Our mission is to coalesce, inspire and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.

Three Rules to Keep in Mind:

1. Head Start programs cannot support or oppose candidates for public office.

2. Program funds cannot be used to support any political activities.

3. Staff cannot work on election activities during work hours.

Thinking About Getting Involved in Election Activities?

Voter Registration Activities

There is a level of liability that comes along with doing voter registration.

- Once you register a voter, you become responsible for making sure their registration form is handed in (and in compliance with state laws).

You must practice non-discrimination when registering voters.

- You cannot encourage a registrant to register as a particular party.
- You must register everyone who wants to register (and is eligible to register) regardless of their political beliefs.

There are registration requirements that vary widely by state.

- Generally, a person can register to vote if they are a U.S. citizen, are at least 18 years old on or before election day, and are a current resident of the United States. View each state’s registration laws and deadlines.
- States have laws about voting rights for individuals who were convicted of a felony. While some are very restrictive, others allow people to register once they have had their rights restored and others still allow people to vote from prison.
- There are often state residency requirements as well—meaning that a person needs to have lived in that state for a certain period of time before being eligible to register.

If you are comfortable abiding by the above guidelines and would like more information and resources, please reach out to advocacy@nhsa.org