
ELECTION SEASON TOOLKIT

Your Voting Checklist

Six steps, start to finish. Every rule below applies no matter who you're voting for.

01 Before You Vote

- ✓ Confirm you're registered: check your state's Secretary of State website.
- ✓ Confirm your polling place. It may have changed since the last election.
- ✓ Check your state's ID requirements. They vary widely by state. Look it up on your Secretary of State website or the US Vote Foundation's [state-by-state guide](#).
- ✓ Check polling hours. If you're in line by closing time, you still get to vote.
- ✓ Decide: in-person Election Day, early voting, or mail ballot?

02 If You're Voting by Mail

- ✓ Request your ballot early: check your state's deadline.
- ✓ Read the instructions fully before filling anything out.
- ✓ Sign exactly as you're registered. Mismatched signatures are a top reason ballots get rejected.
- ✓ Track your ballot if your state offers it.
- ✓ Know your return deadline. Postmark and receipt deadlines aren't the same thing.

03 What to Bring on Election Day

- ✓ Valid ID, if your state requires it.
- ✓ Your polling place address: don't rely on memory.
- ✓ Patience: bring water, a book, whatever gets you through a line.
- ✓ A sample ballot, if you filled one out ahead of time.

04 Know Your Rights at the Polls

- ✓ You have the right to vote if you're in line before polls close.
- ✓ You have the right to a provisional ballot if your eligibility is questioned.
- ✓ You have the right to ask for help if you need it.
- ✓ You have the right to vote free from intimidation or harassment.
- ✓ You can ask for a poll worker or supervisor if something feels wrong.

05 If Something Goes Wrong

- ✓ Not on the rolls? Ask for a provisional ballot. Don't just leave.
- ✓ Told you need ID you don't have? Ask about your state's exceptions or affidavit options.
- ✓ Witness intimidation or interference? Tell a poll worker, and beyond that, call 866-OUR-VOTE right from the polling place. Trained volunteers can help you in real time, not just after the fact.

06 After You Vote

- ✓ If you voted by mail, confirm your ballot was received and counted.
- ✓ Get results from official state or county sources, not social media.
- ✓ A delayed result isn't a suspicious one. Close races take time to count accurately.

Questions about anything on this checklist?

866-OUR-VOTE

Trained, nonpartisan volunteers can help with registration questions, ID rules, ballot problems, and more. You don't have to wait until something's gone wrong to call, and you can call while you're still in line to get help in real time.

Additional resources: [US Vote Foundation](#) (state-by-state ID and voting rules) · [CanIVote.org](#) (run by the National Association of Secretaries of State — registration, deadlines, and polling places by state)

Rules on ID, deadlines, and provisional ballots vary by state. Always confirm specifics with your state or county election office before Election Day.

Vote differently. Respect equally.