



VOTER guide

*Political power for all communities,
one vote at a time.*

Get ready to VOTE!



You should start planning to vote well in advance, even if this is just making a few notes or writing it in your calendar! This guide will help you prepare to vote and provide information when doing so.

BEFORE YOU GO

You **MUST** register to vote. Most states require you to register around 20-30 days before Election Day. You can check your registration at vote.gov/register.

If you're planning to vote in person, make sure you check with your employer about time off to vote. Many states have their own laws regarding time off on Election Day, scan and check if your state has one:

"But wait, my job
doesn't allow time
off to vote!"

Election Day
Time Off Laws



We get it and it doesn't have to be that way. Consider supporting efforts to make Election Day a federal holiday!

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RESEARCH

Researching your ballot is another way that you can plan for an election. This includes **research candidates, reading policy proposals, and evaluating which candidates most support your values.**

Did you know there's a simple way to get all the races (and candidates) that will be on your ballot in the upcoming election? Get YOUR sample ballot by scanning below to visit [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup Tool](#).

- Instructions: Just put your mailing address into the search bar and it will show you all the races (and candidates) that will be on your ballot in the upcoming election.

Sample
Ballot



WHY IS VOTING IMPORTANT?

Voting allows you to actively participate in shaping your community and society. By casting a vote, you make your voice heard on issues that impact vulnerable communities, ensuring your concerns are addressed and rights are protected. It's a crucial way to advocate for policies that promote equality and social justice, safeguarding the interests of those who may otherwise be overlooked or marginalized.

Voting is **one** strategy to ensure we continue fighting for and advancing democracy. Our work starts after election day through organizing our community, educating ourselves, and working with elected officials so they fulfill their promises to us while they are in office.



Ultimately, voting empowers individuals to contribute to a fair and inclusive society, so make your plan to vote TODAY!

FIND MY STATE'S OFFICIAL VOTER GUIDE

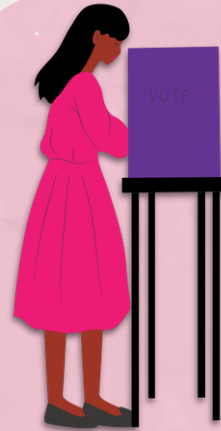
Each state-specific Election Board or Division can publish a public guide to help voters understand the measures on their election ballots.

Search online to see if your state has an official voter guide, or find it on the [Voter Guides List by Ballotpedia](#). Alternatively, scan to find general info about your state's ballot measures in this list:

**My Ballot
Measures**



PICK YOUR VOTER PATH



In Person



By Mail



Voting options include:



In-Person Voting: Look up your voting location at vote.org where you can find personalized information about what's on the ballot, polling locations, and drop-box locations.

There are 2 main methods of voting in-person, paper and electronic. These are not the only methods, but they are commonly used. Research your polling location to find out if they will be using a different method.



Absentee Voting: This is good option if you cannot make it to the polls day-of and you know in advance that you won't make it.

Some states require an excuse to receive absentee ballots such as injury/illness, disability, being a university student out-of-state, etc. To find out your state's absentee rules, request it at vote411.org



Mail-In Voting: Some states offer entirely vote-by-mail options in addition to inperson voting at the polls. This typically does not require an advanced request and is mailed to each voter registered. To check if your county offers this, visit ncsl.org



Voting in Person

Use this checklist to **remind yourself what to bring**. Not all items may be necessary. Even so, it's good to have these and feel prepared.



☐ Voter Registration Card

When you register to vote, you should receive a registration card in the mail. If you haven't received or need to replace one, contact your local election office. You can find the contact information at usvotefoundation.org



☐ State ID/Driver's License

Many states have different rules about what an acceptable form of identification is. Some states don't require an ID at all! Check the chart at ncsl.org to see if this applies to you.

Our recommendation is to have your ID/Driver's License with you just in case, to avoid any potential issues.



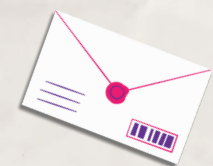
☐ Sample Voting Ballot

It can be helpful to have your research on hand, especially when trying to remember names and positions up for election. Create and print your sample ballot through the tool under "Research" on page 3.



☐ A Voter Guide

Consider bringing this guide with you when you hit the polls! It has a lot of useful information on your rights while you're there, a glossary of terms, and more.



☐ Proof of Residency

If this is your first time voting in-person, you may want to bring an official piece of mail with your name and address. Like the ID regulations, this is on a state-by-state basis so check vote.org to see if this applies to you.

Voting in Person cont'd

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guide

VOTING AS A T/NB/GNC PERSON

You can vote, regardless of your gender expression or if it matches your gender markings on your identification.

Many states have requirements for a photo ID. With higher restrictions on IDs over the last few years, make sure that the name and address on your ID matches the information on your voter registration.

Many GNC individuals prefer to explore alternative voting options that don't require in-person identification. Refer back to Page 1 if you'd like to vote-by mail!

To find more information about your legal rights, please search for these:

"Voting While Trans"
Guide by Advocates
for Trans Equality



"Updating Your
IDs" page by
Lambda Legal



ON VOTER ID LAW CHANGES

Even if your state doesn't require an ID at present, these laws change a lot. The strictest ID regulations include an unexpired form of picture identification. This is usually in the form of a Driver's License, but you can bring a state ID, a passport, a student ID, a military ID, or a voter verification card. We recommend bringing a valid form of picture ID in case your state's voter ID regulations have changed.



Know Your Rights



GENERAL RIGHTS

✓ **Stay in line.** Even if polls close while you're in line, you have the right to vote.

