What Would You Do... To Vote?
A Voting Rights Scenario Game
INSTRUCTIONS

We take for granted how easy it is to cast our ballot, but for millions of voters this is not the case. The purpose of this activity is to explore the challenges many face as they navigate their way to the polls. Each scenario represents a different person in a different community who needs to vote.

Use the facts in each scenario to determine and navigate an effective way to vote. Your goal? Come up with a feasible plan that will ensure your person votes in time. You may use any and all tools at your disposal (Google included!) to figure out a plan. Use your own knowledge as an activist and your creativity to help these women.

You have 15 minutes to come up with a plan.

Ready, Set, Vote!
Hi. My name is Ella. I am a 68-year old widowed retiree from Richmond, Virginia. I live in District 4, a predominantly suburban congressional district. I must make it to the ballot! My designated polling place is 2.5 miles away from my home. Unfortunately, I do not drive and my children currently live in D.C. and New York. My state does not allow early or absentee voting.

Though I am a registered voter—Democrat—I have had difficulty, in the past, voting. In Virginia, you must have photo ID to vote, which I do not have. I have a birth certificate, but have been told that would not be enough and that I also have to show a passport or state ID. I am on a fixed income of $700 a month through Social Security. I spend approximately a quarter of that on medication that I need for a number of ailments.

The election is only four days away and I don’t know what to do! Please help!
Hi, my name is Cynthia! I am a 32-year old stay-at home mother from Grove City, Ohio. I have twin three-year old boys—Embry and Ethan—who are not in school yet, and my husband is a real estate broker. I am not registered to vote, but in my state, there is online registration. I think my state requires a photo ID, but that’s okay, I have a driver’s license! My husband works long hours, and the boys stay home with me, so I would need to figure out what do with them when I go to vote.

Election Day is two weeks away! As you can see I’m new to the electoral process, and I really need your help!
Hi my name is Farrah, I’m a 12-year old single mom, from Atlanta, Georgia. I currently work at Michaels as an hourly employee. I have three wonderful children—Joya, Angela, and Rachel—who are 7, 9, and 13. It is difficult to make ends meet in my home. I work 14 hours a day, 6 days a week. I also make a conscious effort to spend time with my children and encourage their interests and extracurricular activities.

Election Day is always a difficult process for me. Though the polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, the lines at my local polling location are often 2-hours long and the commute there from my job is 45 minutes. In previous years, I have asked my boss for the day off, but he has said that because Election Day is not a ‘federal holiday’, I cannot have the day off. I have looked into early and absentee voting, but those options have been greatly reduced in my state over the last few months.

I have considered taking the day off from work, but financially it is really not an option. My oldest daughter Rachel wants to begin taking piano lessons and I need the extra money to afford the classes. I have 3 weeks to figure this out I know that it seems impossible, but I think you can help me make it to the ballot! What should I do?
Hi my name is Sarah and I am a 21-year old student from Dallas, Texas. I currently live on campus at University of North Texas and am majoring in sociology. Recently, I have gone through a very important change in my life. I am transgender and have been going through the transition process for the past 2 years.

This transition in my life has been very difficult. I no longer have a relationship with my mother or father and I have been ostracized by my former friends. Fortunately, I have found a new family through Equality Texas, a network of LGBTQIA+ people, who have supported me through my transition.

Through my relationship with Equality Texas, I have come to realize the importance of voting and the election process and want to make sure that I cast my ballot this year. But there is a big issue I have to deal with: I have a state issued student ID, but in Texas this does not suffice. Because I am transitioning, I am still considered male by the state of Texas, but my physical appearance is that of a woman. Therefore, I do not have the ability to obtain a photo ID that matches my appearance. The election is two months away. Do you have any suggestions on what I should do?