

# NEWAMERICAN VOTERS 2020

## GUIDE TO THE POLLS



Have you recently become a U.S. citizen? Congratulations! You can register and most likely vote in this year's elections! The New American Voters 2020 campaign is proud to join with the ACLU in encouraging all new eligible citizens to register and vote. There are many ways to vote, including at the polls, by mail, in-person early voting, or, depending on which state you live in, by registering and voting on Election Day. Naturalized citizens have historically voted less than U.S.-born citizens, but you have the power to flip that script. Inform yourself about how to vote, use your voice, and vote this year!



### HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- You are at least 18 years old on Election Day
- You are a U.S. Citizen
- You are not disqualified by your state for some other reasons, like a felony conviction (check your state's elections website for details)



### WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME?

- Register to vote or update your registration here. Some states' voter registration deadlines have passed, so check yours right now! In some states you can register and vote on Election Day (Nov. 3) and/or during an early voting period. See if your state allows this here.
- When you vote, you may need to bring documentation with you — such as a photo ID or utility bill/lease/bank statement. See here or here for your state's rules. (Scroll down on the page to find your state.)

# WAYS TO VOTE THIS YEAR



## I WANT TO VOTE BEFORE ELECTION DAY

### WHAT TO DO:

- Almost every state lets citizens vote early in-person or by absentee ballot (especially due to COVID). Go [here](#) to see your options.
- If you want to vote absentee by mail, you likely have to apply soon. Check your deadlines [here](#).



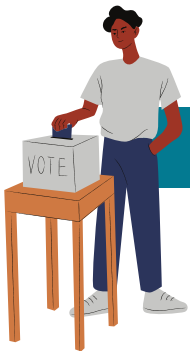
## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT WAS COUNTED?

- Most states offer an option to track your absentee ballot. Find your state's ballot tracker [here](#).



## I WANT TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

- [Find your polling place or vote center](#) — for early voting and on Election Day — plus hours of operation.
- Make a plan for Election Day: When and where will you cast your vote, and how will you get there?
- Bring any [required forms](#), like a photo ID or other proof of identity/residence.



## YOUR RIGHTS AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

- If the polls close while you're still in line, stay in line — you have the right to vote.
- If the poll worker can't find your name in the poll book:
  - Ask the poll worker to double check (provide your name's spelling) on the supplemental list;
  - If the worker still can't find your name, ask if you're in the right polling place (the poll worker can check a statewide system or call the state elections office);
  - If you are registered in another location, you likely have to travel to the right precinct (in some cases you can vote with a provisional ballot where you are);
  - If the worker can't find your name anywhere, but you believe you are registered, you are entitled to vote using a provisional ballot. (It will be counted if you are qualified and registered.)



## YOUR RIGHTS AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

- If you live in a state requiring some form of ID, and you did not bring it with you, you may be required to produce it at an office after casting your provisional ballot.
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new one. If the machines are down at your polling place, ask for a paper ballot — not a provisional one.
- If you run into any problems or have questions on Election Day, call the Election Protection Hotline:
  - English: **1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683**
  - Spanish: **1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682**
  - Arabic: **1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287**
  - Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: **1-888-274-8683**



## OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING IN MY LANGUAGE

### YOUR RIGHTS

- Under federal law, voters who have difficulty reading or writing in English may receive in-person assistance at the polls from the person of their choice. This person cannot be the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an agent or officer of the voter's union.
- Counties covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act are required to provide bilingual assistance to voters in specific languages. This means that they must provide poll workers who speak certain languages, and make all election materials and election-related information available in those languages. Check whether your county is required to provide bilingual election assistance in a language you speak.

### WHAT TO DO

- You can bring a family member, friend, or other person of your choice to assist you at the polls. Do not bring your employer, or an agent of your employer or union.
- If you live in a county that's required to provide bilingual voting assistance for a language you speak, you can request oral assistance from a bilingual poll worker and ask for voting materials, such as a ballot, in that language.



## OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING IN MY LANGUAGE

### WHAT TO DO

- If you have trouble voting due to lack of English fluency, call one of these hotlines:
- Spanish: **1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682**
- Arabic: **1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287**
- English: **1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683**
- Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese: **1-888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For detailed guidance on bilingual voting assistance, visit [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#).



## I AM A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY

### YOUR RIGHTS

- Under federal law, all polling places for federal elections must be fully accessible to older adults and voters with disabilities. Simply allowing curbside voting is not enough to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements.
- In federal elections, every polling place must have at least one voting system that allows voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently. Usually, this is a machine that can read the ballot to you (for people with vision disabilities or dyslexia), and let you vote by pushing buttons (for people with mobility disabilities).
- Under federal law, voters with disabilities and voters who have difficulty reading or writing English have the right to receive in-person help at the polls from the person of their choice. This helper cannot be the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an agent or officer of the voter's union. The helper must respect the voter's privacy, not looking at the voter's ballot unless the voter asks them to do so.
- Election officials (including poll workers) must make reasonable accommodations as needed to help you vote.
- Election officials must provide you with help if it's possible for them to do so.
- A voter with a mental disability cannot be turned away from the polls because a poll worker thinks they are not "qualified" to vote.



## I AM A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY

### WHAT TO DO

- You can bring a family member, friend, or another person of your choice to assist you at the polls. Do not bring your employer, or an agent of your employer or union.
- If you bring a person to assist you, let the poll workers know that when you check in. They may ask you to swear under oath that you have a disability and that you have asked that person to help you. Your helper may also be required to sign a form swearing that they did not tell you how to vote.
- If there are long lines and you have a physical or mental health condition or disability that makes it difficult for you to stand in line, tell a poll worker.
- Tell election officials what you need. For example, if it's hard for you to stand, they should provide you with a chair or a place to sit while you wait. If the crowds or noise are hard for you, election officials can find a quiet place for you to wait and call you when it's your turn to vote.
- If you are not able to enter your polling place because the pathway to it is not fully accessible, ask poll workers for curbside assistance. Also call 1-866-OUR-VOTE to report the issue.
- If you have difficulty using the materials provided to make your ballot selections, review, or cast your ballot, let a poll worker know and ask for the help you need. Accessibility is the law.
- If you face any challenges in voting privately and independently or are unable to cast your vote, report the problem to the Election Protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Trained attorneys can assist you and make sure that other voters do not experience the same problem.



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Find detailed voting guides at [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#).
- For a toolkit on voting with a disability, visit the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#).
- Visit [SABE's GoVoter Project](#) for accessible trainings on how to exercise your rights as a voter with a disability.
- Take a course on polling place accessibility requirements at the [Rocky Mountain ADA Center](#).
- For voting information in American Sign Language, visit [SignVote](#).



## SOMEONE IS INTERFERING WITH MY RIGHT TO VOTE

### EXAMPLES OF VOTER INTIMIDATION

- Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications to vote.
- Falsely representing oneself as an elections official.
- Challenging a voter in the polls with no basis.
- Displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and related criminal penalties.
- Other forms of harassment include taking photos of voters in the parking lot, copying license plates, or aggressively questioning voters about their political choices, particularly when targeting non-English speakers and voters of color.
- Spreading false information about voter requirements.
  - You do not need to speak English to vote in any state.
  - You do not need to pass a test to vote in any state.
  - Some states do not require voters to present photo identification.



### YOUR RIGHTS

- It's illegal to intimidate voters and a federal crime to “intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as they may choose.”

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE VOTER INTIMIDATION

- In many states, if someone has challenged your right to vote, you can give a sworn statement to the poll worker that you satisfy the qualifications to vote in your state, and then proceed to cast a ballot.
- Even if you are able to cast a ballot, make a call — see below — to report the intimidation. The more quickly attorneys know about this, the more quickly they can put a stop to the behavior.
- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at **1-866-OUR-VOTE/1-888-VE-Y-VOTA** (en Español), **1-844-YALLA-US/1-844-925-5287** (Arabic), **1-888-API-VOTE/1-888-274-8683** (Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese)
- Report intimidation to your local election officials. Their offices will be open on Election Day.