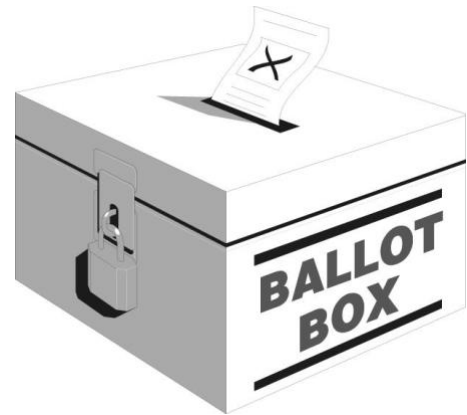




Leading with Race to The Ballot Box: 2018 Mid-Term Election Edition

Over the past three decades, NMAC has worked in coalition to ensure people of color have a seat at the table and our voices are heard in the fight against HIV. With so much on the line, and as ending the epidemic plans are being developed across the country, it is vital that we as a community make our voices heard in the 2018 mid-term elections.



This year, **NMAC is asking HIV/AIDS organizations to help us in your hometowns in these efforts.** As we remember the proud tradition of service to those in need and helping people find their voice, **we MUST communicate to our elected officials that those vulnerable to and living with HIV consider voting and healthcare a priority.**

Here are a few things that **HIV/AIDS organizations** should keep in mind as it relates to voter engagement:

- 1. Remember, many federal policies will have large effects at the local level.** As an organization on the ground that will experience many these possible changes firsthand, it is important that your elected officials are aware that your community participates in the electoral process, a valued tenant of our democracy.
- 2. Having a highly engaged and educated voting population helps to strengthen your ability to advocate** across partisan lines and make sure your issues and the needs of people living with and vulnerable to HIV are taken into account by your elected officials.
- 3. Your organization's staff and clients are trusted messengers who can engage underserved and vulnerable populations.** Your organization should do its part to make sure that everyone in your community who uses or could benefit from your services has a chance to engage at some level in the political process.
- 4. Your organization can play a role in elections by helping people register to vote.** You can help keep voter registration cards and information at your office and offer it to clients who come through your door.
- 5. Your organization can send out messages regularly about important voting dates.** You can share information about how to get registered to vote, when is the last day to register to vote, when the election is scheduled to occur, and when early voting starts.

Key Considerations for Nonprofits Interested in Voter Engagement

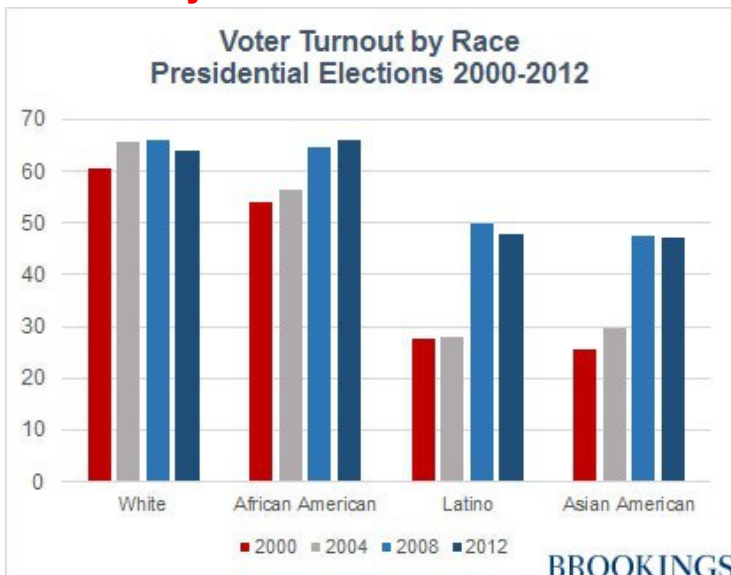
According to the great team at <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/>

501(c)(3) Nonprofits May NOT:

- Endorse or oppose a candidate running for public office.
- Make a campaign contribution to or expenditure for or against a candidate.
- Rate candidates on who is most favorable to your issue.
- Let candidates use the organization's facilities or resources, unless those resources are made equally available to all candidates at their fair market value



Why You Should Vote in the 2018 Mid-Terms Elections



- **EVERY VOTE COUNTS:** The only wasted vote is a vote that is not cast. In a recent election in Virginia, the top two candidates had the same number of votes. As a result, a coin toss decided who had control of the state legislature.
- **VOTES CAST BY PEOPLE OF COLOR MATTER:** It was the turnout of Black voters in Alabama that is credited with influencing the outcome in the recent senate election.