



NOW Young Feminists

2024 ELECTION ENGAGEMENT AND VOTING GUIDE



Voting is Essential for Young People

Young voters have the most at stake in this November's election. The next president could appoint two more supreme court justices, states have essential ballot initiatives to consider, and Project 2025 could be looming in the distance. In this fall's presidential election **8.3 million young people will be newly eligible to vote. According to **Ms. Magazine**, young women have nearly doubled the gender gap in voters under 30. The increase in engagement for youth has also made **young people** an increased target for disinformation and voter suppression. NOW Young Feminists has made this guide so that basic voting and election organizing information is available and easy accessible to as many young feminists as possible.**

Imagine if everyone at your school voted? In every school in your state? In every school across the country? That impact doesn't have to be imaginary. Make sure you're registered to vote and your community is too. Make sure you have a voting plan and so do those closest to you. Most importantly, get involved as much as you can! There's a lot of work to do before Election Day.

See you at the polls!

Creating a Voting Plan

Voting, especially for the first time, can be intimidating! However, by making a voting plan you can ease all of your anxiety surrounding casting your ballot. A voting plan consists of:

- Registering to vote
- Choosing what way you will vote
- Planning your ballot

Let's go through the steps together!

Registration

To be able to vote, you first have to be registered. If you are 18 years old, a U.S. Citizen, and a resident of your state you are eligible to register to vote. If you are under 18, some states allow you to pre-register to vote if you are between 15 and 17 years old! To find out more, click [this link](#) for **TurboVote!**

You can check if you are registered to vote currently at [this link](#) from **Vote.org**.

If you **ARE** registered to vote, you can move on to the **next step** of this guide: Ways to Vote!

If you are **NOT** registered to vote, you need to do **two** things:

1. Check out [this link](#) from the **U.S. Vote Foundation** to see what the **voter registration deadline** date is for your state. If the deadline has already passed, unfortunately you will not be able to vote this November. Each state has different deadlines and some states have different deadlines depending on the method you use to register to vote! The link above will be able to show you each deadline for your state.
2. If the deadline has not passed, use [this link](#) from **Vote411** to see if you can register to vote online in your state! If you can, register to vote online, and if you are unable to you can also download a [National Voter Registration Form](#) and mail it in to your state's election office.
- c. When you register, you will need documentation of your residency for your state. You can use your state driver's license, state ID, or other types of documentation such as utility bills, a lease, or bank statements.
- d. If you are a college student and are unsure whether to register to vote at home or at school, check out [this link](#) from **Vote.gov** that can help you decide and figure out what you need.

Ways to Vote

After you are successfully registered to vote, there are **three ways** that you can cast your ballot: **Absentee/Vote-by-Mail**, **Early Voting**, and voting on **Election Day**! Each voting method will have its own deadlines and requirements, which you can check for your state at [this link](#) from the **U.S. Vote Foundation**.

Absentee Ballot/Vote-by-Mail

Voting with an absentee ballot or voting by mail are both options that allow you to cast your ballot without going to a polling place and instead by mail. Some states only allow this option to voters who cannot physically be present on Election Day, which is **voting absentee**, while in others all registered voters can have a ballot automatically delivered to their registered address, which is **voting by mail**.

Participating in Absentee Voting or Vote by Mail has additional deadlines and requirements to casting a ballot at a polling place whether early or on Election Day. To see what those requirements and deadlines are and if you meet them, check out [this link](#) to **TurboVote** where you can check out Vote by Mail options and requirements by state.

If you are able to meet the additional requirements and deadlines, request your ballot and fill it out at home with a black pen. Most ballots require a signature and to be sealed in an election mail envelope that will be included with your ballot. Make sure that you get your ballot in the mail with enough time for it to be delivered for Election Day! Always double-check postage requirements and deadlines!

If you are unable to return your ballot via mail in time, some states allow you to drop off your completed ballot in drop-boxes or at polling locations. See what your state allows [here](#)!

Early Voting

If you are unable to vote on Election Day, or simply want to avoid long lines that can happen on Election Day, you can also vote early!

The **U.S. Vote Foundation** has a chart of Early Voting dates by state at [this link](#) and **Time Magazine** published a great article on Early Voting that you can see at [this link](#).

Polling places for **Early Voting** can be different than your polling place for Election Day and the hours Early Voting locations are open are also different than on Election Day. To find out Early Voting information for your state, use [this link](#) to find your state on **Election Protection**'s interactive map. There you can find your state's early voting information and look-up tools for polling places. Procedure for voting at a polling location is the same can be found in the next section on Election Day Voting.

Election Day

The majority of voters vote on Election Day at their polling place.

At your polling place, you will wait in line on a first-come, first-serve basis. There, a poll worker will look up and verify your voter registration and then direct you to an open voting booth. There you will fill out your ballot! States and even counties differ, but you will cast your ballot either with a **hand-marked paper ballot**, a **ballot marking device (BMD)**, or a **direct recording electronic (DRE) system**. The type of voting equipment your state or even county uses can be checked at [this link](#) to **Verified Voting**. If you need assistance with your ballot or any voting technology, you can always ask a poll worker for assistance. Once you have completed your ballot, you will return it to your poll worker to either be counted via optical scan machine or later by hand. Then, you can get your “I voted!” sticker and head home!

Each state has different specific regulations for their polling places, hours, locations, and requirements on Election Day. You can find your state’s information via **Election Protection’s** Interactive Map at [this link](#). All states have different tools for their voters, the **U.S. Vote Foundation** can help you locate your state’s polling place tool at [this link](#). **Time Magazine** also has a map at [this link](#) that shows general poll closing times across the country.

