

2026 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA



Healthcare Workers Leading Civic Engagement for the 2026 Midterm Elections

Civic Health Alliance is launching a comprehensive strategy to mobilize healthcare workers as Champions of civic engagement leading up to the 2026 midterm elections. This initiative recognizes that healthcare professionals possess unique authority and credibility to encourage civic engagement amongst their peers, patients, health systems, and communities around issues that protect health and wellness. Building on the success of VoteHealth 2020 efforts and ongoing work through the Civic Health Alliance, we aim to expand our impact by enrolling 1,000 healthcare workers to lead local civic engagement activities across the nation.

Healthcare workers are positioned at a critical intersection of civic life and community health. When healthcare professionals advocate for policies that protect patient health and well-being, they model civic engagement and demonstrate to patients and colleagues that electoral participation

is fundamentally connected to health outcomes. This 2026 public policy strategy centers on fair and efficient elections while advancing the broader mission of civic engagement as a vital sign of healthy democracy (1).



Research demonstrates that civic engagement has profound positive impacts on the health and well-being of individuals and communities (1-3). Voting rates remain disparate across populations, with doctors voting less frequently than the general population, and participation rates among low-income populations and marginalized communities, significantly below

national averages (4). Poverty, systemic racism, and economic disparities create barriers that prevent millions of Americans from exercising their right to vote (4).

In 2016, only 55.7% of the voting age population cast ballots, placing the United States among the lowest-performing developed nations (5). Through coordinated efforts including VoteHealth 2020, this improved to 66.8% in 2020—the highest percentage achieved in decades. The 1000 Caring Voices project seeks to build on this momentum and sustain this level of engagement during the crucial 2026 midterm elections, a time when healthcare workers are particularly motivated to support policies that protect patient health and well-being. Important policies on the ballot critical to health outcomes include medicaid funding expansion, Affordable Care Act budget coverage, and some states are voting on constitutional amendments to reproductive health.

Why It Matters



Who We Are

Civic Health Alliance is a non-partisan coalition of health and civic leaders allied around a common cause: the advancement of America's health through civic engagement in care settings and communities. We believe that healthcare workers have a critical role to play in strengthening our democracy and that civic engagement is essential to protecting the health and wellness of individuals and communities nationwide.

Levine, Peter. "Civic Engagement, Democracy, and the Common Good." In *Handbook of Research on Civic Engagement in Youth*, edited by Lonnie R. Sherrod, Judith Torney-Purta, and Constance A. Flanagan, Wiley, 2010.

Michael J. Pancer (2015). "Impacts of Civic Engagement on Programs, Organizations, Neighborhoods, and Communities." In *The Psychology of Citizenship and Civic Engagement*, OUP. Andermann A; CLEAR Collaboration. Taking action on the social determinants of health in clinical practice: a framework for health professionals. *CMAJ*. 2016 Dec 6;188(17-18):E474-E483. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.160177. Epub 2016 Aug 8. PMID: 27503870; PMCID: PMC5135524.

Seth A. Seabury et al., "Analysis of Reported Voting Behaviors of US Physicians, 2000–2020," *JAMA Network Open* 2022.

McDonald, Michael P. "Voter Turnout in the 2016 Presidential Election." *Journal of Political Marketing*

Our Strategic Initiative: The 1000 Caring Voices Project

The 1000 Caring Voices project is a four-phase initiative designed to activate healthcare workers as Champions of civic engagement for the 2026 midterms.

Phase 1: RECRUIT (February to April 2026)

Civic Health Alliance will recruit 1,000 healthcare workers through a multi-channel campaign including 8–12 educational webinars, social media outreach, and direct engagement using our comprehensive database and national partnerships with organizations such as Vot-ER, New Voters, and Doctors for America. The recruitment phase emphasizes identifying high-commitment Champions who will employ a train-the-trainer model to amplify civic engagement efforts across their regions and networks. Recruitment will prioritize healthcare workers from diverse professional backgrounds and geographic regions to ensure nationwide reach and representation.

Phase 2: TRAIN (April to July 2026)

Champions will participate in 3–6 virtual training sessions providing comprehensive education on civic engagement fundamentals within healthcare settings. Training will emphasize both the “Why” and “How” of civic health, equipping Champions with knowledge about the connection between voting and health outcomes, as well as practical tools for voter registration and civic engagement activities. Sessions will focus on co-creating mechanisms for localized Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) activities and will provide resources for Champions to lead efforts in their communities. Pilot trainings have been already delivered and co-designed with physician experts.

Phase 3: IMPLEMENT (August - Nov 2026)

During the critical election period, Champions will implement local activities to increase voter registration and turnout, with efforts measured using customized QR codes to evaluate reach and impact of individual Champions. Activities will expand beyond traditional GOTV efforts to include broader civic engagement initiatives and meaningful collaboration with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Champions will educate staff, patients, and communities on the connection between civic engagement and health outcomes, while empowering people to vote as safely and easily as possible by eliminating barriers to voting.

Phase 4: REFLECT (Nov 2026 - Feb 2027)

Following the midterm elections, data from each Champion site will be comprehensively analyzed to assess outcomes and inform long-term sustainability planning. Key project deliverables during this phase include publishing a “Playbook for Community Civic Engagement” that documents best practices, and developing permanent infrastructure for year-round policy advocacy. Additionally, a unique curriculum for integrating civic engagement into healthcare education will be created, ensuring that civic engagement becomes institutionalized within healthcare training and practice.

Project Goals and Outcomes

The 1000 Caring Voices project aims to generate significant civic engagement impact during the 2026 midterms, with targeted outcomes including:

- Generating 15,000+ individual civic engagements through Champion-led activities
- Supporting at least 15,000 individuals in voting safely and easily
- Establishing a permanent infrastructure for sustained civic engagement year-round
- Creating standardized, non-partisan communications and Champion toolkits with accessibility features and multilingual support

JOIN US AT CIVICHEALTHALL.COM