# What's Your Voting Plan?

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION and**

#### MAIL-IN/ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

#### for Students, Faculty and Staff



# DO YOU HAVE A VOTING PLAN?

# **STEP I: Am I eligible to vote?**

# You must be:

• a U.S. citizen

#### and in most states you must be:

\*18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote

# Find other rules or regulations in the state you reside and want to register in HERE

#### OR

go to vote411.org select your state to get that information.

If you are Puerto Rican, you cannot vote for president if you reside in Puerto Rico, BUT if you reside in any a U.S. state you can register to vote there.

# **STEP 2: Decide where you will vote.**

This is more complicated than usual given the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic to our housing situations. Many have moved.

## **TWO INITIAL QUESTIONS:**

- Where are you currently living?
- Where are you currently registered?

Confirm voter registration in HERE





# IF THEN, WHAT? SCENARIOS

If you are currently registered to vote where you lived prior to the pandemic but have been displaced to another state **temporarily**, assess whether you intend to return to your former residence after the disruption, IF SO

 Vote in your the state you lived prior to the pandemic by mail/ absentee ballot

#### IF NOT

 Change your voter registration to the state in which you are currently residing by registering in that state, then you can vote in person or absentee/mail-in ballot if available If you have been displaced by COVID to another county in the state that you have resided before the pandemic, assess whether you intend to return to your former residence after the disruption, IF SO

 Vote in the city/county you are registered in by mail/absentee ballot (!make sure ballot is sent to current address!)
 IF NOT

Change the address on your
 voter registration to the city/
 county in which you are
 currently residing and then
 either vote in-person or by mail in ballot

If you moved to another address in the city/county you are registered since the last time you voted, you can

Change the address on your voter registration

## OR

 Vote by mail/absentee ballot (make sure ballot is sent to current address)

# OR

 Vote in-person at your previous polling place/old address If you moved to your current residence to start school and/or to work and have not yet voted in that city/state:

Register to vote in that city/state
 online or by paper application
 HERE
 and then, apply for a mail-in

ballot or find your polling place

HERE and vote either way

If you **recently moved** to your current address make sure you meet the state's residency requirements/deadline to register in that state. Check **HERE** 

If a residency requirement is 30 days prior to the election on November 3rd (like in NY or PA) you need to have

established residence....

...by October 3rd



#### I do not have a permanent residence because I am homeless. Can I still register and vote?

Yes, you are still eligible to register and vote. You may use the address of where you sleep as the place of residence on your voter registration application.

#### **STEP 3: Register to vote OR skip to Step 4**

If you need to register to vote for the first time, whether because you are voting for the first time or changing your voter registration from another state (change of address) you do that



Please note that if you do not have a state ID from the state in which you are registering for the first time, you will need to provide a signature with your registration. This means you will need to register to vote in person or mail in a paper registration form.

#### CHECK OUT THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR THE STATE ON THE NEXT PAGE.



States with \* can also register in person at election day if needed. But best to do it prior online!

Alabama Deadline to register: October 19, 2020 Alaska Deadline to register: October 4, 2020 Arizona Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Arkansas Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 California Deadline to register: October 19, 2020\* Colorado Deadline to register: October 26, 2020\* Connecticut Deadline to register: October 27, 2020\* Delaware Deadline to register: October 10, 2020 Florida Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Georgia Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Hawaii Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 \* Idaho Deadline to register: October 9, 2020 \* Illinois Deadline to register: October 6, 2020 by mail; October 18, 2020 online \* Indiana Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Iowa Deadline to register: October 24, 2020 \* Kansas Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 Kentucky Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Louisiana Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 in person or by mail; October 13, 2020 online Maine Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 \* Maryland Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 \* Massachusetts Deadline to register: October 24, 2020

Michigan Deadline to register: October 19, 2020 \* Minnesota Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 \* Mississippi Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Missouri Deadline to register: October 7, 2020 Montana Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 \* Nebraska Deadline to register: October 16, 2020 by mail or online; October 23, 2020 in person Nevada: Deadline to register: October 6, 2020 by mail or in person; October 29, 2020 online \* New Hampshire Deadline to register: October 21, 2020 by mail \* New Jersey Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 New Mexico Deadline to register: October 6, 2020; October 31, 2020 in person New York Deadline to register: October 9, 2020 North Carolina Deadline to register: October 9, 2020; Afterwards October 15, 2020 to October 31, 2020 in person only North Dakota North Dakota does not have a voter registration process, according to Vote.org. You just need to bring a valid proof of ID and residency to the polls in order to vote. Ohio Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Oklahoma Deadline to register: October 9, 2020 Oregon Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 Pennsylvania Deadline to register: October 19, 2020 Rhode Island Deadline to register: October 4, 2020 \* for presidential elections only South Carolina Deadline to register: October 2, 2020 in person; October 4, 2020 online; October 5, 2020 by mail South Dakota Deadline to register: October 19, 2020 Tennessee Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Texas Deadline to register: October 5, 2020 Utah Deadline to register: October 23, 2020 \* Vermont Deadline to register: November 3, 2020 \* Virginia Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 Washington Deadline to register: October 26, 2020 \* Washington, D.C. Deadline to register: October 13, 2020\* West Virginia Deadline to register: October 13, 2020 Wisconsin General Election Deadline: October 14, 2020 online or by mail; October 30, 2020 in person \* Wyoming Deadline to register: October 19, 2020 by mail \*

#### Do I need a party affiliation to vote? Why?

When you register to vote, you will be asked to select a party affiliation.

