



**THE 2026 ELECTION
SEASON & THE
GREAT LAKES**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



ALLIANCE *for the*
**GREAT
LAKES**

*Find this guide online at
greatlakes.org/VoterToolkit*

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Alliance for the Great Lakes cannot support or oppose candidates or political parties. However, we can – and do – educate candidates and voters on Great Lakes issues.

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WHAT'S IN THIS TOOLKIT

As the 2026 election season ramps up, voters are getting ready to cast their ballots. They're researching candidate platforms, attending events, asking tough questions of candidates, and talking with family, neighbors, and friends about the election.

Every office on the ballot, from mayor to United States senator, will have the opportunity to influence Great Lakes and water issues, once in office.

Your local mayor, city council members, governor, and state senator and representative can have an enormous impact on local environmental issues. They oversee agencies that implement clean water laws and regulations, like those set by local environmental departments. They make decisions on issues from local drinking water quality to parks and recreation to your water and sewer bills to reducing plastic pollution that ends up in the lakes. They pass laws and fund programs to ensure that our local communities, ecosystems, and neighbors are protected from pollution and build resilient communities.

Federal officeholders and agencies also have a significant influence on the health of the Great Lakes. Federal officeholders pass laws and set program and funding priorities that can lead to better protections for the Great Lakes – or leave the lakes more vulnerable to pollution. They oversee national agencies that implement clean water laws and establish regulations to protect our Great Lakes ecosystem. They make budget decisions that impact Great Lakes programs. They determine funding levels that flow down to the states – restoring habitat, protecting drinking water, and providing sewage and stormwater infrastructure funds throughout the Great Lakes region.

We need laws and policies that protect and restore the Great Lakes. We must keep pushing for stronger, better safeguards for the world's largest source of surface freshwater. And we must ensure that everyone in the Great Lakes region has access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water, and is safe from community flooding, basement backups, and sewage overflows.

Voters like you can make sure that the Great Lakes and clean water are part of the election-year conversation. You can have an impact by using this toolkit to join the conversation today.





This toolkit will show you how to:

Make the Great Lakes and clean water part of the election-year conversation in your area

- Brainstorm questions to ask candidates about protecting our Great Lakes and our water
- Ask a question at a candidate forum
- Talk with candidates in person, over the phone, or on social media
- Speak out on social media
- Write a letter to the editor

Vote, and encourage others to vote

- Make your plan to vote
- Research the candidates on your ballot
- Encourage others to vote



MAKE THE GREAT LAKES AND CLEAN WATER PART OF THE ELECTION-YEAR CONVERSATION

Right now, you have an opportunity to encourage candidates to stand up for the Great Lakes and hold them accountable, once elected.

Your voice makes a difference – whether you're asking questions at a candidate forum, chiming in on social media, speaking directly with a candidate, or highlighting water issues in a letter to the editor. **People running for elected office pay attention to issues that bubble to the top in all these venues.**

Here's how you can make sure that the Great Lakes and clean water are part of the election-year conversation.



SPEAKING UP:

What questions do you want to ask the candidates?

Asking candidates for any office where they stand on Great Lakes issues raises awareness, highlights the issues, and allows us to hold our elected officials accountable, once they take office. It also helps you and others in the community to understand how candidates would govern, if elected.

Here are some issues where elected officials at all levels of government can make a difference:

- Data centers and other large water users
- Plastic pollution
- Invasive species
- Great Lakes restoration
- Water infrastructure
- Agricultural runoff
- Other local issues

Decide which issues you want to make part of the election-year conversation. Then, think of a few key questions you want to ask the candidates. Here are **some ideas to get you started:**



DATA CENTERS AND OTHER LARGE WATER USERS

Data centers are rapidly expanding across the Great Lakes region. These facilities can require large amounts of water – both directly for cooling and operations, and indirectly via the water used for their power generation needs. Without careful planning, increased water and energy use from data centers could lead to strain on local water systems, increased prices for ratepayers, and, ultimately, water shortages, groundwater conflicts, and aquifer contamination.

