

## Vot-ER: Where healthcare meets democracy

Healthcare professionals dedicate their careers to improving the health of their patients, yet **80% of health outcomes are determined beyond clinical walls**. Vot-ER is bridging this gap in care with a groundbreaking prescription: civic engagement. By integrating nonpartisan civic engagement into healthcare settings, we empower patients and providers to alleviate the underlying factors of health disparities. Together, we're not just treating symptoms – we're tackling root causes of public health outcomes and fostering a healthier, more equitable society.

*"I can keep writing prescriptions for my patients' asthma, but without Vot-ER we cannot effectively empower patients to have agency over their own health and effectively advocate for cleaner air."*

**Dr. Alister Martin, MD, MPP**  
Emergency Room Physician and Founder of Vot-ER

Founded in 2020, Vot-ER is a nonpartisan nonprofit at the leading edge of the civic health movement. We are rapidly growing with over 350 institutional partnerships, 700 participating sites, and 50,000 healthcare professionals taking action inside their healthcare centers and clinics. A few of our partners include:



**The American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognize voting as a social determinant of health.** The Association of American Medical Colleges has shared guidelines for medical schools, and major academic medical institutions, smaller rural clinics, and national patient advocacy groups alike have embraced the civic health movement to improve patient wellbeing.

**At Vot-ER, we are pioneering the integration of nonpartisan civic engagement into healthcare.** Our swift and easy HIPAA compliant resources promote employee happiness, combat burnout, and cultivate deeper trust between the provider and patient. Our efforts have garnered widespread recognition, earning features in media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *Washington Post*, *NBC*, *NPR*, and *PBS NewsHour*.



## On the road to better health, every vote counts

Together, we can uplift our patients' voices in shaping local, state, & federal health policy, through the power of their vote. 83% of adults will visit a health space in the next year. Research shows that voter registration and turnout, especially in local elections, has a direct impact on health and public investment in health. Here is how we come in:

### National Voter Registration Day

Institutions encourage voter registration among patients and healthcare staff in September through mass emails, texts, tabling events, and more.

### Badges & Resources

Healthcare professionals can simply wear their free badge backer, ask about voter registration, and have patients scan the QR code for effortless voter registration.

### Civic Health Month

August becomes a nationwide collective celebration, highlighting the link between voting and health, with over 300 institutions organizing events.

### Healthy Democracy Campaign

Graduate students compete in teams each fall to register voters on campus, promoting civic engagement among healthcare-related graduate students.

### Community Civic Engagement Program

This grant program funds and supports community health centers in implementing voter registration and education initiatives at the local level.

### Patient Voting

Our program ensures healthcare professionals are equipped to help hospitalized patients vote on Election Day with state-specific information and resources.



Since 2020, **Einstein Healthcare, Penn Medicine, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** have forged a strong alliance with Vot-ER. They seamlessly integrate Vot-ER materials into their waiting rooms and discharge paperwork, and staff wear Vot-ER badges & lanyards. Together, they've orchestrated multi-hospital voter registration drives on National Voter Registration Day (NBC Philadelphia, 2022). The Einstein CEO also celebrated Civic Health Month by emailing all staff a reminder about the importance of voting, which resulted in an impressive 491 voter registrations in one day.

## A new kind of prescription: a healthier democracy

Together, when healthcare professionals, administrations, universities, associations, companies and government agencies work toward increasing civic engagement, we can alleviate systemic health issues in the communities where we live, work, and play.

Join the civic health movement at [vot-er.org/join](https://vot-er.org/join)

## Healthcare plays an essential role in voter access

Together, we can uplift our patients' voices in shaping local, state, & federal health policy, through the power of their vote. 83% of adults will visit a health space in the next year. Research shows that voter registration and turnout, especially in local elections, has a direct impact on health and public investment in health. Here is how Vot-ER comes in:



### 1993 VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

Spaces like healthcare facilities have been encouraged to conduct voter registration activities since the [1993 Voter Registration Act](#), the same law that designated DMVs and state offices that provide public assistance as voter registration agencies.



### HIPAA

Because the patient inputs their own information in an opt-in fashion, this information is *not* subject to HIPAA regulations. [Learn more here.](#)



### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

All public healthcare institutions and public or private nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations [can operate voter registration drives](#) if they do so in a nonpartisan way, "without reference to any candidate or political party."



### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Health Resources & Services Administration division of HHS provides [federal guidances](#) stating, "Health centers have discretion, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to support non-partisan voter registration efforts as a means of reducing barriers to civic engagement within the communities they serve."

## Let's make an impact

Similarly to the Departments of Motor Vehicles, healthcare facilities can play an integral role in voter registration. Health touchpoints — like the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Massachusetts General Hospital, AltaMed Health Services, and 700+ more — have become a crucial part of the puzzle to keep voter registration information up to date and ensure that patient voices are included in local, state, and federal decisions about health policy and funding. Join the movement today with a new kind of prescription for a healthier democracy.