

Why Libraries? It's Who We Are & What We Do

- Trusted community organization
- Committed to creating an informed citizenry
- Provide unbiased, vetted, factual information
- Help people find that information and overcoming access barriers
- Tradition of respecting multiple perspectives
- Connect people with things they care about



What Libraries Cannot/Should Not Do!



- Endorse candidates or political parties as an organization
- Donate money as an organization to a candidate or a political party
- Express personal political opinions in your role as library staff
 - Wear political buttons/clothing at work
 - Display one-sided/partisan displays
 - Post partisan comments on library website, library social media, library list serv

What Libraries CAN Do!

Share non-partisan information!

- Reminders of related deadlines and voting dates
- Voter guides about ALL candidates
- How government works
 - Descriptions of positions that are up for elections
 - Issues being voted on- (without sharing which you think are important or taking sides)
- Information on where and when to vote
- How to apply for a mail-in ballot
- What ID is needed to register and vote
- Polling place hours

Following these guidelines protects the reputation of the library as an inclusive place.

And Remember!

[BECOME A NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY PARTNER](#)



SHARE THE GREAT INFO ROBYN IS SHARING TODAY!

What If You Get Pushback?

Know Your Community

- Shape your messaging and events to invite people in, not alienate
- Incorporate this into other library work/services
- Invite community members to participate
- Promote in the context of library mission

Election season de-escalation tips from Crisis Prevention Institute:

<https://www.crisisprevention.com/library/general/election-season-de-escalation-tips/>

Give Your Staff Time Off to Vote!



ALA Resources

- [Reader.Voter.Ready](#)
- [Libraries and Voter Engagement](#)
- [ALA Government Documents & Election Toolkits](#)
- [Vote 411](#)
- [Getting Our Communities Reader Voter Ready Webinar Recording](#)
- [ALSC Blog about voter registration at storytime](#)
- **Upcoming** SRRT webinar: [Combating Voter Suppression: What Can Libraries Do](#) (Sept. 12, 2pm)

Share What You Do!

Share ALA Reader Voter Ready stories, photos, videos
here:

[https://airtable.com/appjSrwLeHoAJaMrU/shr0FDdkVKeG
ERppc](https://airtable.com/appjSrwLeHoAJaMrU/shr0FDdkVKeGERppc)



Other Resources

- [WebJunction](#)
- [Your School or Library as a Polling Place: Election Site Security](#)
 - **Free** Library 2.0 webinar **Sept. 12** at 2pm
- [Voter Registration Story Times](#)
 - **Free** Brooklyn Public Library **Aug. 29** at 2pm (will be recorded)

More Resources- Not Library Specific

- [League of Women Voters of Vermont](#)
- [Democracy is a Parenting Issue](#)
- [Civics for Adults](#)
- [FactCheck.org](#)

- Sites that appeal to youth
 - <https://iamavoter.com/>
 - <https://www.headcount.org/>

Partnership Opportunities

- League of Women Voters
- Other libraries
- Friends group
- Rotary
- Local High School
- Organizations that work with citizens whose 1st language is not English
- Other organizations that work with people who don't yet use the library

Programming Ideas

- Host debate parties
- Host a StoryWalk®
- Combine with Library Card Sign-Up Month (Sept.)
- Record local “Why I Vote” videos
- Host a postcard writing event
- Host election history trivia night
- Host a civic engagement series – it’s not just important during a election year!



Engagement Ideas

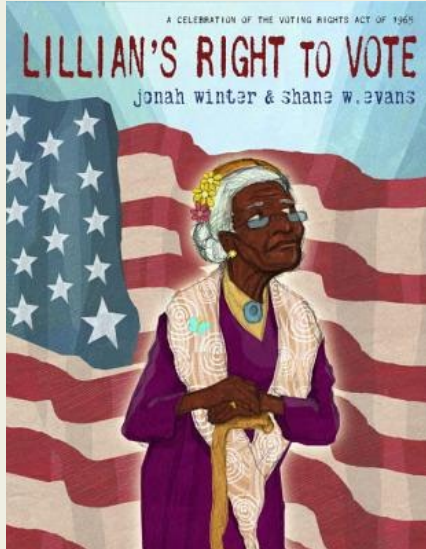
- Have a dedicated laptop for registering to vote
- Post info on how election dates, how to get to polls
- Bookmark voter registration site/voter guides on public computers
- Promote voter guides in multiple languages
- Voter Tools page on library website
- Book displays for all ages
- Display of action figures/stuffed toys voting
- Post and repost on social media

REPRESENT

THE
UNFINISHED
FIGHT FOR
THE VOTE

New York Times bestselling author
MICHAEL ERIC DYSON & MARC FAVREAU

Book Display/Discussion Ideas



Denver Public Library List of Books About Voting for Adults:
<https://www.denverlibrary.org/adult/list/voting-books-adults>

Social Justice Books List of Voting Rights Books for Youth:
<https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/voting-rights/>

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
**STACEY
ABRAMS**
**OUR TIME
IS NOW**

Final Thoughts

Civic engagement isn't just for national elections,
or NVRD – it's always relevant!

Do something!

Even something little is helpful.

