

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

WITHIN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM



What is **civic engagement**?

Civic engagement is when citizens participate in the various systems of their communities to improve quality of life and protect community values.

Civic engagement has **four tenants**:

- 1) **CIVIC ACTION**: participation in activities that better your community
- 2) **CIVIC DUTY**: willingness to make positive contributions within your community
- 3) **CIVIC SKILLS**: involvement in civil society, politics, & democracy
- 4) **SOCIAL COHESION**: sense of reciprocity, trust, & connection to one's community

One type of civic engagement is **political engagement**, or the active participation in political processes, institutions, and activities. This includes participating in our electoral system. There are many ways to engage this way, all requiring various levels of **time**, **commitment**, and **public interaction**.

VOTING

Time: low-high **Commitment: low** **Public interaction: low**



This may be the most well-known form of political engagement, yet voter turnout often lags – especially when it comes to local and state elections that occur in odd years, as there are no national elections.

- Check your state's upcoming elections [here](#).
- Find your state's voter laws [here](#).

GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

Time: medium **Commitment: medium** **Public interaction: medium**

Get out the vote (GOTV) efforts are nonpartisan ways to increase voter turnout so that more people can have a voice in who represents them at the local, state, and federal levels. With GOTV, you can be as involved as you want to be! SMFM has partnered with [Vot-ER](#) to make having conversations about voting with patients and colleagues easier.

- [Order a free badge from Vot-ER](#) with a QR code to wear at work! Your patients can scan to check their voter registration status, update their voter records, or register to vote.



BECOME A POLL WORKER

Time: high **Commitment: medium** **Public interaction: high**

Poll workers are an essential part of elections – both on and before election day. Specific duties will vary depending on your location, though common tasks include setting up and preparing the polling location, welcoming voters, verifying registration, and issuing ballots.

- You can learn more and sign up to [become a poll worker here](#).