

Voting and Engaging with your Community



Voting

In Mexico, you have the right to vote after deportation, no matter what. And you should! Your voice matters.

And the best news is you don't have to register to vote! You simply show your INE to vote. Your INE is your national ID card.

Take time to understand the issues and the candidates before you vote. Newspapers and candidate websites can help you be informed. Don't forget to vote in local and state elections. Your local and state leaders impact things in your community every day.

For more information on political parties in Mexico see: <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/political-parties-mexico/>

Quick facts about presidential elections in Mexico:

- The Mexican president serves a term of six years and cannot be reelected.
- The presidential election takes place on the first Sunday of July.
- Inauguration day is December 1.

★ Did you move to a different state before a presidential election? If your INE says a different state, you'll need to vote in a "Casilla Especial." These are special booths for people from out of state to vote. Find yours at <https://computosrm2022.ine.mx/votos-distrito/grafica>.



Get involved in advocacy work. If we want to change the process, we have to lead the process.

— Marlon C.



Community Organizing

Community organizing is when people join together to stand up for their needs and rights. Community organizing can take many forms, such as going door-to-door to speak to people, or organizing community meetings and fundraisers.

Community organizing can be a good way to make a difference. You would be surprised by what you can do when you work with others!

Community organizations do work online and on the ground. Find an organization and attend a meeting, or start one yourself. Discuss problems that your community is facing and work to solve them.



Volunteer

Volunteer work gives you the chance to meet new people, solve problems and help your community. Volunteering is good for your health, too! Meeting new people can fight depression and make you feel less lonely.

Are you out of work? Volunteering can also help you learn new skills to put on your resume. You may also meet new people who can help you find job opportunities.

Interested in volunteering? You can find opportunities at:

- Schools
- Churches
- Shelters
- Soup kitchens
- Community centers
- Nursing homes
- Animal shelters

Call or visit them to ask how you can help out. You can also do a Google search for volunteer opportunities in your community.

For more information on how to get involved in your community see the Beginning to Heal chapter.

Here's a list of community organizations in Mexico whose members advocate for recently deported people. Get involved!

Name	Contact info	Location	Description
Otros Dreams en Acción	www.odamexico.org	Mexico City	A community of people born in Mexico who grew up in the US and are now back in Mexico because of deportation. Members of ODA help each other with deportation and give each other support.
New Comienzos	www.newcomienzos.org Plaza de la República #9, Tabacalera, Cuauhtémoc, 06030 (55) 7733-1436	Mexico City	Supports people returning to Mexico. They give mental health support, shelter, English certification, mentoring and job search help, youth programming.
Dreamers Moms	https://www.facebook.com/DREAMersMoms (754) 300-8580	Tijuana	Provide support for deported and migrant women and children. They offer food, support and help with housing and jobs. They also have a legal firm, Unión Law, that helps women reunite with families.
Rhizome Center for Migrants	www.rhizomecenter.org	Houston, Guadalajara	They help deported people with legal issues and reintegration into Mexican society.
Comunidad en Retorno	https://www.comunidadenretorno.com/		Collective organization run by deported people. They defend the human rights of deported people and provide a network of support for reintegration.
Deportados Unidos en la Lucha	https://deportadosunidosenlalucha.mx/	Mexico City and virtually throughout Mexico	Help people get their IDs and documents and sign up for government programs. Referrals to other organizations.

☆ For more information about volunteer opportunities in Mexico check out this list of non-governmental organizations in the country: <https://catedraunescodh.unam.mx/catedra/catedra/ongmexico.html>