



Encouraging Residents' Rights to Vote (for Facilities)

Voter turnout among institutionalized populations is much lower than among non-institutionalized populations. Facilities can be instrumental in encouraging residents to exercise their right to vote. Each facility has slightly different policies and procedures, but these tips can be useful for all facilities.

Ways Facilities Can Help Residents:

- Assist residents in registering to vote
- Assist residents in acquiring absentee ballots
- Invite candidates to come to the facility and speak to residents
- Host debate watching events
- Host weekly discussions on political issues and candidates
- Work with the community to provide mobile polling
- Become a registered polling place
- Assist residents in maintaining their voter registration cards or identity cards to present at the polls
- Provide transportation to the polls
- Provide mail-in ballots if requested by residents and assistance in filling them out
- Ask resident and family councils to include information about voting and elections on their meeting agendas

Best Practices for Facilities:

- Provide information on upcoming elections and candidates
- Distribute sample ballots prior to elections so residents are familiar with voting procedures
- Post reminders about voter registration deadlines
- Share tip sheets on how to register to vote, qualify to vote and vote early

National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month will be celebrated in October 2012. Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate! Information and materials for Residents' Rights Month celebrations will be available on the Consumer Voice website at www.theconsumervoice.org
Direct questions to: info@theconsumervoice.org or 202-332-2275.