

# VOTER REGISTRATION

A great big thank you to Roger Williams for his support and funding of the Voter Registration Award for 2008-2009.

Voter registration is probably the most important function that Republican Women perform. Yes, it is important to campaign for Republican candidates, however, if people don't get out to vote we lose! Republicans need to reach out and expand our voter base. Huge efforts were made in 2008 but we still have a lot of work to do.

Local Republican Women's Clubs are the foundation of the party, and voter registration needs to be a priority in 2009- "Share the Opportunity" Get started now, appoint a Voter Registration Chair, deputize club members to be Deputy Voter Registrars, plan voter registration events, and organize the events.

There are many opportunities/forums that are great locations for voter registration. Some of these are; various community events, businesses in the community, churches, high schools, college/high school events, assisted living centers and hospitals, and Naturalization ceremonies.

Find out who you need to contact and work with to conduct registration events at these locations. Keep good records of your club's events so that your club can apply for the **Roger Williams Voter Registration Award, 2008-2009** which is to be submitted by Sept.1, 2009. The award will be presented at the TFRW Convention in Galveston in November, 2009. The details of the Voter Registration plan and award are further explained in the attached information.

Good Luck with your events. Remember in addition to registering voters it is equally important to get out the vote!

Sherry Peterson  
Voter Registration Chair



## VOTER REGISTRATION "SHARING THE OPPORTUNITY"

### THE OPPORTUNITY

Any United States citizen may vote provided they are;

\*a resident of the county

\*at least 18 years of age on election day

\*registered to vote

\*not a convicted felon (unless a person's sentence is completed, including any probation or parole)

\*not declared mentally disabled by a court of law

The freedom afforded us in this country to go to the polls and have a voice (a vote) in who our leaders will be, and laws that will be passed, is absolutely an opportunity. This should not be taken for granted, nor should it be ignored. No one should be left out for any reason if they meet the qualifications described above. Many people do not realize how much their votes impact the successes of our country and our leadership. This opportunity is a huge responsibility for all citizens.

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### SHARING THE OPPORTUNITY

As committed Republican Women we must share the opportunity to vote. We need to make ourselves available in our communities to assist in registering to vote, educating the public on the vote (elections, equipment, etc.), and where to vote. Sometimes reminding and encouraging people to vote is all that is needed, but that is equally important in today's busy society.

## **GETTING STARTED**

\*Each Republican Women's Club should appoint a Voter Registration Chairman.

\*Deputize club members-to be able to register voters you must be a Deputy Voter Registrar. Anyone can issue voter registration cards, but only the voter registrar of your county and volunteer deputy registrars can accept completed applications. The process is easy. Simply contact your local voter registrar and have them conduct voter registration education and training, and deputize your members. A good idea is to have it before or after a regularly scheduled meeting. Announce it beforehand and encourage members to participate.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS**

\*First, plan dates and times for voter registration events, and attempt to schedule them in a timely manner according to the election timelines.

\*Secondly, sign up deputized members to assure the dates and times will be covered.

\*Book locations to hold the event.

\*Suggestions for locations;

- Civic groups in your community
- Businesses (grocery stores, local marts, hospitals, fitness centers, etc.)
- Churches
- High schools for graduating seniors
- Local festivals, rodeos, games, etc.
- Assisted Living Centers (may be able to assist residents, visitors, and staff)
- Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens

\*When approaching the person in charge of the location be sure they are aware that this is a non-partisan event.

## **SETTING UP THE VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT**

\*Set up your work/display table in an area where it will be visible to lots of people, if allowed to do so by the person in charge of the location.

\*Place Register to Vote signs inside, outside, or near the location.

\*The registration area should be pleasant, professional, and organized in appearance.

\*Have voter information available to the public, such as; the dates of early voting, upcoming election dates and the location of the polls.

\*Smile and welcome people as they pass by or approach the table to register or seek information.

\*Register voters according to the guidelines provided in the Voter Registration Handbook which was provided by the Voter Registrar to all deputized registrars in the training sessions.

\*Deputy Voter Registrars should have their Certification of Deputation on display during the event.

## **EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS**

\*Keep a record of those who register to vote, those who make a change to their voter registration (address or name change), and those who were provided with information.

\*The Voter Registration Chair for your club should present this information to the members of the club.

\*By keeping this type of information on record the club will know where to focus their efforts the next time.

## **CLUB AWARDS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**

\*Voter registration is included as award activities (points) for the TFRW John Goodwin Tower Award of Excellence.

\*Clubs with the most activity based on their membership numbers will be awarded a cash award (to be determined).

- small club-less than 50 members
- medium sized club- 50 to 100 members
- large club-greater than 100 members

\*Club application for cash award to be submitted by September 1, 2009 to Sherry Peterson, TFRW Voter Registration Chairman



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