

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.

Here are some tips to get you started:

VOTING:

Make your voting plan

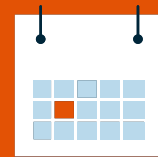
Unfortunately, voting is not as simple as just showing up to mark your ballot. Each state has different rules around primary elections, registration deadlines, voter IDs, absentee ballots, voting by mail, and more — and these rules can change from election to election. Polling places can move, and election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

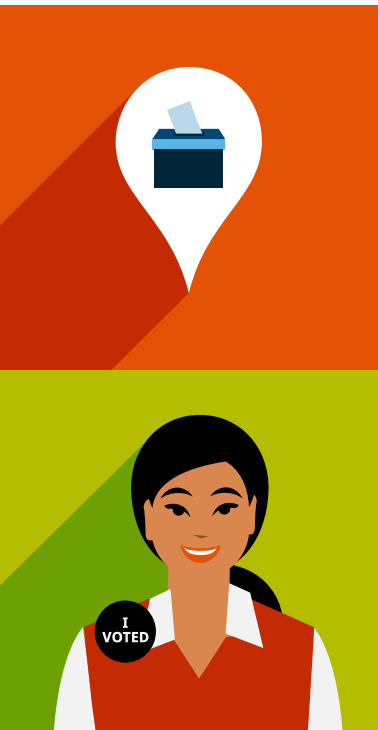
Here are some ways to ensure that your voice is counted:

Make sure you're registered to vote. The voter registration deadline in many states falls several weeks before Election Day. Visit [your state's election office website](#) 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 [your state's election office website](#).

- **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.
- **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: Primary dates vary by state. Our national Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Depending on where you live, you may be able to vote in person beginning up to a month before each election date. You can learn more by visiting [your state's election office website](#).

- **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 each Election Day.
- **Check your polling location.** Your polling place for early voting may be different from your polling place on each Election Day.

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.](#)