Host A PFLAG Votes Together Party

A PFLAG Votes 2026 Toolkit from PFLAG National

PFLAG Votes Together is part of *PFLAG Votes*, PFLAG National's nonpartisan civic engagement program. *PFLAG Votes Together* creates opportunities for chapters, members, and supporters to vote in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. Voting together creates a welcoming and affirming experience for LGBTQ+ voters while making civic engagement more accessible, energizing, and fun. It also sends a powerful message to the broader community, encouraging others to participate, building momentum, and showing that every vote matters.

Research consistently shows that people are more likely to vote when encouraged by friends, family, and members of their community. By organizing a *PFLAG Votes Together* party, you can inspire participation, strengthen community connections, and increase voter turnout.

This guide takes you through each step of planning a successful *PFLAG Votes Together* party or event. Use it as a starting point, then make it your own. Get creative, involve other advocates and community partners, share responsibilities, and tailor your event to fit your community. No matter the event you choose, prioritize accessibility for all. Resources like **Nonprofit Votes' Guide to Engaging Voters with Disabilities** [***nonprofitvote.org/disability-vote***] are a great place to start.

However you choose to participate, you'll be turning Pride into power, one vote at a time.

Step 1: Do Your Homework

Whether you are having a ballot party to fill in your mail-in ballots or meeting up to go to the polls together on election day, it is important that you research the deadlines and restrictions in your state to determine the best date, time, and place to vote early, whether in person or by mail. You can find all of this information and more on **the PFLAG National VOTE411 web page** [***vote411.org/pflag***].

Step 2: Decide What, Where, and When

Now that you know the rules and deadlines, pick the type of *PFLAG Votes Together* party you want to host, and choose a date, time, and place to host it. There are all types to consider, including hosting an early voting, mail-in ballot, or Election Day party. When picking a date and time, consider choosing something that coincides with an already-scheduled meeting, a civic holiday like **National Early Vote Day** [***voteearlyday.org***] on October 24th, or simply a date that works best for you and your friends, family, or network. In picking your location, prioritize accessibility for all. Consider checking in with your local library, an affirming church, community center, etc. If your party is to gather people to vote together in person, make sure your event is near your polling place or vote center for an easier commute.

As best as you can, time your event for early in-person voting. Many places have fewer polling locations available during early voting, often consolidating multiple polling places into one. This makes it easier for you to bring a crowd and ensure everyone is in the right spot to vote. While there are fewer sites, they tend to be centrally located which can make it easier for participants to join your event.

If you have any questions or would like support planning your event, please contact advocacy@pflag.org.

Step 3: Partner Up

Consider asking local organizations to join your efforts, such as your local League of Women Voters chapter, NAACP unit, state equality organization, or local LGBTQ+ center. Make sure you clarify up front that your event is non-partisan and that you will not promote any partisan political groups nor candidates running for office.

Step 4: Invite Your Guests

Now that you have your date set, determine who you would like to invite. You can keep it to just your chapter network, open it up to your broader community, spread the word on social media or through community calendars, etc. Don't forget to send reminders early and often as the date gets closer!

Step 5: Gather the Info

Make sure your attendees know what offices are up for election and who the candidates are. Use tools like non-partisan voting guides put out by organizations like the League of Women Voters or have folks take a look at Ballotpedia. This will make it easy for everyone to learn about down-ballot races and local measures. Having these resources easily accessible will take the stress out of filling out the ballot, and guests will appreciate having clear, nonpartisan information to refer to. You can email these resources out before your event or have the websites on hand for folks to look up at the event.

For more in depth information about a candidate's stances on the issues, their voting record, and more, you can check out your state's equality group. Many state equality groups will be publishing election guides that can help you find candidates that support the issues you care about and make an informed choice when you cast your ballot.

Step 6: Be Prepared

A little planning goes a long way in making your party a success. Having the right resources on hand is key!

If hosting a party for early or Election Day in-person voting:

- **Election Protection Resources.** If attendees encounter problems voting, they can contact the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE or visit 866ourvote.org for assistance. Consider printing voting rights one-pagers to have available at your event.

