



# Get Out the Vote for Housing

Information and Resources  
for Get Out the Vote and Voter Education Activities  
in Affordable Housing Communities

# Agenda

- Propositions 1 & 2 and Your Communities
- Legal Guidelines
- Exciting Ideas for GOTV Activities At Your Site
- Common Barriers
- Available Resources



# California Coalition for Rural Housing

The California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH) is a statewide nonprofit organization that works to ensure affordable housing opportunities for low income households in California. Formed in 1976 following a farmworker housing conference, CCRH is one of the oldest state low-income housing coalitions in the country. Through advocacy, community organizing, technical assistance, research and education, our goal is to make the case for rural housing improvement and strengthen the capacity of the nonprofit and public sectors to provide affordable housing and related facilities.



# Residents United Network

The housing crisis is a *solvable, human-made problem*.  
Public outcry is growing for a fix to the crisis.  
That's where the Residents United Network comes in.

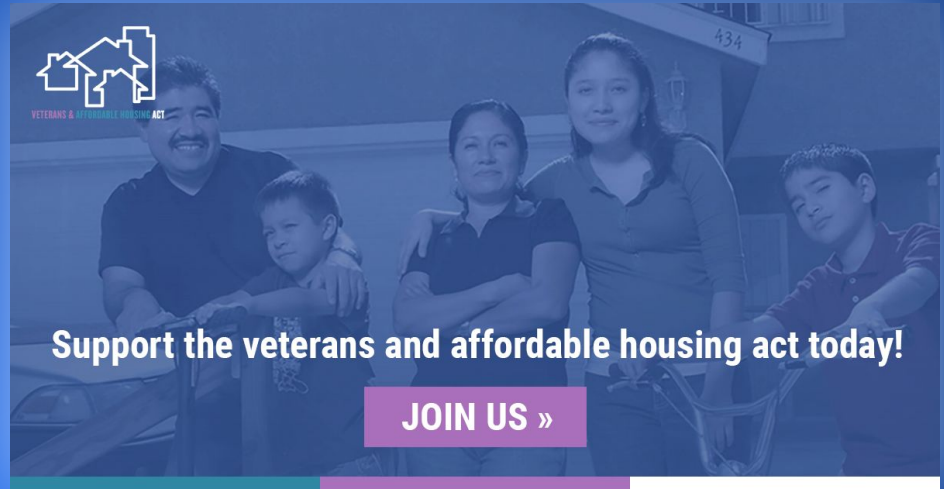


Nation's first-of-its-kind statewide resident base of power.  
As RUN members we are experts on California's housing crisis

## **RUN members are:**

- Active in 5 regions: Sacramento, Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, and San Diego
- Creating and advancing our own regional and statewide policy agendas
- Developing leaders and training programs
- Speaking and exhibiting at local, state, and national conferences
- Motivated. Energized. Ready to activate at a moment's notice

# Proposition 1



- \$4 Billion Dollars for Affordable Housing!
- Builds affordable homes and provides supportive housing for struggling families and children, people experiencing homelessness and individuals with disabilities.
- Helps people live in the communities where they work, while still having money for basics like groceries, gas and child care.
- Dedicates \$1 billion to helping veterans have stable, affordable homes.
- Creates 137,000 jobs and pumps \$23.4 billion into California's economy.
- Tackles top priorities for Californians – building homes, creating jobs and boosting the economy.

# Proposition 2

- \$2 billion bond
- Provides permanent supportive housing linked to treatment and services to help people with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless
- *No new cost for taxpayers*
- The bond will be financed using the Mental Health Services Act, also known as Proposition 63, the Millionaire's Tax passed by California voters in 2004
- Uses just 6% of the annual revenue generated under the Act
- Generates \$2.2 billion *annually* to improve mental health care across the state
- Funding goes to local communities and all California counties
- Housing must be linked to support services for residents that are on site or easily accessible



# Why

Every election is important for us and our residents, but this year's election is especially so

- Propositions 1 & 2 are some of the only resources currently available to build affordable housing
- Guaranteed funding and equitable access -- no matter the community
- If we ask an average voter, over 80% say they support affordable housing
- If we ask an average voter about the election, only 53% say they understand and support Propositions 1 & 2
- It's up to us to make sure these important resources get to the community



*“These propositions make sure all communities have the resources they need to build affordable housing  
We can’t solve our housing crisis without Prop 1 & 2”*

# Legal Guidelines

501c3 Nonprofit Organizations can partake in *nonpartisan* activities such as

- Conduct or Promote Voter Registration
- Educate Voters on the Voting Process
- Distribute Nonpartisan Sample Ballots, Candidate Questionnaires, or Voter Guides
- Organize Get-Out-the-Vote Activities
- Encourage and Help People to Vote
- Host or Co-Sponsor a Candidate Forum
- Educate the Candidates on Your Issues
- Continue to do Issue Advocacy During an Election
- Express Support of Specific Propositions





# Do's and Don'ts

## DO

- Conduct voter registration
- Conduct voter education and mobilizing efforts
- Conduct candidate engagement efforts

As long as all efforts and activities remain  
**NON-PARTISAN!**

## DON'T

- No person, no party
- Make endorsements for any political candidates.
- Donate money, resources, or time to any particular candidate.
- Staff engaged in partisan political activities should do so without representing the organization.



