related to U.S. politics and upcoming elections as well as "First Read" ("news and analysis from the NBC News Political Unit").

#### New York Times - Politics

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/>

The Politics page of the New York Times newspaper provides nationwide coverage and information on upcoming elections.

#### NPR: Politics

<http://www.npr.org/sections/politics/>

This is the politics page for National Public Radio (NPR)

# LOCAL AND STATE ELECTION RESOURCES

## C-SPAN – ElectionGuide

<http://www3.capwiz.com/c-span/e4/>

Scroll down this webpage from CSPAN to find a clickable map that will take you to links and information on your federal, state, and local candidates and issues, as well as general voter information. Enter your zip code for even faster results.

## Follow the Money: The Institute on Money in State Politics

<http://www.followthemoney.org/>

“Money in state politics plays a pivotal role in shaping public policy in individual states and across the nation. The nonpartisan Institute on Money in State Politics tracks contributions in all 50 states and makes this data easily searchable online.”

## The League of Women Voters

<http://www.vote411.org>

Search state by state to locate links to city, county, and state government election information webpages.

## National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

<http://www.nass.org/>

NASS is a “non-partisan organization for public officials.” The site contains information about voting registration, new legislation, and state-by-state news.



State	Website
Alabama	<a href="https://sos.alabama.gov/elections/Default.aspx">https://sos.alabama.gov/elections/Default.aspx</a>
Alaska	<a href="http://www.elections.alaska.gov">http://www.elections.alaska.gov</a>
Arizona	<a href="https://azsos.gov/election/">https://azsos.gov/election/</a>
Arkansas	<a href="https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections">https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections</a>
California	<a href="http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov">http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov</a>
Colorado	<a href="http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.html">http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.html</a>
Connecticut	<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Common-Elements/V5-Template---Redesign/Elections--Voting--Home-Page">https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Common-Elements/V5-Template---Redesign/Elections--Voting--Home-Page</a>
Delaware	<a href="https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml">https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml</a>
Florida	<a href="https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/election-day-voting/">https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/election-day-voting/</a>
Georgia	<a href="http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections">http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections</a>
Hawaii	<a href="https://elections.hawaii.gov">https://elections.hawaii.gov</a>
Idaho	<a href="https://idahovotes.gov">https://idahovotes.gov</a>
Illinois	<a href="https://www.elections.il.gov">https://www.elections.il.gov</a>
Indiana	<a href="https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2395.htm">https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2395.htm</a>
Iowa	<a href="https://sos.iowa.gov">https://sos.iowa.gov</a>
Kansas	<a href="http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections.html">http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections.html</a>
Kentucky	<a href="https://elect.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx">https://elect.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Louisiana	<a href="https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Maine	<a href="https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming.html">https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming.html</a>
Maryland	<a href="https://elections.maryland.gov">https://elections.maryland.gov</a>
Massachusetts	<a href="http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/">http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/</a>
Michigan	<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633---,00.html">https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633---,00.html</a>
Minnesota	<a href="https://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/?page=4">https://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/?page=4</a>
Mississippi	<a href="http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/default.aspx</a>

