

VOTING:

Make your voting plan

Unfortunately, voting is not as simple as just showing up to mark your ballot on Election Day. Each state has different rules around registration deadlines, voter IDs, absentee ballots, voting by mail, and more — and these rules can change from election to election. Polling places can move, and election hours can change.

Here are some ways to ensure your voice is counted in November:

Make sure you're registered to vote. The voter registration deadline in many states falls several weeks before Election Day. Visit our Great Lakes Voter Information Center at greatlakes.org/VoterInfo and enter your address to check the status of your registration. You can easily confirm whether you are registered to vote. And, if you're not, you can easily find the information you need to register.

If you plan to vote by mail or absentee ballot: Double-check the rules and deadlines so you don't run into any last-minute surprises. You can learn more about the rules in your state at our Great Lakes Voter Information Center, greatlakes.org/VoterInfo.

- **Learn how to receive a ballot.** Some states mail voters an application to sign up for voting by mail, but the applications are not the same as ballots. Other states require voters to request an absentee or mail-in ballot themselves.

VOTE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO VOTE

Voting is the most important way for you to have a voice in how elected officials protect our water.

Elections are sometimes very close, and every vote counts. Make sure to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, and help others in your community register and vote.



VO
TE

- **Check the eligibility rules.** The rules vary for obtaining absentee ballots. Some states require specific reasons for requesting an absentee ballot, and others have “no-excuse” mail-in ballots.
- **Check the deadlines.** It’s critical to pay attention to deadlines. Some states have a deadline to request an absentee or mail-in ballot. And states have various deadlines for when ballots must be postmarked or received by election agencies.

If you plan to vote in person: Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Depending on where you live, you may be able to vote in person beginning sometime in October. You can learn more at our Great Lakes Voter Information Center, greatlakes.org/VoterInfo.

- **Learn which dates you can vote.** Learn the dates and times when early voting is available in your area. Hours for early voting may be different from the voting hours on November 5.
- **Check your polling location.** Your polling place for early voting may be different than your polling place on November 5.

Know what to do if you face voter intimidation. Voter intimidation is rare and unlikely, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. But if someone is trying to interfere with your right to vote, it may be a violation of federal law. [Learn what voter intimidation is, how to report it, and what to do if someone challenges your qualifications to vote.](#)

