

10 Activities to Maximize Your Election Advocacy Efforts

Election season provides advocates a unique and powerful opportunity to advance child care issues in their community. Check out the tips below to learn more about the non-partisan election activities you can do in your community to send a clear message about the importance of child care.

- **Host an Event** – Events like candidate forums and debates can help connect voters in your community with candidates running for office and provide them with an opportunity to ask questions. [Watch Lisa's Advocate Spotlight](#), where she shares her experience hosting a candidate forum all about child care.
- **Host a Lawmaker Visit** – Election season is a great time to invite candidates and current lawmakers for program site visits to continue building support for child care at the local, state, and federal levels [Watch Mary's Advocate Spotlight](#), where she shares her experience hosting lawmakers for site visits.
- **Host A Voter Registration Drive** – Hosting a non-partisan voter registration drive allows you to help register people to vote in your community. Learn more about the dos and don'ts of conducting a voter registration drive with this [Bolder Advocacy fact sheet](#).
- **Create A Candidate Questionnaire** – Candidate questionnaires are valuable for informing voters about where their candidates stand on child care issues. Use this [fact sheet from Bolder Advocacy](#) for guidance on creating your own candidate questionnaire.
- **Write an Op-Ed or LTE for Your Local Paper** – Opposite the Editorial Page (Op-Eds) and Letters to the Editor (LTEs) are valuable for shaping public opinion and raising awareness about an election's impact on child care. Trusted outlets provide clear guidelines for submission, making the process accessible to anyone. If you are interested in media assistance, contact us at takeaction@usa.childcareaware.org.

- **Support or Oppose a Ballot Measure** — If your organization lobbies, supporting or opposing child care ballot measures in your community is permissible during an election cycle. Read more about this election activity with [Bolder Advocacy](#).
- **Continue Advocating for Child Care** – Advocating for pending legislation at the state or federal levels is permitted during an election cycle as long the legislation is within your scope of work and will not influence how people vote. View our [State Policy Dashboard](#) here to check your state's current policy context.
- **Post on Social Media** — Sharing your resources and pictures from your events on social media is an excellent way to amplify your outreach efforts to voters. Check out CCAoA's social media election toolkit for downloadable graphics and shareable messages to post on your pages.
- **Share Your Story** — Sharing your story can help candidates better understand child care's role in our country and how they can support the system if elected. [Watch our Art of Advocacy storytelling webinar](#) to help you craft and share your story.
- **Encourage People to Vote** — Sharing why voting is important and providing information on how, where, and when to vote can help make it easier for voters in your community to craft their election-day plans. Learn more about [voting requirements in your state with Rock the Vote](#).

Remember, advocacy takes many forms, and there's no one-size-fits-all approach. Find what works best for you and take action. No matter how small, your work can make a difference in ensuring child care remains at the forefront this election season.

The above activities are far from a comprehensive list of allowable election activities you can do. For others, check out these [resources from Bolder Advocacy](#) for more information.