If you have questions about your voting method or if you have any problems casting your ballot in the way you choose, you can always contact the national **Election Protection Hotline (1-866-OUR-VOTE/1-866-687-8683)**. The hotline is staffed by experts who can answer your questions or who can report any issues you have when trying to vote, such as locations closing early, anyone asking you to leave the line at your polling place, or any other potential problems. The **ACLU** also has a [Know Your Rights Guide](#) for voting that you can look at if you feel like something is wrong at your polling place.

Websites like [866ourvote.org](#) and [Vote411.org](#) can also be a helpful resource if you have any questions about your voting method!

Plan Your Ballot

Once you have chosen how you will cast your ballot, the final and most important part of your voting plan will be deciding what your choices will be on the ballot you cast! Planning your ballot can be the hardest part of creating your voting plan. However, there are great resources available to help you.

[Vote411.org](#), [Vote.org](#), and [Ballotpedia](#) all have **Sample Ballot** tools that you can use to research the races and issues on your ballot. By entering the address you are registered to vote with, these websites can pull up all the races and issues on your ballot and allow you to research their specifics one by one. You can see candidates’

voting records or responses to questionnaires about local issues, see ballot measures broken down by issue and what it means to vote “yes” or “no” on each measure, and you can also see additional background information on candidates or measures that will be on your ballot.

You can use these guides to fill out your ballot from home or use them before you vote and print out your choices to bring with you to your polling place! With these tools, you can make sure your vote not only is counted, but also truly counts.

Want to do more? Get Involved!

Once you have your voting plan in place, you may want to get more involved in the election! There are many options for those who want to get more involved! Links to all the opportunities below can be found in the NOW Young Feminists [Linktree](#) on our Instagram and on the NOW Young Feminists [Webpage](#).

Conversations within your Community

The first step to getting more involved is to activate your community! Help them **create voting plans** and **have conversations** with them about issues, candidates, and ballot measures. Since you have already done your research for your sample ballot, your knowledge can help others make decisions on their own voting plan.

You can also start discussing the issues at stake in the election more broadly. The **ACLU** has resources for the key civil rights topics in the election this year at [this link](#). They have even published a [conversation guide](#) that can help you get these important discussions started within your community!

Non-Profit/Campaign Volunteering

Once you have activated your personal community, you can start activating your greater community where you live by **volunteering!**

Volunteering during election season usually takes **three** typical forms. First, you have **event or rally volunteering**, which would consist of you signing up to work a shift at a table or working an event with a campaign or non-profit to help get the word out in your community about voting and the issues at stake in the election. Secondly, you can volunteer at a **phonebank** or **letter-writing** event. Both of these opportunities focus on talking to voters about the issues at stake in the election and helping to get out the vote! Lastly, you can volunteer to go **canvassing**, which is talking to voters face to face on the street or in parks to remind them about the election and inform them about the important issues being decided in the election.

One way you can start volunteering is with a political campaign! Both parties have active local outreach efforts that you can volunteer for.

Outside of specific candidate or party campaigns, you can also volunteer with a Non-Profit like **When We All Vote** or **Young Feminist Party** to mobilize your community.

Websites like [Mobilize](#) are a great resource to find events and organizations to volunteer with. NOW Young Feminists also has lots of different opportunities to volunteer on our [Linktree](#) in our Instagram bio!

Voter Registration Drives

Another way to get more involved in the election is to **host a voter registration drive!** Each state has different regulations on voter registration and voter registration drives, so it is essential to not only research what your state's regulations are but to also work with an organization like When We All Vote who can help you!

When We All Vote has a great voter registration portal you can use along with their [Guide to Registering Voters](#), which is an excellent resource if you are interested in hosting a voter registration drive in your community or at your school!

Becoming a Poll Worker

Poll workers are the people at your polling place who check you in, scan your ballot, organize polling places, and count the votes every election. Becoming a Poll Worker is another great way to get involved in the election process! Poll Workers are essential to elections all over the nation and, best of all, they get PAID!

Power to the Polls is an organization that recruits poll workers and helps to fill vacancies for election workers across the country. You can use [this link](#) to register and find out more about becoming a poll worker! **Election Protection** also has great tool kits for Poll Workers on their website.

Volunteering in Election Protection

Finally, another way you can get involved in the election process is to become an **Election Protection Volunteer!** Election Protection volunteers work on the ground to stop any interference in elections or violations of individual's voting rights. They help voters exercise their right to vote by helping eliminate any confusing obstacles, misinformation, or confusing voting rules.

Common Cause recruits volunteers to work on the ground in several states and you can sign up with them to volunteer at [this link](#). Common Cause also works specifically with youth engagement and volunteers for election protection, which you can find out more about [here!](#)

Resources

Election Protection Hotline (1-866-OUR-VOTE) or [866ourvote.org](https://www.866ourvote.org)

[Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) by League of Women Voters

[**Vote 411 Voter/Ballot Guide**](#)

[**U.S. Vote Foundation**](#)

[**TurboVote**](#)

Ballotpedia

[**Sample Ballot Tool**](#)

Vote.org

[**See What's On Your Ballot**](#)

ACLU

[**Know Your Rights: Voting Rights**](#)

[**Election Issues Conversation Guide**](#)

[**Mobilize**](#)

When We All Vote

[**Guide to Registering Voters**](#)

[**Voter Registration Portal**](#)

[**Power to the Polls**](#)

Common Cause

[**Youth Engagement**](#)

[**Election Protection Volunteer Sign-up**](#)

You can also find most of our resources on our website and linktree!

Questions? Contact us!

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