Missouri	<a href="https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/">https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/</a>
Montana	<a href="https://sosmt.gov/elections/">https://sosmt.gov/elections/</a>
Nebraska	<a href="http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html">http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html</a>
Nevada	<a href="https://www.nvsos.gov/sos">https://www.nvsos.gov/sos</a>
New Hampshire	<a href="http://sos.nh.gov">http://sos.nh.gov</a>
New Jersey	<a href="https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/">https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/</a>
New Mexico	<a href="http://www.sos.state.nm.us">http://www.sos.state.nm.us</a>
New York	<a href="http://www.elections.ny.gov">http://www.elections.ny.gov</a>
North Carolina	<a href="https://www.ncsbe.gov/index.html">https://www.ncsbe.gov/index.html</a>
North Dakota	<a href="https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalList.aspx">https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalList.aspx</a>
Ohio	<a href="https://www.sos.state.oh.us">https://www.sos.state.oh.us</a>
Oklahoma	<a href="https://www.ok.gov/elections/">https://www.ok.gov/elections/</a>
Oregon	<a href="https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Pages/default.aspx">https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Pennsylvania	<a href="https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Rhode Island	<a href="http://sos.ri.gov">http://sos.ri.gov</a>
South Carolina	<a href="https://www.scvotes.org">https://www.scvotes.org</a>
South Dakota	<a href="https://sdsos.gov/default.aspx">https://sdsos.gov/default.aspx</a>
Tennessee	<a href="https://sos.tn.gov">https://sos.tn.gov</a>
Texas	<a href="https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/">https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/</a>
Utah	<a href="https://vote.utah.gov/vote/menu/index">https://vote.utah.gov/vote/menu/index</a>
Vermont	<a href="https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections.aspx">https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections.aspx</a>
Virginia	<a href="https://www.elections.virginia.gov">https://www.elections.virginia.gov</a>
Washington	<a href="https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/default.aspx">https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/default.aspx</a>
West Virginia	<a href="https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx">https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Wisconsin	<a href="https://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting">https://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting</a>
Wyoming	<a href="http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Default.aspx">http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Default.aspx</a>

## — OFFICIAL POLITICAL PARTY SITES —

- Democratic Party <http://www.democrats.org>
- Democratic Socialists of America <http://www.dsausa.org>
- Green Party <http://www.gp.org>
- Libertarian Party <http://www.lp.org>
- Reform Party <http://www.reformparty.org>
- Republican Party <http://www.gop.com>
- Tea Party <http://www.teapartypatriots.org/>
- Independent American Party <https://www.independentamericanparty.org/>

# CANDIDATES & ISSUES

***Congress.org (This is not the homepage of the U.S. Congress.)***

***<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>***

This is NOT the homepage of the U.S. congress, but it is a great guide to the United States Congress with information on issues and representatives.

***FactCheck.org Congress.org (This is not the homepage of the U.S. Congress.)*** ***<http://www.factcheck.org>***

Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania puts out this website to monitor the factual accuracy of statements made by and advertisements on behalf of major U.S. political figures.

***Opensecrets.org***

***<http://www.opensecrets.org>***

Sponsored by The Center for Responsive Politics and dedicated to educating the public about campaign finances. Visitors can learn about campaign finance law or look up contributors to political campaigns.

***MAPLight.org***

***<http://maplight.org/>***

"MAPLight.org, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization, provides citizens and journalists the transparency tools to shine a light on the influence of money on politics." Find out how much one or more legislators' voting records on bills corresponds to how much money they received from campaign contributors who supported or opposed those bills.

***PolitiFact.com***

***<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/>***

Reporters and researchers from the St. Petersburg Times and Congressional Quarterly "analyze the candidates' speeches, TV ads and interviews and determine whether the claims are accurate."

***PollingReport.com***

***<http://www.pollingreport.com/>***

An excellent collection of major poll results. Let's visitors search for various issues and gives information on the public opinion polls taken regarding the issue.

***Project Vote Smart***

***<http://www.votesmart.org/>***

Information for voters on political leaders, their positions on issues, and campaign finance, and encourages active participation in democratic processes through voting.



# VOTER INFORMATION RESOURCES

## **Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE) [http://www.civicyouth.org/?page\\_id=132/](http://www.civicyouth.org/?page_id=132/)**

A nonpartisan research center promoting civic and political engagement of American youth between the ages of 15-25.

## **Center for Voting and Democracy <http://www.fairvote.org/>**

This site encourages “education, research, analysis, and organization” to get people to the polls. They advocate for inclusiveness and the democratic process and provide information on fair voting and representation.

## **LULAC <http://lulac.org/programs/civic/>**

This link is to the League of United Latin American Citizens. The LULAC Voter site has information on organizing for civic participation for the Hispanic community, voter registration and voting FAQs, and information on Latino demographics.

## **The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) <http://www.eac.gov/default.aspx>**

Website for this “independent, bipartisan commission created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002... It issues guidance about HAVA, adopts voluntary voting system guidelines, audits the use of HAVA funds, and provides best practices and resources to election officials throughout the nation.” Find background material, information for election officials and voters, documents on voting system certification, reports, and related resources. Background documents also available in Spanish.



