

Election-ready Communities

How nonpartisan and faith groups can (and cannot) show up to the polls to protect New American voters.

Research consistently shows that the presence of trusted, calm, familiar faces near polling places reduces fear-based abstention more effectively than any flyer, hotline, or legal brief. You do not need a law degree or a special credential to show up for your community. You need to be present, prepared, and connected to the right help.

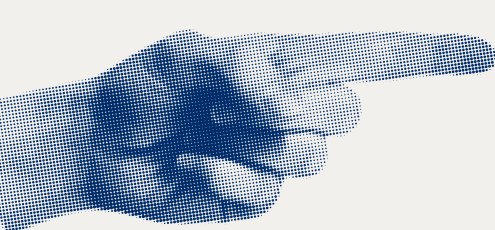
WHAT YOU **CAN** DO:

Be present. Show up near polling locations during early voting and on Election Day. You do not need a special role or permission to be in a public space. Your presence alone makes a difference.

Be calm. Your energy sets the tone for everyone around you. A calm, confident, trusted community member near a polling place reduces fear more effectively than any flyer or hotline number.

Be a bridge. When a new American voter has a question, a concern, or a problem you connect them to the right help immediately. You do not have to have all the answers. You just have to know where to find them. The Election Protection Hotline has lawyers standing by all day:

CALL THE ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

 **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**

Free. Multilingual. Available all day on Election Day. Lawyers are standing by. They can advise you in real time and take action fast.

Be a witness. If something does not look right, you observe and you document. Your first-hand account matters. It can be the foundation of a legal challenge that protects not just one voter, but thousands.

Be a motivator. Remind community members that their vote is protected, their right is real, and they have every reason to stay in line and cast their ballot. Sometimes the most powerful thing you can do is simply say: *"You have the right to be here. Keep going."* or *"Thank you for showing up to vote today!"*

WHAT YOU **CANNOT** DO:

Do not physically block, confront, or argue with any official, agent, or poll watcher. Do not physically block any voter from going to vote.

Do not make partisan statements of any kind your credibility as a nonpartisan ally is your most valuable asset. A partisan statement is any statement expressing support for a specific candidate, party, or position.

Do not film or photograph inside a polling place, while laws vary by state, in many filming inside is restricted. Additionally, we want to promote a safe environment where no voter worries about participating in elections and filming or photographing could make some voters uneasy.

Do not give legal advice. You are not a lawyer and incorrect advice can hurt the people you are trying to help. If you need urgent support from a lawyer, contact the Election Protection Hotline where there are lawyers standing by.

Do not tell voters that ICE is present unless you have directly confirmed. False rumors can cause panic and can suppress voting more than actual ICE presence



THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN SAY:

If a new American voter is afraid to go to the polls or afraid to stay, the most powerful thing you can say is not a legal argument. It is this:

“I will go with you. You will not be alone.”

THAT IS WHAT FAITH LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE ON ELECTION DAY.