

The Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW)

Fraternal Organization | MOU Signed: August 12, 2024

About the Organization

Organized September 28, 1898 · Headquartered in Winton, NC

The Improved Benevolent Protective Order Elks of the World is the largest predominantly Black fraternal organization in the world, with over 750,000 members and more than 1,500 Lodges and Temples across the United States, Canada, Mexico, West Indies, Panama, and the Bahamas. The Elks' Grand Lodge Civil Liberties Department works to extend equal protection, oppose disenfranchisement, and improve the economic status of citizens.

Partnership Purpose

The NAACP and The Elks share a deep commitment to political, educational, social, and economic equality for all citizens. Together, they are increasing civic participation among Black voters, advocating for civil rights at every level of government, and maximizing the combined reach of both organizations' networks.

Civic Engagement Activities

- Encourage Elks members to volunteer with NAACP's Indirect Relational Organizing Program — goal of 10% of 750,000 members
- Coordinate GOTV activities at national, state, and local levels: canvassing, phone banks, text banks, and election protection
- Share nonpartisan research and messaging on Black voter engagement and voter issues

NAACP Tools & Resources Available to Partner

- Voter Action Network (VAN) — 50-state database access after completing VAN training
- Vote.Org — access to the largest nonpartisan voter registration and GOTV technology platform
- Messaging & Research Narrative — NAACP nonpartisan research on Black voter engagement

Membership

Elks members are encouraged to become Annual and Silver Life Members of the NAACP, with a goal of 10% of membership. NAACP members are encouraged to join local Elks Lodges and Temples. All participation tracked via a unique Elk tracking code.

How to Engage at the State & Local Level

- Identify IBPOEW Lodges and Temples active in your state or city
- Connect with the state or local level Elks leadership for an introductory meeting
- Partner for GOTV phone banks, canvassing, and voter registration drives hosted at Lodges
- Coordinate civil rights and civic education programming at Lodge and Temple events

For questions or to activate this partnership, contact NAACP Partnerships & Community Team — strategicpartnerships@naacpnet.org