

# Get Involved In the Election Process

It's your right ... It's your responsibility. As veterans, VFW members truly know what words like citizenship and patriotism mean and the obligations that come with them. VFW members understand that these obligations do not just end when our service is complete.

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, military and their families, it is doubly important that we support candidates who understand and support VFW Priority Goals.



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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# VETERANS Vote!

## A How To Guide to Getting Involved in the Election Process

VFW   
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Register to

# Vote!

As a citizen and VFW advocate, you should be registered to vote! Contact your local board of elections for applications and more information or use the National Mail Voter Registration Form. Print it directly from the website [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov), fill it out and send it in. 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](http://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; and
- 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 an event and audiences to speak to. Why not host an event at a VFW Post in your State. Here are some tips for hosting your own event:

- Send a letter or email of invitation to each candidate—set a date, a location and follow up with a phone call.
- Promote the event to community groups, veterans groups and the public. Use 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.

## Attend Other Candidate Forums

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

## Get Involved in the Campaign

Although VFW members cannot endorse candidates on behalf of 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 bid.

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

Stay

## Informed

Your job isn't done when the elections are over. You must use your influence and continue to urge your representatives to support VFW and veterans issues.

Subscribe to *Washington Weekly*, VFW's weekly e-mail newsletter, to stay informed and on top of issues and things you need to communicate to your legislators. Join VFW's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) now on Twitter. VFW recently launched a new advocacy tool using Twitter to help provide immediate and effective constituent engagement with Capitol Hill to protect veterans' priorities. To subscribe to the weekly or our QRF on Twitter visit *VFW in DC* at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).