

Get Involved in the **Election** **Process**

It's your right ... It's your responsibility. VFW members truly know what words like citizenship and patriotism mean and the obligations that come with them.

There is no group of citizens that has a more vested right to vote than our nation's veterans. We must continue to play a role as patriotic citizens and get involved in the elections!

We Must Elect a

Pro-Veteran **Government**

Veterans and military quality of life and national security issues must be a priority of Congress and the Administration. The only way to ensure this is to vote for those candidates who believe in our issues.

With continued talks about deficit reduction, budgets and cuts in spending programs that affect veterans, the military, and their families, it is doubly important that we support candidates who understand and support VFW Priority Goals.



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VETERANS **VOTE**

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Register to **VOTE!**

As a citizen and VFW advocate, you should be registered to vote! Contact your local board of elections or visit www.eac.gov for more information and voter assistance.

Uniformed Services members and their families can find more information about absentee voter registration at the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov.

Encourage Others to **Register**

Plan a voter registration drive well in advance of any state registration deadlines. To ensure a good turnout:

- Find a central location such as a library, a grocery store, a public transportation station, etc.
- Make sure you receive enough applications from your board of elections.
- Display banners or signs to advertise and attract attention to your booth.

Host a

Town Hall Meeting or Candidates Forum

Candidates and campaigns are always looking for places to host events and speak to audiences. Here are some tips for hosting an event:

- Send a letter or email of invitation to each candidate — set a date and a location, such as the closest VFW Post, and follow up with a phone call.
- Promote the event to community groups, veterans groups and the public. Use social media and your local media to publicize it.
- Select a moderator who is comfortable speaking in front of an audience and who can keep the program on topic.
- Prepare questions in advance.

Find Ways to Get **Involved**

If candidates cannot make it to your Post, ask veteran-related questions at other public forums. See that our legislative priorities are on their agendas. If you know the moderator or someone on the panel, urge them to bring up veterans issues, too.

Although VFW members cannot endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW, there is nothing preventing you from working on behalf of your favorite candidate.

Campaigns are always looking for volunteers, and offering a hand can be a great way to help candidates in their election bids.

See if the candidate has a veterans council or advisory panel, and provide any input. Every effort helps.

Stay **Informed**

Subscribe to the Action Corps Weekly to stay informed on issues facing our veterans, our military and their families that your federal legislators should be tracking and addressing. To sign up, visit www.vfw.org/ActionCorps.

Arm yourself with the VFW's latest talking points and the VFW Priority Goals brochure, available to download at www.vfw.org/LegislativePriorities.