We need more transparency and better planning. Many data center developers rely on non-disclosure agreements to keep electricity and water demands secret, even when communities are being asked to approve the projects. Once built, data centers are not required to measure or publicly report how much water they use when they connect to and receive water from local municipal systems. We must ensure that data center projects protect local water resources while providing clear community and economic benefits.

Sample candidate questions:

- What policies would you support to ensure that data centers use water efficiently and do not put a strain on local water supplies?
- What transparency requirements should exist so that the public understands how much water data centers are using and how that affects local resources?
- How should policymakers address the cumulative effect of increased water withdrawals and discharges when multiple data centers are proposed in the same region or watershed?
- Would you support monitoring water quality to protect communities from potentially toxic pollution discharged in data center wastewater?
- Who should pay for the water and wastewater infrastructure data centers need to operate and expand?
- How should state and local governments evaluate whether a public water system or community has sufficient water resources to support large data center development?

If you'd like to dive deeper into questions you should ask data center developers, check out our **Data Center Playbook** at greatlakes.org/DataCenterPlaybook.

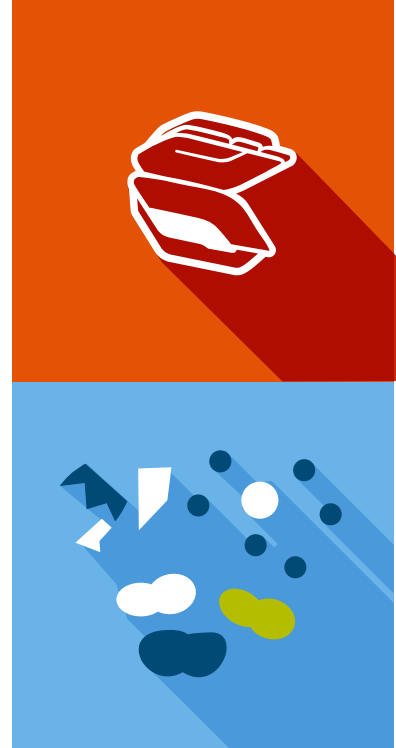
PLASTIC POLLUTION

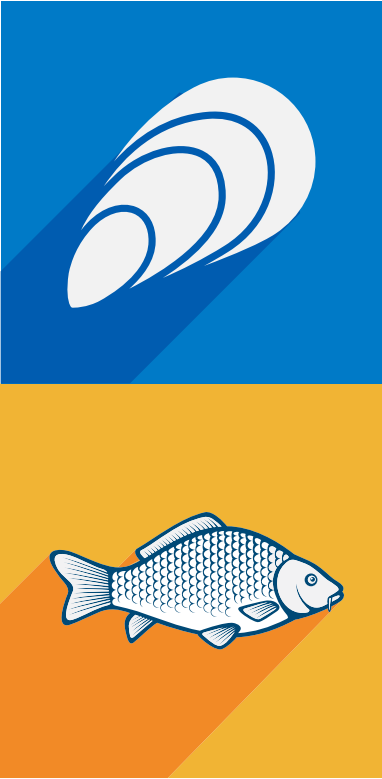
More than 22 million pounds of plastic pollution end up in the Great Lakes every year. And plastic never really goes away. Instead, it just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces known as “microplastics.” Researchers have found stunningly high amounts of microplastics in all five Great Lakes. They’ve found microplastics in Great Lakes fish, drinking water, bottled water, and beer. Microplastics have been found in human blood, lungs, stool, and even breast milk.

Substantially reducing plastic pollution will require action from businesses, governments, and manufacturers. Producers should be responsible for the waste they create at all stages of the plastic lifecycle, from production to collection, recycling, and disposal.

Sample candidate questions:

- Do you support legislation that would reduce single-use plastics like foam foodware and plastic shopping bags in our state/community?
- Do you support funding our agencies to monitor our drinking water for microplastics and microfibers?
- Would you support an Extended Producer Responsibility law that would hold manufacturers accountable for the plastic waste they create?
- How would you reduce government purchasing of single-use plastics (for example, changing purchasing practices and using more reusable options)?
- How would you work with communities, businesses, and manufacturers to transition toward fewer plastic-dependent products and less packaging?
- Do you support regulations that allow customers to bring their own refillable containers to grocery stores, beauty care stores, and restaurants?





INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species have caused irreparable harm to the Great Lakes ecosystem and have cost the region billions of dollars since the late 1980s. Preventing new invasives from entering is the best way to protect the Great Lakes. We must stop invasive carp by building structural measures that block their path as they make their way up the Illinois River toward Lake Michigan. And we must treat the water in ships' ballast tanks to prevent ballast water from carrying invasive species from overseas to the lakes and from one Great Lake to another.

Sample candidate questions:

- How will you fund programs and agencies that keep aquatic invasive species from establishing and spreading in our waterways?
 - Many Great Lakes science and environmental centers that monitor the lakes for invasive species have faced proposed budget and staff cuts from the federal government. What actions would you take to protect this important research from cuts?
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- Are there new programs or initiatives that you would support to reduce the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species?
 - Studies have shown that ships traveling exclusively on the Great Lakes can spread invasive species in their ballast water. Do you support mandating ballast water treatment for these "Lakers"?

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION

Restoration projects include everything from cleaning up toxic hot spots to restoring wetlands, reducing runoff pollution, protecting native fisheries, and restoring habitat for fish and other wildlife. Funding for these projects can come from federal, state, and local governments. And many government agencies must often work together to make restoration projects happen, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to your local park district or forest preserve.

Congress established and funded the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in 2010 to ensure that the Great Lakes would be restored and protected. To date, GLRI has funded more than 8,100 individual projects totaling more than \$4 billion and has greatly improved the quality of life in the region, and restored ecosystems. It is estimated that, for every dollar spent on GLRI projects, an additional three dollars of value is added to the regional economy.

Sample candidate questions:

For federal candidates:

- Would you commit to funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at \$500 million in next year's federal budget?
- Various federal agencies – including, for example, the EPA, Department of the Interior, and Army Corps of Engineers – must work together to ensure that Great Lakes restoration projects move forward, but funding and staffing have been cut significantly. Would you support additional staff or funding to ensure that these projects will be managed well and can move forward?

For all candidates:

- Which restoration projects, such as wetland restoration, toxic sediment cleanup, or habitat restoration, would you prioritize?
- How will you ensure that restoration projects will help the communities where they're located, and are designed to include benefits like reduced community flooding, more green space, and economic development?
- How would you get community input to guide restoration efforts?





WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

No one should be without clean, safe, affordable drinking water in their home. No one should suffer harm from lead service lines. No one should have to worry about sewage backing up into their basement or chronic community flooding that damages homes, businesses, and community gathering places. Yet, communities across the Great Lakes region continue to grapple with antiquated drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure.

These harms are compounded by the growing unaffordability of water and sewer services to households, driven in part by the rising costs of maintaining water infrastructure to address such challenges. Burdens fall especially hard on households served by small water utilities in rural areas, communities with a declining customer base, less-wealthy households, and communities with longtime disinvestment rooted in historical redlining or other forms of discrimination. With climate change causing more extreme storms and periods of drought throughout the region, our communities face heightened threats to well-being from inadequate and/or failing water infrastructure.

Sample candidate questions:

- How will you fund much-needed improvements to our drinking water, sewage, and stormwater infrastructure?
- How would you balance the need for increased funding to pay for water infrastructure improvements while also keeping water bills affordable?
- What is your plan to ensure that water infrastructure funding reaches the communities where it is needed most?
- What is your plan to replace lead drinking water pipes?
- How would you involve the community in conversations about water infrastructure needs and improvements?

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF

Nutrient runoff from agricultural fields fuels excessive algae growth in the Great Lakes, causing harmful algal blooms. These blooms can make water toxic to fish, wildlife, and people; create “dead zones” where fish and other aquatic life can’t survive; increase downstream costs of treating drinking water; harm the regional economy; and prevent recreation on the lakes. In August 2014, a harmful algal bloom in Lake Erie left more than half a million people in Toledo, Ohio, without safe drinking water for nearly three days.

