

We Before Me

Each of the vibrant communities in our region has its own distinct charm.

And while it's natural to focus on one's own neighborhood or town, there is a better way. Working together—with trust, humility and goodwill—we can help each other tackle shared challenges across our region and harness opportunities to preserve and enhance our collective quality of life.

Through the work of the SLO Chamber's **Business Council**, this toolkit was designed to help businesses of all sizes increase their community involvement and in turn, deepen the connection that employees have to each other, to your business and to our community.

Below you can find ideas ranging from the free and easy to big and bold to get your employees involved. Our advice: think big and start small by implementing pilot programs to test things out before committing to a big change. Even a small increase in civic participation makes a big difference and the fact that you are reading this means that you are already ahead of the curve – thank you!

Individual action

Share **this action toolkit for individuals** with your team. You can even take it a step further and set a weekly, monthly or quarterly civic challenge and celebrate the most active participants!

Voter registration

Send your employees a quick reminder for upcoming voter registration deadlines (15 days before the election) and election day. Here's an **example email**, and a **link** to register to vote (it just takes a few minutes).

Day of service

Ask your team what they care most about; collective buy-in can make the difference between a onetime event and an annual tradition. Here's a list of **local nonprofits** to help start the brainstorming for a day of service with your team.

Create incentives

Reward employees for civic participation like speaking at public meetings, coaching sports teams and volunteering for campaigns.

SLO Chamber newsletter

Make sure your employees are receiving the SLO Chamber Newsletter. It is a quick way to stay up to date on important issues and ideas. To sign up, just send the names and email addresses to **lori@slochamber.org**.

Celebrate your stars

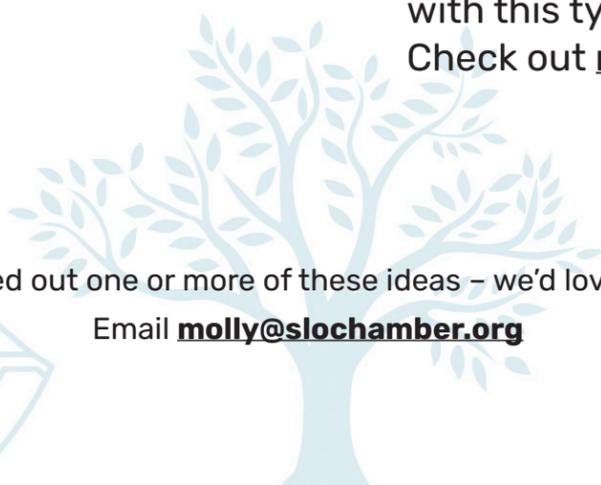
Recognize employees who are already making our community a better place (maybe by serving on a nonprofit board, city or county advisory body, or civic club). A simple mention at a staff meeting, recognition on the team Slack channel or personal email goes a long way to recognizing that person and inspiring others.

Buddy system

Help team members overcome fear of the unknown by creating a buddy system for volunteering. You can even ask people who already give back on a regular basis to bring someone else for a 'ride-along' so no one has to go it alone.

Time off to vote

Companies like Patagonia are leading the way with this type of CTO- or Civic Time Off. Check out **maketimetovote.org**.



Let us know if you tried out one or more of these ideas – we'd love to know how it went!

Email **molly@slochamber.org**