



Organizing a voter registration drive

Best practices for getting people registered and ready to vote!
And an introduction to KFTC's Voter Empowerment work

KFTC's Voter Empowerment Work

- Voter Registration
- Voter Education
- Voter Mobilization
- **More!** – Candidate training, candidate education, etc.



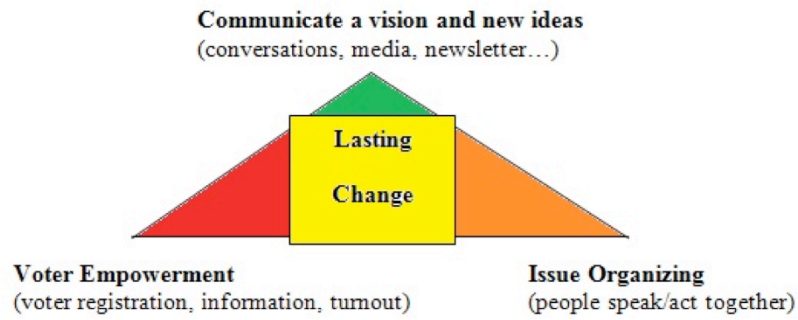
Voter Empowerment Approach

We engage in Voter Empowerment work to create an authentic, participatory Democracy, something we believe does not exist now and is a prerequisite to creating the kind of policies that lead to the quality of life reflected in KFTC's Vision Statement.

We want to make elected officials more responsive to Kentuckians as a whole, not just a handful of politically powerful interests and we seek to create the environment in which better candidates will tend to run and get elected.

Along with our other strategies like Issue Organizing and Communications, we can build power to bring about lasting change in our Commonwealth.

How it all fits together



Why Register Voters?

- ☐ Because low-income Kentuckians, people of color, and youth communities aren't well-represented now and that's partially because fewer of them participate in the political process.
- ☐ We can make sure supporters of our issues we work on are registered and voting.
- ☐ It makes our democracy stronger and more complete.

One of the things that people absolutely need to participate in elections is to be registered to vote.

People who haven't registered to vote, haven't voted in the last four years, or who have moved since the last time they've registered all need to fill out one of these cards.

Get voter registration cards

- Contact your local KFTC organizer and/or local County Clerk and ask for the number of voter registration cards you need.
- You can also contact the State Board of Elections to request a large number of registration cards, mail-in voter registration cards, and voter information guides.

State Board of Elections number is 502-573-7100.

Pick a time and location

- **Who do you want to reach out to?** (Young folks? Voters in low-income and people of color communities?)
- **Where are the best places to reach those voters?**
- **Decide whether you want to set up a table, walk with a clipboard in a crowd, or go door-to-door.**



Just a sidenote that students who are away from home – we really encourage to fill one of these out using their campus address. Most of them will be at school on Election Day and they're much more likely to be able to vote if they can walk right down the street and do it on Election Day.

Know the law. A voter must:

- Be a US citizen.
- Be a resident of KY at least 28 days before the election.
- Be at least 18 years old by the date of the next General Election.
- Not be a convicted felon – or have civil rights restored.
- Not have been judged mentally incompetent in a court of law.
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere outside KY.

Notable folks who can't register to vote include people who won't be 18 or older on November 6th of this year, Former felons who haven't had their civil rights restored, and non-citizens. We really want to connect with all of those people to help them to be involved in other ways, but they can't register.

Double check each registration card!

- A complete residential address is needed. A mailing address is required only if different from residence.
- Social Security Number
- Must mark a party choice, even if that choice is “independent”
- Must list date of birth
- Two witnesses needed ONLY if voter signs with an “X”
- Phone number not required, but helps the Clerk clear up any missing info.



After someone has registered to vote, our job isn't done. We want to hold on to those cards and guard them safely. We want to record the name and contact information of everyone we register as well as information about where we registered them so we can keep in touch to remind them to vote later.

After we've copied the cards or recorded the information, we need to get these in to the local County Clerk and mail the out of county cards to the appropriate counties or to the State Board of Elections.

We absolutely need to turn in every card we collect by October 9th. Not turning them in does a tremendous disservice to our democracy... and could be considered a felony as well. Keeping cards safe and getting them in is a high priority.

You can reach Dave Newton, KFTC's Voter Empowerment Organizer, at any time with voter registration questions. His cell phone number is 859-420-8919.

Be visible (and loud if needed)



- Get or create good signs and banners.
- Put “register to vote” signs on back of each clipboard.
- Publicize what you are doing in local media.
- Announce “Register to vote! Quick and easy. Sign up here!” in a loud voice.

Other considerations

- ❑ Your voter registration outreach work can also include information about KFTC campaigns and issues.
- ❑ Mail-in voter registration cards are useful to give to people who are in a hurry or who know someone who needs to register.
- ❑ Bring paperwork that former felons can use to request their voting rights back if they have completed their sentence.
- ❑ Students may register at either a permanent address back home or their campus address. All things being equal, it's best to register on campus, especially in the Fall.

Turn in cards in a timely manner.

- The voter registration deadline before each election is absolute. (Next deadline is October 9, 2012.)
- Cards must be turned in or postmarked to local County Clerk or State Board of Elections by this date, but earlier is better.
- If you register people who live in different counties, you must mail cards to each different County Clerks.
- Before turning in the cards, write down names, addresses and phone numbers to remind people to vote!



Follow-up!



- Newly registered voters are MUCH more likely to vote if you follow-up before election day.
- Send a card.
- Make a call.
- Best of all, knock on their door!
- Offer rides & information about where to vote!

Together we are strengthening
our democracy!

