

Voting with Children's Health and a Pediatric Resident's Schedule in Mind Opportunities

The following opportunities were designed to give you a chance to incorporate skills from today's module into your professional practice. Many of these opportunities can be done in as little as 5 minutes. You are encouraged to choose opportunities that relate to your personal interests and fit with your schedule.

Opportunities in as Little as 5 Minutes:

- Look up voter registration information for your state of residence and fill out an on-line voter registration form or apply for absentee voting. (www.vote411.org)
- Find out when local elections are taking place by visiting the Secretary of State Web site or the election page of your local municipality's Web site. Mark the date on your calendar and be sure to vote.
- Look for issues that you see in your work and ask yourself how these issues relate to voting at the local, state, and federal level.
- Look for opportunities within your work to talk to others – including patients' family members, colleagues, and friends about the importance of voting with children's health in mind.

Opportunities in Less than 30 Minutes:

- Set-up a table outside of grand rounds and encourage everyone attending to register to vote. If permissible, distribute candidate report cards from a local children's advocacy organization.
- Log on to a non-partisan children's health Web site to find out how the candidates rank on the children's health issues that are important to you. Add these sites as a favorite on your computer.
- Ask your patient's families what barriers they experience to voting and help them identify a solution, such as linking them with a community resource that can provide transportation or child care.
- Contact the AAP to get non-partisan election buttons, stickers, or magnets related to child health. Wear and display while at work and in your community. Distribute the buttons, stickers, and magnets to your friends, family members, colleagues, and patient's families to wear or display as well.
- Sign-up to receive campaign information from candidates in your area. Monitor their position on children's health issues.
- Contact your candidates. Tell them what issues are important to you and provide them with links of where they can find more information on your issue.
- VOTE! Either in person or by absentee ballot.

Opportunities in about an Hour:

- Contact your AAP chapter to find out if they are hosting a candidate forum – or know of another organization who is. Attend the forum to learn where your candidates stand on the children's health issues important to you.