



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Maine Association of Nonprofits Celebrates National Voter Registration Day**

**Portland, ME** - Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP), the largest membership organization in the state dedicated to working with Maine's nonprofits, is celebrating National Voter Registration Day by encouraging all of Maine's nonprofits to take the time to ensure all staff, volunteers and board members are registered to vote. MANP is a member of the [Nonprofit Votes Count](#) campaign, a nonpartisan initiative started by Independent Sector, National Council of Nonprofits, Nonprofit VOTE and United Way Worldwide.

"It's simple - voter engagement efforts build stronger communities," said Mary Erin Casale, Advocacy and PR Manager for MANP. "These efforts give people a voice and the benefits of civic engagement go far beyond the ballot box. Nonprofits whose communities vote have more access to elected officials, increased influence on issues, and are better positioned to advance their mission. Here in Maine we're fortunate to have access to Same Day Voter Registration, but that doesn't mean we should wait until November to make sure everyone in our community is registered."

National Voter Registration Day, started in 2012, is designed to create an annual moment when the entire nation focuses on registering Americans to exercise their most basic right—the right to vote. More than 356,000 Americans have been registered to vote since the inaugural National Voter Registration Day. Specific outreach by nonprofit organizations can help create a more representative electorate. Nonprofits disproportionately reach individuals who are younger, lower-income, and more diverse than the general public—groups that historically participate at lower rates.

"Even though the presidential election is more than a year from now, it's important to remind folks that there is a referendum election this November, too. Too often there is a major drop off in participation or a lack of awareness of what is on the ballot," said Casale. "Today we want to make sure that nonprofits set an example for the communities they serve and remember that a civically engaged board, staff and volunteer base are fundamental to their mission, programs and impact on public policy."

For more information on MANP and our advocacy work, visit <http://www.nonprofitmaine.org/advocate/> or call (207)871-1885.

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*Since 1994, MANP has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run. With a growing statewide membership of almost 800 nonprofit and 135 for-profit organizations, MANP **advances** the public profile of Maine nonprofits by highlighting their vital contribution to the quality of life in our state, **connects** people, organizations and resources from all sectors to foster collaborative problem solving, and **strengthens** nonprofits by providing management training and leadership development programs, resources and services to help staff and board leaders enhance their community mission impact.*

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