


vote



With the Millennial Generation making up nearly 1/4 of the entire electorate in 2012, the youth vote is more important and influential than ever! Many people don't vote simply because they may not be sure how, may not know who to ask, or may feel ashamed about needing to ask. But voting is a relatively simple task and you can make a big difference by helping educate people on how the process works:

- > **REGISTER TO VOTE**
- > **LOCATE YOUR POLLING PLACE**
- > **BRING APPROPRIATE ID**
- > **LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES**
- > **SAVE THE DATE**



REGISTER

Before you can vote in any election, you have to register as a voter. Every state has different registration deadlines and forms.

In a majority of states, you have to register at least a month before the election. However, most states have mail-in registration programs and many now offer online registration options!

You can find out what the particular guidelines are in your area by contacting your state or local elections bureau or by visiting the Project Vote Smart website. (www.vote-smart.org/voter_registration_resources.php)

Additionally, Rock the Vote (www.rockthevote.org) has an easy-to-use voter registration tool that will help you fill out your state's voter registration form with your information and tell you when and where you need to mail it.

Also, consider being a poll worker.

If you're planning to go to the polls on Election Day, why not consider being a poll worker? Every state needs people to work the polls, and in most states you can actually get paid for serving. There should be a box on your voter registration form to check to get more information on being a poll worker.

LOCATE

You will also need to find your polling place. You can only vote at the polling place assigned for your address.

The League of Women Voters (www.vote411.org) has an easy tool to use to find your polling place.

Additionally, polling place information should be available from your local elections bureau, your Secretary of State's office, or state party units. Most campaigns are also able to help voters find this type of information.

BRING

You will need to have proper ID to vote on Election Day. Each state has different rules about what forms of ID are acceptable.

The League of Women Voters has a guide on what types of ID each state accepts that you can find by visiting www.vote411.org and selecting your state from the drop-down menu.

LEARN

You'll want to make sure that you are an informed voter. Remember, elections aren't just about electing Presidents. You might also see candidates on the ballot for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Governor, the state legislature, city, council, and township offices, and for judges.

A nonpartisan group called Project Vote Smart provides lists of candidates for all levels of government at www.vote-smart.org.

You can also do research on your own by visiting each campaign's website, attending debates and political events, looking at where the candidates stand on issues that are important to you.

SAVE

Each state will have a presidential primary or caucus. Many states and cities also have a primary election day, often the first Tuesday in September.

The general election day is the first Tuesday in November for every state. You can double-check the dates for your state at www.vote411.org.

Don't forget about absentee ballots...

If you can't make it to the polls on Election Day, you may be qualified to vote absentee. Absentee voting is conducted by mail (and sometimes in person) before Election day. In many states you can request an absentee ballot and

application online or by contacting your local elections bureau. Keep in mind that there are different deadlines for absentee ballots. However, if you request your ballot in advance, voting absentee is as simple as going to the polls!

my first vote...

To be a young voter means that **I am able to give myself a powerful voice** -- a voice that lets those in power know what I want, what I desire and what I aspire to become...The events and experiences that have changed and reshaped this nation have reshaped my outlook on the future. As a young voter **I am able to change the future.** -TELVIS

As a first time voter, I found the election process to be rather exciting. Before this election I had no real interest in politics but now that **I can participate in this election** I find myself checking the news for updates from the campaign trail. I now find it very exciting and I am thrilled to be a part of the process. -GINA



RESOURCES

Campus Compact

www.compact.org/initiatives/campus-vote-home/

Declare Yourself

www.declareyourself.com

League of Women Voters

www.vote411.org

New Voters Project

www.studentpirgs.org/new-voters-project

Non-Partisan Action: GOTV Resource Center

<http://www.npaction.org/article/articleview/772>

Project Vote Smart

www.votesmart.org

Rock the Vote!

www.rockthevote.com