You can select "none," "no party preference" or "independent," >> but please note that doing that may —in certain states— prevent you from voting in primary elections.

#### What do I need to register to vote ?

Voter ID requirements are determined by each of the 50 states. **PLEASE CHECK** on your state's requirements by going to Vote411.org and selecting your state. On each state-specific page you will find a menu on the left with lots of information including state-specific voter ID information.

Or go **HERE** to get an detailed voter ID requirements for each state.

Some states might require you to bring and ID to vote especially if you are a first time vote. Make sure you know!



#### **STEP 4: Decide how you'll be voting?**

Four primary ways to vote:

- in-person on election day Tuesday
  November 3rd: find your polling place
  HERE
- by absentee ballot before November 3rd. Your state's absentee process can be found HERE by selecting your state
- by mail-in ballot (absentee and mail-in ballot follow the same basic process)
- by early in-person voting (in many but not all states)

#### In-person on November 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Make sure you know your assigned polling place
- Research the candidates, ballot questions and prepare yourself
- Check your states Voter ID requirements and make sure you have an acceptable form of ID with you, especially if you are a firsttime voter in that state
- o Grab your mask, a bottle of water & a snack, something to sit/lean on if needed, and a charged phone



# Cast your ballot and let your voice be heard! Show up and VOTE!

# **Still Nervous?**

See what's on your ballot. Learn about candidates running for office in your area and their stand on the issues, about ballot measures on your ballot by checking out vote411.org voters' guide. **HERE** we also have information on the voting machines used in your state, and you can bring a filled in (and printed) voters' guide with you into the booth! Check it out!

#### Mail-in/Absentee Voting. How to get a ballot?

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) many states have expanded absentee and mail-in voting options for the upcoming election! Click **HERE** to order a absentee or mail-in ballot or receive an application for it as soon as possible. You want to make sure that you receive a ballot in time to return it.

Each state has different protocols AND deadlines for the legal receipt of absentee and mail-in ballots.

Check your state's policies and deadlines



Go to personalize Voting Information, put in your address, on the personalzed page go to the bottom "Additional Resources" where you can fine information about absentee ballots.

#### Mail-in Voting. How to?

Track your mail-in ballot.

Your ballot will be mailed to you at the address you listed on your mail-in ballot application.

Research the candidates, ballot questions and mark your ballot.

VERY IMPORTANT: Follow the instructions of your state precisely. Many states require the ballot be placed in a secrecy envelope and then a mailing envelope, some states require a witness declaration. READ and follow the instructions carefully.



#### **Important Resources**

vote/https://www.vote411.org/

https://www.artists4democracy.com/advice-student-network

https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/voting-in-college/

https://www.voteamerica.com/

#### WHEN STUDENTS VOTE! THEY CREATE CHANGE!

**CIRCLE 2020 Election Center**: research about youth civic engagement and voting compiled by Tufts University.

**Ask Your College**: sample letters and posts to influence a college (president) you care about to make full student voter registration a priority in 2020.

Faculty Network for Student Voting Rights: sign their "Faculty Pledge for Student Voting Rights" here.

# **VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE** call at (866) 687-8683 or visit online.

If you have problems voting or have additional questions, please call the national, nonpartisan Election Protection hotline: English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682) Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US (1-844-925-5287) Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683

#### **ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Why should I register?** You can't vote if you don't register, and most states have voter registration deadlines that occur long before Election Day. So even if you haven't decided whom you're voting for or even if you're voting, you should register now so you will be able to vote on Election Day.

**Why should I vote?** Great question! There are many reasons why a person votes and yours may be different from anyone else's, but voting is an essential part of our democracy. We elect representatives to enact laws on our behalf and the only way to voice who represents you is to cast a ballot. Also, many issues come up on the ballot that you are allowed to directly vote on like the freedom to marry, how much you pay in taxes, where they put a landfill/build a stadium, and much more.

I don't like either candidate, so I'm not going to vote. You should still vote! There are other important local, state and federal elections to vote for. You don't need to choose a presidential candidate to vote in other key races.

**I don't believe in voting.** Everyone's entitled to their opinions and beliefs. I'd encourage you to vote based on the issues you care about and think about how casting a ballot might change that.

**Does my vote even count?** Yes! It may sound cliché but every vote matters. Think of it this way: the only vote that doesn't matter is the one that was never cast. Make your voice heard – don't let other voters decide the election results for you!

Which address do I use? Use the address where you reside and intend to vote.

**Can I register to vote at my college or university address?** Yes. Even if you are already registered at home, we encourage you to register at school. You are much more likely to vote.

**Can I register to vote using a P.O. Box as my address?** No, you must provide a valid place of residence as your address on your voter registration application.

**My address has changed. Do I need to re-register?** Yes. Each part of the state has its own unique candidates and measures on the ballot. Simply fill out a new application form, and re-register at your new address.

I want to vote, but I will not be in my home precinct on Election Day. Can I still vote? Absolutely. See details above on getting an absentee ballot from your state.

**If I register to vote, am I going to be called for jury duty?** Juror lists are created from a variety of state databases, including lists of taxpayers and drivers – so if you have a driver's license or pay taxes, you are still on the state's list of eligible jurors. Don't give up your right to vote to avoid jury duty!

