



Massachusetts Citizens Congress on Poverty

“Let there be everywhere our voices, our eyes, our thoughts, our love, our actions breathing hope and victory.” Sonia Sanchez

WHAT COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS CAN DO

- Organize a briefing for staff, volunteers and board members on what they can legally do to get out the vote as an organization. Brainstorm what the organization can do about it. Seek advice from a qualified attorney as to what can legally be done without jeopardizing your tax-exempt status.
- Organize and host a town meeting for the community and your members to inform and organize residents on registering to vote and getting out the vote.
- Send a letter on organizational letterhead, signed by the chair and other members of the board and sent to members and supporters encouraging everyone to vote.
- Host an accountability session to ask elected officials what they are doing to turn out the vote.
- Organize and host a series of voter registration events and collaborate with other organizations.
- Ask your members to pledge to vote.
- Ask each member of your organization to identify at least 10 people to vote. Give a prize to the winner who turns out the most voters on election day.
- Devote an edition of the organization’s newsletter to the importance of voting.
- Host an event where the elders tell the stories of their struggles securing the right to vote.
- Organize a community canvass and get out the vote weekend. Use informed people to go door to door speaking to residents about getting out the vote and where they go to vote.
- Use every event to register voters and provide information on the election.
- Organize a telling one’s story day. Video tape members and residents about the importance of voting and why they intend to vote. Post the video on you tube. Ask local tv stations to air some of the best segments.
- Write an op-ed for your community newspaper on the importance of voting.
- Leaflet super markets, banks and other stores in the community regularly.
- Host a Heritage Day event at the end of the closing of polls to thank those who voted.

Use, print, pass on any information on the UMN site you find useful.

Even if you choose one action, you will be helping to build a movement for equity.