Nitrate pollution from fertilizer and manure also contaminates drinking water, particularly for the people in our region who rely on private wells that draw from groundwater. Growing research shows that long-term exposure to nitrate, even at levels below the 10mg/L federal drinking water standard, may be linked to serious health concerns, including certain cancers and pregnancy complications. Households often bear the cost, needing to drill a new well, install treatment systems, or purchase safe drinking water. These challenges disproportionately affect rural families who are not connected to public water systems.

Reducing nutrient runoff, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, is critical to protecting the health of the Great Lakes and the communities that depend on them.

Sample candidate questions:

- How would you support funding for conservation programs and other solutions that reduce agricultural runoff into local waterways?
- What specific actions, standards, and/or policies would you support to reduce nutrient runoff from agricultural lands, which pollutes our local waters?
- Billions of dollars have been invested in voluntary programs to reduce agricultural runoff, yet harmful algal blooms persist. What would you do differently to ensure that these investments produce measurable water quality improvements and make better use of taxpayer dollars?
- Do you believe voluntary conservation programs alone are enough to reduce agricultural runoff, or should stronger standards be considered to protect water quality?
- How will you ensure that the public has access to transparent information about whether nutrient pollution in our waters is actually improving?
- Do you support programs that would assist residents in installing new wells or water treatment systems if their drinking water is contaminated with nitrate?





OTHER LOCAL ISSUES

Other local water issues may have a big impact on your community. Perhaps decisions need to be made about permits for mining companies, pipelines, or industrial facilities. There may be local beach access issues or plans to store hazardous waste near local waterways. Make sure to ask candidates about the issue that will have the biggest impact on your community.

MAKE IT LOCAL

While federal and state officeholders and agencies have great influence on the health of the Great Lakes, your local mayor, city council members, and regulators also have a big impact. They make decisions on issues from local drinking water quality to parks and recreation to your water and sewer bills to reducing plastic pollution that ends up in the lakes.

The key to advocating locally is to connect the dots between the issue you care about, the public institution responsible, and the public officeholder who has the most influence on that institution.

Doing some quick detective work by searching your local government webpages will describe which officeholders are responsible for the issues you are concerned about this election. After you have identified the local issue you care about and the candidates who are seeking offices that influence that issue, you can use the tips in this guide to connect with them directly.

SPEAKING UP:

Ask a question at a candidate forum

Asking a question at a candidate forum can be a powerful way to show candidates that you care about the Great Lakes and clean water, and get candidates on the record on these issues.

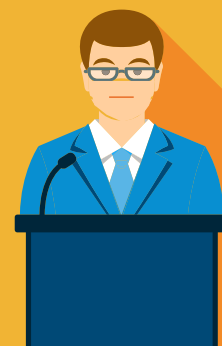
The formats can vary, but candidate forums generally allow time for participants from the audience to ask questions of the candidates. Some events will ask you to submit questions ahead of time, and sometimes, you can ask your questions right there on the spot. Candidate forums are an important way for you to get your issue on the agenda by asking how the candidate plans to take action, if elected.

Here are some tips to help you find candidate forums in your area and ask your questions effectively.

Find a candidate forum. Check with groups that regularly organize these events, like local media outlets, civic organizations, and chambers of commerce, and follow them on social media or sign up for their email lists to receive announcements.

Know the format. Forums may be public or private, may accept questions only in advance, and may follow other specific guidelines. Check the rules before you plan to attend, so you know what to expect.

Ask your question and make it personal. Keep your questions direct and to the point, giving only as much information as is necessary. Make your question more impactful by sharing why it is personal to you and your community.



ARE YOU ORGANIZING A CANDIDATE FORUM?

Are you organizing a nonpartisan candidate forum that will focus on environmental issues or water infrastructure? If so, please let us know. Email us at alliance@greatlakes.org.

SPEAKING UP:

Talk with candidates in person, over the phone, or on social media

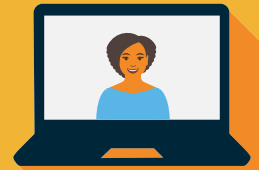
An in-person meeting or phone call with candidates is a great opportunity to educate them about a water issue you care about. Here are some tips to get started.

Reach out to a candidate you're interested in speaking with. Most candidates have campaign websites, Facebook pages, or other social media accounts. You can find an email address, call the campaign headquarters, or send a message to their social media account to let them know that you'd like to speak with them about a water issue that is important to you.