✓ **You can ask for a new ballot.** Don't let a mistake hold you back.

✓ **When in doubt, use paper.** If there is an issue with the electronic machine, ask for a paper ballot.

✓ **Ask for a provisional ballot if your name is not listed at the polls.** Election officials will check your registration afterwards and count your ballot if you are indeed registered.

✓ **Ask about accessibility.** For federal elections, every polling location must be accessible for disabled and elderly voters according to ADA regulations.

✓ **Call the Election Protection hotline 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) for assistance if your rights are being violated or refused at the polls.**

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Reasons to request a provisional ballot:

- If you arrive at the wrong voting location
- If you arrive at the wrong polling location, you have the option to travel to the correct location instead of getting a provisional ballot
- Your voter registration is not up to date with your address
- Your name does not appear on the Election Day list
- Insufficient identification

Each provisional ballot should have a Provisional Identification Number. Note this and you should be able to track if your ballot was counted.

If you had an issue with identification, you will typically have about 7-10 days after Election Day to provide the proper identification to your county board of elections.



DISABILITY RIGHTS

You have the right to receive assistance from the person of your choice except for your employer or a union representative.

All polling locations must be accessible for people with disabilities including ramps, registration forms in Braille, assisted listening devices, etc.

You are allowed to ask for more time to vote. And you have the right to be shown how to use a voting machine.

You have the right to ask to use an accessible voting machine. Every polling location should have at least 1 accessible machine.

Election officials should grant reasonable accommodations if they

- can, such as providing a chair if lines are long,
- explaining how to submit your vote,
- unblocking a pathway, etc.



Election officials, including poll workers, are not allowed to determine mental or physical capacity to vote.

If a polling location does not meet ADA regulations, please visit [ada.gov](https://www.ada.gov) or call their toll-free number

📞 800-253-3931.

INTERPRETATION RIGHTS

You can bring someone to help interpret for you if they are not your employer or union representative.

You're allowed to ask questions and ask for plain terminology from election officials. They should make every effort to communicate with you.

Hotlines in other languages-

Spanish:

📞 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

Asian Languages:

📞 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

Arabic:

📞 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

Voter Intimidation



WHAT IS IT?

Voter intimidation is when someone attempts to scare, coerce, or threaten someone into not voting, or change their voting choices. These tactics can include verbal or physical harassment and voter intimidation is illegal under federal law. However, these tactics can be very broad, so it's best to stay informed about what it looks like and how to combat it.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

There are many ways that someone may try to influence your vote.

Here are some examples:

- ✗ Someone repeatedly questions your citizenship status or criminal record despite being registered to vote.
- ✗ Someone lies to you about being an election official. This may be hard to spot, but they should be identified with an official badge or ID.
- ✗ If someone tries to test your English proficiency before allowing you to vote. There are NO English literacy requirements to vote.
- ✗ Someone invades your personal space or attempts to see your ballot while voting.
- ✗ Someone tries to tell you who to vote for, or pressures you to vote for a specific party/candidate while in line.
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WAYS TO RESPOND

To report instances of voter harassment, call the Election Protection Hotline. You can also report these to local and state officials, which includes on-site poll workers.

Voting in groups is a simple way to combat voter harassment! We are stronger together! Claim your rights - it is **ILLEGAL** to intimidate voters. For more info, please search for the following resources:

ARTICLE: "Is Voter Intimidation Illegal? What should I Do If I Experience It?" from the Campaign Legal Center

GUIDE: "Voter Intimidation and Election Worker Intimidation" from the Brennan Center for Justice



Other Ways to Get Involved

Whether you're ineligible to vote or discouraged to participate, there's more you can do to care for your community and those around you.

ENGOURAGE OTHERS TO VOTE!

Offer ballot information to your friends and family who are eligible. Research candidates together and engage in conversation about what policies they support.

Offer to drive folks if you're able. Many eligible voters don't vote simply because they are unable to get a ride, or the polling location is too far. Offering to carpool people to the polls can lift off a heavy burden at times.

DEFEND VOTING RIGHTS

Join in defending against voter disenfranchisement & build up the process of restoring the vote for thousands!

To find more information about voting restoration, please search for these resources:

[Umar Muhammad Clean Slate Toolkit by Southern Coalition for Social Justice](#)

["Voter Restoration" page by ACLU](#)

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STAY INFORMED

There are many more ways to make your voice heard in elections and politics. By staying informed and engaging in other activist efforts, you are still able to ensure your community is represented.

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Quick Glossary

Absentee Ballot	A method that allows voters to cast their vote by mail if they are unable to vote in person on Election Day.
Ballot	The paper or electronic form used to cast a vote in an election.
Candidate	A person who is running for an elected position.
Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) System	On a computer screen, you will cast your ballot by using a mouse or using a touch screen.
Early Voting	The process that allows voters to cast their ballots before Election Day.
Election Official	A person responsible for overseeing the conduct of an election to ensure it is fair and legal.
Paper Ballot	A physical ballot on paper that will later be scanned by a computer or by a poll worker. With a pen, you will fill this kind of ballot out by marking the ovals on the paper.
Poll	A survey conducted to gauge public opinion or predict election outcomes.
Poll Worker	An individual who assists voters on Election Day at polling places.
Provisional Ballot	A ballot used when there are questions about a voter's eligibility, to be counted once eligibility is confirmed.
Voter Registration	The process by which eligible citizens sign up to vote.

Join us in building a stronger, more inclusive movement for queer liberation.

Queer the Vote is an initiative which focuses on increasing voter participation, educating voters on key issues, and advocating for policies that advance queer rights and equity.

Learn more at QueerTheVote.org