# Housing Authorities and Federal *DO's*

*Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) CAN participate in voter registration activities!*

- PHAs can provide registration materials as well as help residents fill out registration forms.
- Resident Councils or Resident Advisory Boards can be a great resource for organizing renter-to-renter registration efforts.
- PHA newsletters can and should contain information about registration and voting.
- Public housing buildings should display registration information in common areas such as bulletin boards near elevators or in community rooms, etc.

# Housing Authorities and Federal *DON'Ts*

## Federal Funds Do Put Restrictions on Certain Organizations:

- Staff who are paid through AmeriCorps or HeadStart funding cannot participate in voter registration activities.
- Legal Services groups cannot participate in any election activity, even if nonpartisan.
- Recipients of Community Services Block Grant funding can participate in voter registration, but CSBG funds cannot be used.

**VOTERS!**



# Possible Activities: Get Out the Vote

- **Communications: Social Media, Newsletters, Fliers, Announcements, At Leasing, In the Leasing Office**

Voter registration, Voter registration deadline, Voter Location, Voter info and resources

- **Events: Meetings, Parties, Sports Events**

Flyers, Table, Speakers, Announcements

- **Special GOTV Events**

Hold special event just for voter registration and information

Pizza parties, dessert socials, coffee and tea parties, Ice Cream Socials, Voting Rally

- **Day of Voting Support**

Transportation to polling locations, group walks to polling, door-knocking, phone calls, stickers, parties, rallies, raffles, reminders



# Possible Activities: Voter Education



- **Bring Your Ballot Parties**

Vote together, review and discuss each candidate and proposition together, encourage discussion, hold a raffle, offer food and treats

- **Voter Education Presentations**

Invite League of Women Voters or other organizations, ask residents to lead the discussion, have staff lead the conversation

- **Debates, Discussions, and Candidate Forums**

Invite local candidates to attend your event \* *you must invite them all*, invite organizations with opposing views to present their positions, hold a special listening session of the Governor's Debate or other televised local events, read through articles and watch video clips about the issues

# Common Barriers to Voting

## Voters Experiencing Homelessness

- Various court decisions have affirmed that homeless people cannot be denied voting rights simply for not having an address.
- People Experiencing homelessness can use a shelter or a park as an address when registering, though state laws regarding proof of residency vary widely.

## Voter Apathy

- Non-voters are often concerned that nothing will change because they vote. Registration staff and volunteers should be trained to connect housing and neighborhood policy issues to the lives of the voters. Nonprofits have a unique position in the community because they garner more trust from members of the communities they serve.
- Point out that registering to vote does not require a person to vote, but just provides the option.
- Remind them they don't have to vote on everything, but can choose a few issues or candidates that are most important

## Formerly Incarcerated Voters

- In most states, voters with prior felony convictions can legally register as long as the parole or probation periods of the sentence have been completed.
- This varies by state. To find out the rules in California, see this map from the [ACLU](#)

## Non-Citizens

- NonCitizens are not allowed to vote in most elections
- Remind them that voter education and their opinion is important to share with their family and friends
- They can support GOTV efforts and participate in activities

# Available Resources

[Prop 1 Toolkit](#)

[Prop 1 & 2 Info](#)

[Voter Engagement for Affordable Housing Organizations](#)

[NonPartisan Activities Checklist](#)

[All Things NonProfit and Voting](#)

[NonProfit ToolKit](#)

[Federal Funds and Voter Registration](#)

[Find Your Polling Place and Conditional Voting](#)

[Voter Registration FAQs](#)

[Voter Registration ToolKit](#)

[League of Women Voters](#)

[Lyft](#)



Questions?





# Contact Us

Alicia HF Sebastian

916.443.4448

[alicia@calruralhousing.org](mailto:alicia@calruralhousing.org)

[www.calruralhousing.org](http://www.calruralhousing.org)

Emily Serafy-Cox

612.695.2555

[emilyserafycox@gmail.com](mailto:emilyserafycox@gmail.com)

<https://www.housingca.org/run>



**Thank you!**