Go to an event that you know candidates will attend. Some organizations hold in-person events with candidates, giving community members an opportunity to meet them, and sometimes, candidates hold their own opportunities to meet and greet. Come prepared to such events with your talking points, questions you may have for the candidate, and any reference materials, such as fact sheets, news articles, or relevant research, that you'd like to leave behind.

Make it personal. When you get the opportunity to speak with a candidate, introduce yourself, and let them know you live in their district. Tell the candidate how you have been impacted by the issue you're talking to them about.

Engage on social media. You can directly and publicly ask candidates questions by tagging their campaign accounts on social media.



SPEAKING UP:

Speak out on social media

Speaking out on social media is a good way to make sure that the Great Lakes and clean water are part of the election-year conversation. Here are some tips to get you started:

Use a #hashtag. Tapping into trending hashtags — #GreatLakes, #election2026, #vote, etc. — is a great way to track a conversation and follow key issues.

Be relevant. Hook your audience and stay relevant to candidates and others in the conversation. Use interesting facts, photos, or links. For example, link to a recent news article, refer to current events in your community, and use relatable material.

Keep it simple. A social media post is not an encyclopedia entry. Get to the point quickly and clearly.

Make your ask. Your posts should make it clear what questions you're asking, and what action you want candidates to take.

Tag candidates. Ask candidates questions directly by tagging them in your posts using the @ sign with their campaign handle. You typically can find a candidate's social media handles on their campaign website.

Follow social media accounts that give you the information you need.

Keeping up with news outlets, issue organizations, and candidates is a great way to stay informed during election season. Understand that different accounts have different goals — from providing information to influencing opinion to winning your vote — so read with a critical eye. Find us on [Instagram \(@alliance4greatlakes\)](#), [Facebook \(Alliance for the Great Lakes\)](#), [Bluesky \(@alliancegreatlakes.bsky.social\)](#), and [LinkedIn \(Alliance for the Great Lakes\)](#).

Submit questions for interviews and candidate forums. Many news outlets will use social media to announce requests for question submissions for an upcoming interview or candidate forum.

Share your participation in a candidate forum. If you plan to attend an event, share information about the event on social media or with friends and family. This kind of activity helps spread the word and raise awareness of election season events.



SPEAKING UP:



Write a letter to the editor

Writing a letter to the editor is another way to send candidates a powerful, public message about the importance of protecting the Great Lakes and clean water.

Here are six simple steps for writing your letter and getting it published:

Choose what to write in your letter to the editor (LTE). LTEs should be able to stand on their own and make sense to readers who may not already be familiar with water issues. LTEs that respond to recent articles are most likely to be published, so consider monitoring your local news outlets for the right opportunities, such as articles related to water pollution, invasive species, algal blooms, drinking water, neighborhood flooding, or other Great Lakes and water infrastructure issues. The best LTEs allow you to use your personal experience to offer a new perspective on the newspaper's existing coverage.

Write your LTE. LTEs should be focused and direct. Trying to cover several topics and making too many points reduces a letter's impact, so try to keep to one subject, if possible. Explain the problem that you see, and how you think the next person elected to the office you're writing about can help.

Keep it brief. Newspapers and online outlets have different word count requirements for LTEs, but, in general, it is best to keep them as short and succinct as possible (usually no more than 250 words).

List your info. Always include your credentials and contact information, as most publications will require written verification that you have authored the piece. For example, if you're writing about plastic pollution and you were an Adopt-a-Beach Team Leader, make sure to include that. Similarly, if you're writing about sewage and stormwater infrastructure, and your neighborhood suffers from flooding and basement backups, include that as part of your credentials.

Submit your LTE. Each outlet has different LTE submission guidelines, so be sure to check the outlet's website for specific guidance. Usually, you will need to send an email to an address specifically assigned to letters to the editor at the particular publication, or to the letters/opinion editor directly. When you send in your letter, include a note in the email about why your LTE is timely, interesting, and relevant, connecting it to any recent coverage about the Great Lakes, if possible. Include the text of your letter in your email, not as an attachment.

