

Dear Colleague,

VALUE, the national adult learner leadership organization, urges adult education programs across the country to set aside September 8th through October 8th for civics and voter registration activities in preparation for the November election. This is a non-partisan effort to show that adult learners have a desire and a need to vote and do vote.

We are asking administrators and teachers to include in their lesson plans, topics on election education from September 8th to October 8th. This is to help adult learners to understand why voting is important in a democracy, and to gain information on how to register to vote and the voting procedures in their area. We, at VALUE, Inc are not experts on the voting procedures, but we can guide you to a source that can provide you with all the information you need.

Please read the March 2004 issue of “**The Change Agent**” at www.nelrc.org/Vera/index.htm. It will provide you with important information about how to register to vote. Learners and practitioners who are U.S. citizens can print a form to register to vote or request one to be mailed to them by clicking on the blue box near the bottom of the web page reading, “**Your vote matters**”. They will need to mail in the completed registration form 2-4 weeks before the election, but this varies depending on your state. You will also find in “**The Change Agent**” web links to useful resources and helpful voter education activities.

In addition, the National Council of Nonprofit Associations (NCNA) has developed a toolkit on election activities for 501(c)(3) organizations. It describes the types of election-related activities in which nonprofit charities can engage. In addition to describing the do’s and don’ts, it provides samples and other materials to help charities engage in permissible activities during this election cycle. The website is <http://www.ncna.org>. If you click on **Election 2004 Information**, this will take you to the NCNA election toolkit.

Please help us with this effort! It’s very important to adult learners to show that we care about what happens to our families, to our neighborhoods, and to our country. If your program plans to participate, and we hope you will, please e-mail our colleague, David Rosen, at djrosen@comcast.net. Let him know your name, the name of your program, your town/state, briefly describe what voter education or registration activities you plan. David has agreed to provide updates on program activities to the AAACE-NLA electronic list.

Thanks for your help and support!

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Executive Director
VALUE, Inc.