



Dear Chapter President:

Over the next two months the nation will be focusing on the 2008 election. AHEPA has launched a national vote campaign, and asks for your chapter's help to advance our mission of civic participation and to recruit new members during this election season.

We hope this letter serves as a checklist to your chapter to do to make this national effort a success.

### **THE AHEPA VOTE CAMPAIGN 2008**

Voter Registration Day – October 5

AHEPA Town Hall – Mid October

Election Day – November 4

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

In most states October 6 is the last day to register to vote before the election. We ask that on Sunday, October 5 your chapter holds a non-partisan voter registration drive, making sure everyone is registered to vote before the registration deadline. This drive can be held at an after-church coffee or community event.

- During these events, urge early voting and the importance of voting by mail. Your local Supervisor of Elections will be able to provide information and forms.
- Make sure at all these events you also push Chapter membership and distribute membership forms or brochures.

### **Suggested Location Tips**

1. Use the AHEPA Vote poster to promote your event!
2. Church Coffee Tips
  - a. Ask priest to include the importance of civic participation in the sermon
  - b. Ask church and AHEPA leaders to rally the congregants as they're leaving the service and/or set up an additional registration table outside the church.
3. Greek Festival Tips
  - a. Ask if other groups are doing voter registration and cross promote efforts
  - b. Ask any elected officials or candidates attending to promote your voter registration effort.
4. Greek Restaurant Tips
  - a. Ask owner if a "free item" or discount could be offered for anyone who registers to vote.
  - b. If the restaurant is unavailable, but the location is heavily trafficked, voter registration tables are legal on any public land (sidewalks, city property, etc.)
5. Community Hall Tips
  - a. Promote the event through community calendars.

### **Resources**

- Voter Registration Form: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/National\\_Voter\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/National_Voter_Registration_Form.pdf)
- AHEPA Vote Poster: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/AHEPA\\_Vote\\_Poster.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/AHEPA_Vote_Poster.pdf)

## AHEPA TOWN HALL

As candidates across the country hold town hall forums to discuss issues, AHEPA needs to be the vehicle for promoting Greek American Issues. The AHEPA Vote website ([ahepa.org/vote](http://ahepa.org/vote)) has information about these issues and where Members of Congress and the Presidential candidates stand on these issues. Although as a non-partisan organization we are not allowed to endorse a candidate or party, it is important for us to educate the public on where the candidates stand on our issues.

Mid October, we ask your chapter to hold an AHEPA Town Hall (AHEPA meeting, church coffee or community event) and make available the AHEPA 2008 Congressional Scorecard and the 2008 Presidential Questionnaire.

We also want you to ask a local Greek-American or Philhellene elected official to speak on the importance of other Greek-Americans or Philhellenes to run for public office. This is a great way to build stronger bridges with your elected officials and to promote civic participation. This is also a great chapter membership recruitment opportunity!

### Resources

1. Congressional Scorecard: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/2008\\_Congressional\\_Scorecard.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/2008_Congressional_Scorecard.pdf)
2. Presidential Questionnaire: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/2008\\_Presidential\\_Questionnaire.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/2008_Presidential_Questionnaire.pdf)
3. AHEPA Vote Poster: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/AHEPA\\_Vote\\_Poster.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/AHEPA_Vote_Poster.pdf)

## ELECTION DAY

On Tuesday, November 4, it is vital for every Ahepan and Greek-American to make their voice heard at the ballot box. As many of our members and community are older and sometimes have problems getting to the polls, this day provides a great opportunity for your chapter to show the community and perspective members the great work we do. We ask your chapter to be active and visible on this day through the following projects:

### 1. AHEPA Van to the Polls

Decorate a minivan or sedan with AHEPA insignia and vote posters and make sure everyone at your local AHEPA Housing and senior living centers have rides to the polls. You can also do a phone bank of your membership to make sure everyone has the ability to vote and votes on Election Day.

### 2. Absentee Ballot/Vote by Mail Pickup Service

Make sure everyone who filled out a vote by mail form has mailed it into the Supervisor of Elections office – if not, offer to stop by, collect it, and deliver it to the office for them – don't let any vote go uncounted!

### 3. Church Visibility

Many Greek Orthodox Churches are used as polling locations. This is the perfect opportunity for your chapter to shine as leaders in the community. Set up an AHEPA Vote table outside, offering rides to the polls (see AHEPA Van) and asking perspective members to join your chapter.

### Resources

- AHEPA Vote Poster: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/AHEPA\\_Vote\\_Poster.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/AHEPA_Vote_Poster.pdf)
- Membership Brochure: [http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/ahepa\\_membership\\_brochure.pdf](http://ahepa.org/uploads/pdf/ahepa_membership_brochure.pdf)
- AHEPA VOTE Website: <http://www.ahepa.org/vote>