Follow up after you submit. Most newspapers have areas online where you can post comments to articles. If your LTE does not get placed within 24 hours, give the letters/opinion editor a call and/or consider going online and adding your letter as a comment to a story.



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

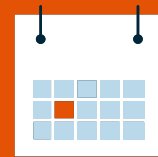
Unfortunately, voting is not as simple as just showing up to mark your ballot. Each state has different rules around primary elections, registration deadlines, voter IDs, absentee ballots, voting by mail, and more — and these rules can change from election to election. Polling places can move, and election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

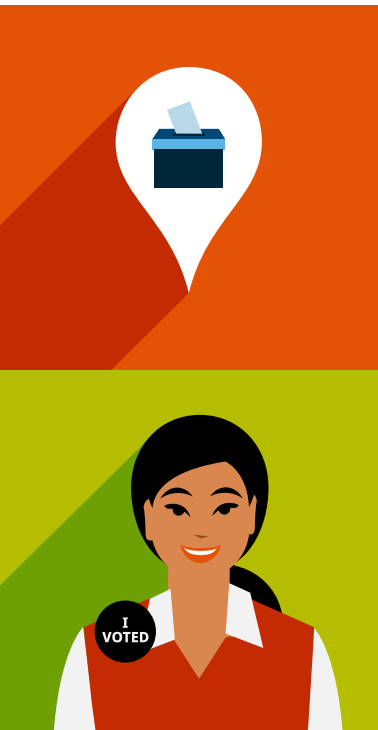
Here are some ways to ensure that your voice is counted:

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.](#)

VOTING:

Research the candidates on your ballot

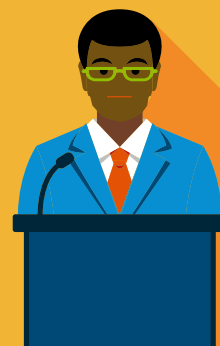
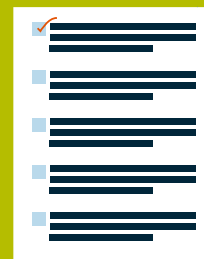
Elected officials set priorities that can lead to better protections for the lakes, or leave our waters more vulnerable to pollution. They oversee agencies that implement clean water laws and regulations. And they make budget decisions that impact the Great Lakes, drinking water, stormwater, and sewage programs.

Learn which offices are up for election. The list of local elected offices sometimes seems incomprehensible. But understanding local offices and their roles can help you make informed choices on issues you care about. For instance, a city comptroller is essentially the city's chief financial officer and can have major influence over how local governments spend taxpayer dollars. Knowing the roles elected officials play can help you ask informed questions. You can learn which elected offices will appear on your ballot by visiting [your state's election office website](#).

Learn where candidates stand on Great Lakes, ecosystem protection, and water infrastructure issues. After you have identified the issue you care about and the candidates who are seeking offices that influence that issue, find out what they would do, if elected. For instance, if you are concerned about rising water and sewer bills, your local water and sewer district sets the rates, but your mayor or city council may have influence over those decisions.

Here are some ways you can learn about candidates' stances on Great Lakes and clean water issues:

- **Read answers to a nonpartisan candidate questionnaire.** Local news outlets and nonpartisan organizations sometimes create questionnaires where candidates can provide their views on important issues. Check your local newspaper or television station's website to see if the outlet has a nonpartisan candidate questionnaire.
- **Attend a nonpartisan candidate forum.** Watching a candidate debate, town hall, or other forum can be a great way to learn what candidates would do, if elected. Check with groups like local media outlets, civic organizations, and chambers of commerce that regularly organize these events. Follow these groups on social media or sign up for their email lists to receive announcements about upcoming candidate forums, or get links to recordings of past forums.
- **Visit candidates' websites.** Many candidates publish issue positions on their websites. Look for website sections about environmental issues, water and sewer infrastructure, or local budgeting and permitting decisions.
- **Ask candidates directly.** If you can't find answers another way, try asking your questions through the contact form on the candidates' websites, by tagging them on social media, or by speaking with them at in-person events. Tell them why the issue is important to you. Let them know that you live in their district, and you couldn't find the answer on their websites. Make sure to ask your questions respectfully, regardless of how you feel about any candidates' political affiliations or their stances on other issues.



