



NBA Community Election Forum Local Partnership Guide



Finding the Right Partner for Your Community Election Forum.

Local partners can strengthen your Election Protection Salon or Community Election Forum by bringing trusted community relationships, voter education expertise, local knowledge, or other capabilities your Affiliate may not have on its own.

The goal is simple: **identify what you need, then find the right organization to help provide it.**

Start With the Need

Before reaching out to an organization, ask: ***What would make our program stronger?***

You may need a partner to help:

- Reach community members or a particular population
- Provide voter education or registration support
- Bring subject-matter expertise
- Provide a speaker or facilitator
- Help promote the program
- Provide a trusted community venue or local connection

Start with the capability you need—not the organization you already know.

Find the Right Partner

Look for organizations with relevant expertise and trusted relationships in your community.

Potential partners may include civil rights and civic organizations, community-based organizations, other bar associations and legal organizations, law schools and universities, and approved NBA Election Protection partners or their local networks.

Another NBA Affiliate or entity may also have expertise or relationships you can leverage.

Before You Proceed

Ask four questions:

FIT — Does the organization bring expertise, reach, relationships, or capacity we need?

ALIGNMENT — Is the proposed collaboration consistent with the NBA Election Protection Initiative's nonpartisan purpose?

ROLE — Is it clear what the Affiliate and partner will each do?

RISK — Are there legal, reputational, political, financial, or operational concerns that require NBA review?

If you have significant concerns, contact NBA Election Protection Initiative leadership before making a commitment.

Decide How You'll Work Together

A partner does not necessarily need to co-host the entire program.

A local partner might:

CO-HOST

Help plan and deliver the Salon or Forum.

EDUCATE

Provide voter education, registration support, or substantive expertise.

SPEAK

Provide an appropriate expert, facilitator, or community voice.

CONNECT

Help the Affiliate reach communities or constituencies it wants to engage.

PROMOTE

Help appropriate audiences learn about and attend the program.

Before moving forward, agree on the **purpose, roles, audience, communications, branding, logistics, and primary contacts**.

Make a Clear Ask

Keep your initial outreach short and specific.

Sample Outreach

Subject: NBA Election Protection Community Forum Collaboration

Dear [Name],

I am reaching out on behalf of [NBA Affiliate] as part of the National Bar Association's nonpartisan Election Protection Initiative.

We are planning a community-facing Election Protection Salon/Forum focused on [brief purpose] and believe [Organization]'s experience in [area] could strengthen the program.

We would welcome a brief conversation about whether you might [specific ask — provide voter education expertise / help reach community members / participate in the program / support voter registration].

Please let me know if you would be available to connect.

Thank you,

[Name]
Election Protection Lead
[NBA Affiliate]
[Email] | [Phone]

Know When to Contact NBA Headquarters

Contact NBA Headquarters / Election Protection Initiative leadership **before**:

- Entering into an agreement or MOU
- Making a financial commitment
- Authorizing use of national NBA branding outside established guidance
- Issuing joint national communications
- Representing an organization as an official national NBA partner
- Making a commitment on behalf of the National Bar Association
- Proceeding with a relationship presenting significant legal, political, reputational, or operational concerns

NBA Contact: ElectionProtection@nationalbar.org

Close the Loop

After the program:

Thank the partner. Share relevant results. Determine whether future collaboration makes sense. Report the activity and impact to the NBA.

[REPORT YOUR ACTIVITY & IMPACT →](#)

Quick Check

Before confirming a partnership, make sure you can answer **yes**:

PURPOSE — We know what we need the partner to help accomplish.

FIT — The organization brings something useful and complementary.

NONPARTISANSHIP — The collaboration is consistent with the Initiative's nonpartisan purpose.

ROLES — Everyone understands who is responsible for what.

AUTHORITY — We have authority to make the commitments being discussed.

Operating Principle

Collaborate where partnership makes the work stronger. Keep the NBA's role clear, the purpose nonpartisan, and the focus on serving the community.