- **Wear Your PFLAG Swag.** PFLAG is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization. Wearing PFLAG apparel or other PFLAG-branded items is not considered electioneering and generally should be permitted at polling places. If you are asked to remove or cover your PFLAG gear, remain calm and comply with the instructions so you can cast your ballot without delay. You can file a complaint after you vote.

- **Water and Snacks.** Lines at the polls can be long, so encourage attendees to stay hydrated and bring a snack if needed.

Step 6: Be Prepared (cont'd)

If hosting a mail-in ballot party:

- **Pens Up!** Be sure to bring enough to share or ask folks to bring their own. Be sure to check if there are any restrictions on what can be used before people fill in their ballots.

- **Refreshments.** Bring food and drinks to help create a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Invite participants to bring their favorite snack to share or organize a potluck to strengthen your sense of community while celebrating civic engagement.

- **Sample Ballot.** Take a look at a sample ballot before you put pen to paper. You can find sample ballots on our VOTE411 page or your Secretary of State's website.

- **Nonpartisan Voter Guides.** Help attendees prepare by sharing trusted, nonpartisan voter guides. Check whether your state equality organization, local League of Women Voters chapter, NAACP unit, or another civic engagement organization has created a guide that you can distribute before or during your event.

Step 7: It's Party Time!

It's the day of your party! Take a few minutes to welcome everyone, review the plan for the day, and answer any last-minute questions.

Before you kick things off, invite participants to share why they are voting in this year's election and what they hope their vote will accomplish. These conversations help build community, remind us why our voices matter, and inspire others to stay engaged. Need a conversation starter? Check out pflag.org/pflagvotes to learn more about why we're Turning Pride Into Power at the polls this year!

If your group is voting in person, travel to the polling place together if possible. Once everyone has voted, consider gathering afterward for coffee, lunch, or another informal activity to celebrate your collective civic engagement.

If you are hosting a mail-in ballot party, make sure everyone has completed and sealed their ballot correctly. Review any state-specific requirements, such as witness signatures or identification requirements, and encourage participants to submit their ballots before leaving the party. If you are not able to mail or return ballots together, ensure everyone has a plan for when and where they will return their ballot—ideally before they leave the event.

Step 8: Capture the Moment

Take photos of your group before or after voting and encourage participants to share the photo on social media, along with why they voted. Personal stories and photos inspire others to participate, demonstrate the power of PFLAG advocates at the polls, and encourage more people to cast their ballots.

Please consider sharing your images to social media AND **sending them to the PFLAG National Digital team at digital@pflag.org**. We'd love to uplift your work on our social media platforms!

Step 9: Keep It Going

Be sure to thank the folks that joined your *PFLAG Votes Together* party. Consider bringing everyone back together to attend a candidate forum or for an Election Night watch party. You can make it easy on yourself and host it at a restaurant showing the results or host it on your own.
Important things to keep in mind:

- **No Incentives For Voting.** Federal law prohibits providing incentives or anything of value, no matter how small, to encourage or reward voting. To comply with the law, if your celebration is providing food, buttons, stickers, or anything else, it must be provided free to all attendees, whether or not they are voting.

- **Keep it Nonpartisan.** PFLAG National and its chapters are non-partisan 501c3 organizations. No part of your or event promotions can advocate for or against—or be coordinated on behalf of—any candidate, political party, or measure on the ballot.

- **Know the Local Rules and Regulations.** Research and comply with any and all applicable electioneering rules, permitting, or regulations, as there may be specific rules related to events and election activity in your state, county, or locality. For example, many states prohibit anyone other than the voter from completing any portion of a ballot, so be sure each participant completes only their own ballot.

Step 10: Tell Us About It!

We'd love to see your party in action—and we'd love your permission to share it with our supporters and celebrate your work! **Send your updates and photos to advocacy@pflag.org** so we can celebrate your efforts and showcase the impact PFLAG advocates are making in communities across the country.

By hosting a *PFLAG Votes Together* event, you'll make voting more accessible and engaging while creating opportunities for meaningful conversations about the issues that matter most. Gather your friends, family, and neighbors, strengthen your community, and make voting an experience to remember.

If you have any questions or would like support planning your event, **please contact advocacy@pflag.org**.

We're here to help!