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## NC Conservation Network

### Tip Sheet #4: GOTV for environmental nonprofits

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*Taken largely from [Democracy NC's stellar GOTV materials!](#)*

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### GOTV for environmental nonprofits

GOTV is one of the most important things nonprofits can do to better our communities, our state, and our nation. GOTV stands for "Get Out The Vote" and refers to activities encouraging citizens to register and vote. This month's Tip Sheet is dedicated to GOTV as some important dates are coming up:

April 11: last day to change party affiliation and register by mail.

April 17 – May 3: early voting and same day registration at early voting sites.

May 6: NC Primary.

*Most of the below information comes from Democracy NC's 2008 Election Connection for how [nonprofit groups](#) can help.*

#### **Promote voter participation in North Carolina as a nonprofit group:**

Tip #1: **Register new voters.** Remind your members to register. They can [print out and mail in the registration form](#) to their county board of elections by April 11. You can also obtain voter registration forms and instructions from your [local Board of Elections](#) or call Democracy North Carolina at 1-888-687-8683 for more information. Remember all forms must be postmarked or turned into the Board of Elections at least 25 days before the election (April 11).

Tip #2: **Join a local Get-Out-the-Vote coalition** and help other non-profit groups in your area register and motivate voters to go to the polls. Democracy North Carolina is working with coalitions in such areas as Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Salisbury, Wilson, and Winston-Salem.

Tip #3: **Distribute flyers** on [Same Day Registration & Voting](#) to let people know they can register and vote early, at Early Voting sites, from 19 to 3 days before any Primary or General Election. [Click here](#) to download a flyer (3 per page) or contact Democracy North Carolina for copies to distribute at 888-687-8386.

Tip #4: **Ask your members to fill out and return commitment cards**, which are simply signed pledges to vote. You can [download a sheet](#) with several commitment cards, which you can then reproduce. These cards also serve as contact forms: Your volunteers can call the card signers and remind them to vote.

Tip #5: **Remind your members about where and when to vote.** Most people who are infrequent voters or have never voted before need basic information to encourage them to vote. Remember to send an email reminder about voting on May 6 or voting early from April 17-May 3. Some helpful links include:

- [Click here](#) to find all the early voting locations and times listed by county.
- [Click here](#) to look up your polling place.
- [Click here](#) to confirm your voter registration information.

**Resources to share with your volunteers and activists:**

[Check out](#) the North Carolina Voters' Bill of Rights, compiled by Democracy NC.

**Democracy NC has also created a website** called, [2008 Election Connection](#). "2008 Election Connection" answers questions like: How do I vote by mail? Can a 17 year old vote in the primary? What about ex-felons? Where is my polling place? Can people who are registered as Unaffiliated vote in the primary? What is Same Day Registration & Voting? Where do I register if I'm a college student? Where do I vote if I've moved recently?

**For more information:**

Visit Democracy NC [online](#) or give them a call at 888-OUR-VOTE.

Contact [Nicole Stewart](#) (x105) or [Peter Walz](#) (x106) with the NC Conservation Network.

*To help us better meet your needs as an affiliate of the NC Conservation Network, **please take two minutes to complete a very short survey:***

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oNlsdGJliwDRKCRA47xr4w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oNlsdGJliwDRKCRA47xr4w_3d_3d).

*Thank you!*