

## Networking to find members near you

Setting up your own Change Corps chapter is not an entirely difficult process. It requires that you are willing to reach out to other individuals who are interested in making change in the community and then pulling everyone together to focus on causes that need your attention. The idea behind forming a volunteer group is to take the idea of change and make it a reality where you live.

Since our group started out as supporters of President-Elect Obama, many of us made contact with one another by volunteering for the campaign. An important tool for many of us in reaching out to people and organizing events was the official campaign website, <http://www.barackobama.com>.

The site's social networking aspect made it extremely useful. By registering your group and yourself on <http://my.barackobama.com>, you are able to send messages to one another as well as post your volunteer events online so others can view it and sign-up to attend it. It's not sure how this website will be affected after the campaign, but for the time being it is still available for all to use and it is highly recommended.



MY.BARACKOBAMA.COM

Another resource that is similar to the Obama campaign website, would be your local Democratic or Republican (*we're bi-partisan after all*) websites. For example, the Texas Democratic Party's website contains a social-networking aspect as well. On that website you are able to register online and post your events. You should do a Google search for your local political party websites and see if they offer similar features.



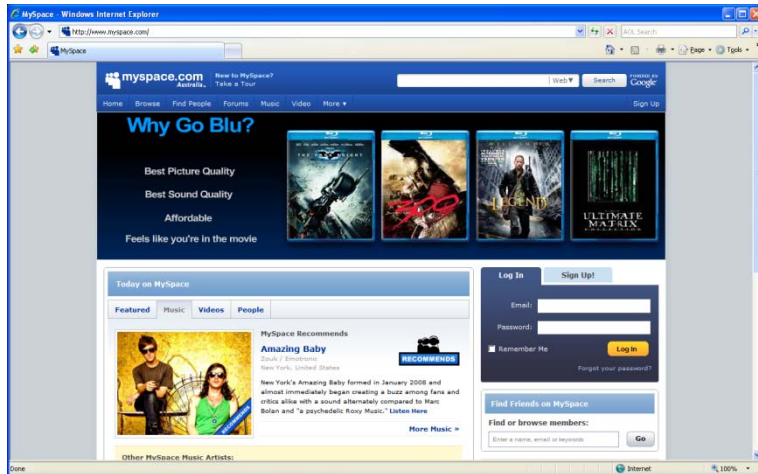
[WWW.TXDEMOCRATS.ORG](http://www.txdemocrats.org)

While we are on the subject of social-networking, you should also create groups on the usual and popular sites. Facebook, for example is a great tool. You can find friends who share your interests and are located near you and you can also use it to plan events and send out online invitations to your Facebook friends. Facebook possesses a great feature where you can create **causes** that you support.



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM](http://www.facebook.com)

In the same vein of social-networking, Myspace is also a useful tool to employ. You can create your local group on Myspace and seek out friends in much the same way you can do through Facebook. You can post bulletins to all of your friends with updates on your upcoming events. You can also seek out groups that share your goals and send out bulletins to those members as well. And you can use it to motivate your membership by posting videos and pictures of your events for everyone to see.



WWW.MYSPACE.COM

And most importantly, remember to reach out to your family and friends! If you know someone close to you that is interested in helping to improve their neighborhood or the community they live in, ask them to join. They might also know another person and they another person and on and on. Your best case scenario is to create a domino effect of supporters all willing to step-up and take part in making your community a better place through some hard work.

Also, try to find local politicians who might be interested in the work you're doing. Look for City Council Members, members of Congress, Senators, town Mayors, etc. If you let them know about the work you are doing and invite them to make an appearance or help, it can do a lot for the morale of your group as well as have the potential to get you some earned media from your local outlets, which is never a bad thing.