Ombudsman Program and Voting in LTC Facilities

1. Introduction

In recent months, there has been a growing interest in the role that various actors play in helping residents of long-term care facilities to exercise their right to vote. By request of the Administration on Aging, the National Ombudsman Resource Center (NORC) has joined an initiative to study the activities of the LTC Ombudsman Program regarding voter-registration and turnout of residents of long-term care facilities.

This questionnaire collects information about the current activities of state and local ombudsman programs in securing and promoting the voting rights of residents of long-term care facilities. Your answers will help us to better understand the challenges and opportunities to achieve greater political participation of residents in long-term care facilities.

This questionnaire should take you approximately 7 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

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2. Program Information

* 1. Please, choose your state:

State: [▼]

* 2. Are you a state, local or volunteer ombudsman?

- ◌ State
- ◌ Local
- ◌ Volunteer

3. For how many years have you served in the current position?

[_____]

4. For how many years have you been involved in the field of long-term care?

[_____]

5. How many paid staff and volunteers do you have in your program?

Paid Staff [_____]

Volunteers [_____]

6. How many nursing homes and assisted living facilities does your program oversee?

Nursing Homes [_____]

Assisted Living/
Board+Care [_____]

3. Activities

7. In your experience, how would you describe the political engagement (interest in politics, level of political information, registration, turnout) of residents of long-term care facilities in your area?

	1 (Low)	2	3 (Average)	4	5 (High)
Level of Engagement	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

8. Based on your knowledge, who is involved in following activities (Check All that Apply):

	Ombudsman Program Staff and Volunteers	Political Parties and Campaigns	Board of Election Officials	LTC Facility Staff and Administration	Non-Partisan Advocacy Groups	Family or Friends
a. helping residents to obtain voter registration forms	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
b. helping residents to fill out voter registration forms	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
c. helping residents to obtain absentee ballots	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
d. helping residents to fill out absentee ballots	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
e. helping residents to vote in person	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
f. training staff to help residents with registration and voting	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
g. arranging transportation to polls	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
h. coordinating information sessions, debates, etc.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
i. coordinating visits of candidates and parties to facilities	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
j. helping residents with dementia and other cognitive impairments	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

9. Has your program engaged in other activities besides those mentioned above?

10. Does your program receive or allocate resources to help residents exercise their right to vote?

◯ 1. Yes

◯ 2. No

11. Are there long-term care facilities in your area that serve as polling places?

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Don't Know

12. Have you received any complaints related to voting rights during this year?

- ◌ Yes
- ◌ No
- ◌ Don't Know

4. Source

13. By whom? (Check All that Apply)

- ◌ Relatives or Friends
- ◌ Family Council
- ◌ Ombudsmen
- ◌ Residents
- ◌ Facility Staff
- ◌ Advocacy Groups
- ◌ Political Party or Campaign

5. Contact Information

14. Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please, provide us with your name and email if you are interested in receiving the analysis and results of this study.

Name: [   ]

Email Address: [   ]

15. Lastly, we welcome your general comments on the survey, and your ideas about strategies to increase the political involvement of residents of long-term care facilities, as well as your knowledge of any organization that is doing a notable effort to achieve greater political participation in LTC facilities.