VOTING:

Encourage others to vote

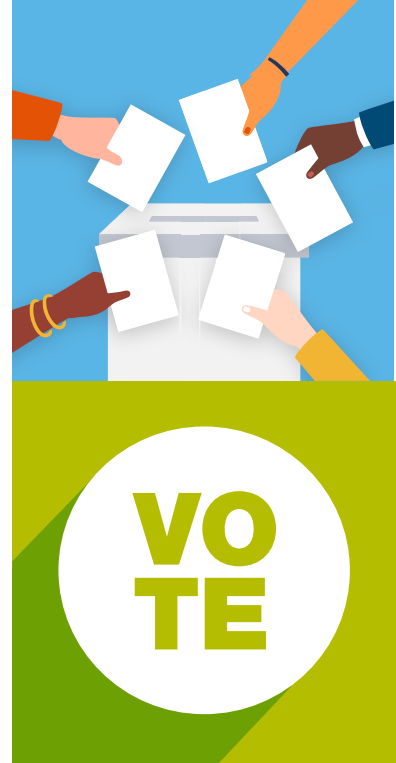
Once you've made sure you're registered and ready to vote, it's equally important to make sure friends, family, and other members of your community are registered and ready, too.

Share voting resources on social media. Social media can be a great way to share helpful voting resources and reminders with your network.

- **Share information about the voting process.** Share links to your local voter registration and polling information websites like your city's, county's, or [state's election office website](#). Share reminders about deadlines for voter registration, mail-in and absentee voting, early voting, and Election Day voting hours.
- **Spread the word about nonpartisan questionnaires, candidate forums,** and other nonpartisan resources where people can learn about the candidates.
- **Celebrate events** like your state's primary election, [National Voter Registration Day](#), [National Voter Education Week](#), [National Vote Early Day](#), and our national Election Day. Remind everyone you know to get out and vote!

Participate in a voter drive. Check with local civic organizations for information on voter drives and other kinds of assistance available for people looking to vote. Volunteer to help get members of your community registered and to the polls.

Help your friends and family get ready to vote. Share information with family, friends, and your community — the more people involved, the better!

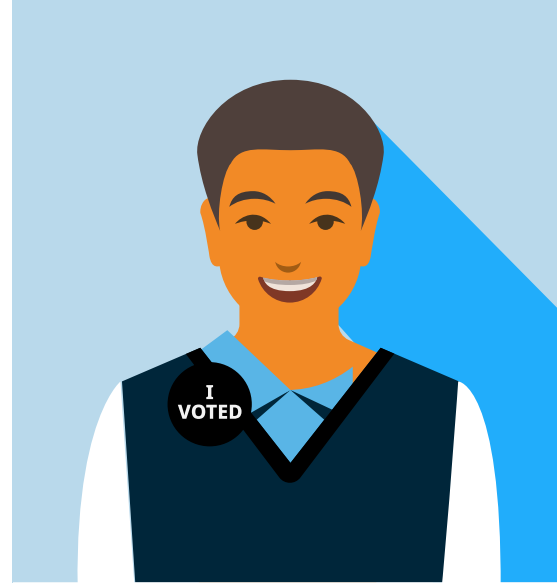


YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Elections have a big impact on our Great Lakes and the communities that rely on them. You can make a difference this election season. Show candidates that you care about the lakes and clean water. Vote, and encourage others to vote.

Let us know how it goes, and feel free to reach out anytime by emailing us at alliance@greatlakes.org.

Thank you for everything you do for our Great Lakes!



REPORT BACK

If you attended a candidate forum and asked a Great Lakes question, tell us what questions you asked and how candidates responded. If you wrote a letter to the editor, got active on social media, or helped get out the vote, we're interested in hearing what you learned or heard.

Share how you got involved to protect the Great Lakes this election season by emailing us at alliance@greatlakes.org.



PROTECTING WATER, SUSTAINING LIFE

The Alliance for the Great Lakes is a nonpartisan nonprofit working across the region to protect our most precious resource: the fresh, clean, and natural waters of the Great Lakes. Learn more at greatlakes.org