

## **VETERANS VOTE / ELECTION INVOLVEMENT**

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

It is your right and your responsibility. VFW members truly know what words like citizenship and patriotism mean and the obligations that come with them. We must continue to play a role as patriotic citizens and get involved in the elections.

### **We Must Elect Pro-Veteran Candidates**

Veteran and military quality-of-life issues must be a priority of Congress and the Administration. The only way to ensure this is to vote for candidates who believe in our issues. With continued talks about 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.

### **Register to Vote**

As a citizen and VFW advocate, you should be registered to vote! Contact your local board of elections or visit the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission at [eac.gov](http://eac.gov) for more information or voter assistance. Uniformed services members and their families can find more information about absentee voter registration from the Federal Voting Assistance Program at [fvap.gov](http://fvap.gov).

### **Find Ways to Get Involved**

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 helping 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 input.

### **Stay Informed**

Subscribe to the *VFW Action Corps Weekly* to stay informed about issues our veterans, service members, and their families face that your federal legislators should be tracking and addressing. To sign up, visit [vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://vfw.org/ActionCorps). Arm yourself with the VFW's latest talking points and the VFW Priority Goals brochure, available at [vfw.org/LegislativePriorities](http://vfw.org/LegislativePriorities).

### **Do's and Don'ts of Involvement in Elections and Political Activities**

VFW members can make a difference in any election by getting involved in the political process. Hold voter registration drives, town hall meetings, forums, debates, and other events featuring candidates for public office. Veterans are a strong voting bloc and a constituency that most candidates want on their side. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind:

## **DO's**

- Do attend candidate informational events and ask them where they stand on our issues.
- Do set up voter registration drives or Get Out the Vote campaigns at the local level.
- Do provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booths.
- Do support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.
- Do wear your VFW cap at public events such as town hall meetings, forums, or debates.

## **DON'Ts**

- Don't hold VFW fundraising events for any candidates.
- Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW National Organization, Department, District, or Post.
- Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or asking someone to pledge their vote for a candidate.

The key is to stay informed on the issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support veterans. It does not matter which candidates you support as long as they know you are a VFW member and are concerned about your fellow veterans, service members, and their families.

If you have questions, please email [vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).

