

VOICE FOR REFUGE

ACTION FUND

HOW TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION

Voting is your right as a U.S. citizen, and making your voice heard is critical to our democracy. By exercising your right to vote, you empower yourself, support your community, and ensure that your voice is heard by those seeking to represent you.

This year's elections will take place on **Tuesday, November 5th, 2024**. Mark your calendars! Consider voting early or by mail if your state allows. Find the most up-to-date and state specific information at www.vote.org.

It is very important to vote this year, but not

just for president. So many local candidates, important community initiatives, and state-wide positions get decided each election. Make sure you and your community members are registered to vote and have a plan of when and how to vote.

Every U.S. citizen can register to vote and vote in federal, state, and local elections. Register ahead of deadlines and re-register when you move. Contact your local elections administrator if you have questions. Learn more about when to vote and your voting location at www.vote.org.

**Election Day is Tuesday,
November 5th, 2024**

THREE WAYS TO VOTE



1. Vote by Mail: Many states allow voters to vote by mail, using an “absentee ballot” before election day. Since it’s often difficult for people, especially the elderly, those who work long hours or multiple jobs, and those who do not have access to transportation, to make it to the polls, voting early by mail is one of the most helpful tools to make sure people vote. You can request vote-by-mail ballots from your state’s board of elections or at www.vote.org/absentee-ballot. Make sure to request one well before the election – states have different deadlines, so request yours TODAY!



2. Vote Early: Many states offer early voting at a polling location before election day. This can help you avoid lines and crowds. Informing others about early voting options is also an effective way to increase voter turnout. See your state’s early voting options at www.vote.org/early-voting-calendar.



3. Vote on Election Day: Your last chance to vote is at your polling place on Election Day. Find your precinct and polling place at www.vote.org/polling-place-locator or check on your voter card. Each state has different requirements, so check your state’s laws to make sure to bring what you need (example: some require a government-issued ID) and arrive at your polling place during the designated hours.

Register to vote TODAY!
www.vote.org



Did you know?

Refugees can apply for a green card after living in the United States for one year. And after living in the United States for a total of five years, refugees can apply for citizenship. Click to learn how to [apply for a green card](#), [apply for citizenship](#) and make sure you are [registered to vote](#)!

DO MORE THAN VOTE

3 THINGS TO SHARE ONLINE TODAY:

1. Share a selfie with your voter registration and [the voter registration link](#) for other people to register too! Talk to your family, friends and neighbors about why voting matters to you, it's more meaningful if people hear it from someone they know.
2. Post a reminder that election day is November 5th with [a link](#) for your followers to find their own state's voter registration deadlines and [early voting information](#).
3. Reshare a post from VFR or another election organization you follow to remind people to register to vote!

1 THING TO TEXT TO 3 FRIENDS THIS WEEK:

"Hey, I just registered to vote for the election at www.vote.org and it was super easy! I'm voting to ensure that issues I care about are heard and reflected in who represents us at the state and national level. You should register to vote too if you haven't yet, it's one of the simplest actions we can take to participate in our democracy"

3 THINGS TO TRY THIS MONTH:

First-timer: Volunteer to text and call voters in your neighborhood to help them register to vote too!

Beginner: Contact your current state and federal representatives to ask about their support for issues important to you and share their response with others.

Pro: [Volunteer as a poll worker](#) with your county election administrator, join a [local coalition to protect voters' rights](#), and/or report any voter intimidation or suppression by calling 1-866-OUR-VOTE.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What elected positions will my vote count towards?

Federal elections include voting for President every four years, one representative every two years, and two senators every six years. State and local elections vary by location and are for the governor, state legislators, mayor, county executives, district attorneys, and city council members. Typically, elections are held in early November, although local elections, primaries, special elections and ballot measures - when voters approve or reject certain laws - can take place anytime. "Primary elections" take place a before "General" elections, during which voters can choose which candidates should represent their specific party. In some states, you have to be registered with a particular party in order to vote in primary elections.

How do I find out who I can vote for in my community?

Some states will mail a sample ballot or you can find yours by entering your address here. You are allowed to mark this up and take this with you when you vote. You can also find your sample ballot online.

When and where do I go to vote?

Learn more about how to vote early here or find your polling location and hours based on your address here. Be sure to go during the designated hours.

How do I decide who to vote for?

Voting for people who share your values and care about similar issues is a good place to start. Ask officials and candidates questions about their support for refugees during virtual candidate forums and town halls. Here are some ideas:

- Do you agree to meet with refugee community members to listen to our needs?
- Do you support passing welcoming city/state/national resolutions to show that our city/state/nation welcomes refugees and immigrants with open arms?

Post questions and issues that you care about on candidates' social media profiles and ask for them to respond. Your candidates, just like your elected officials, should be held accountable for their words, promises, and actions. Do some research before you cast your vote!



You can ask officials and candidates questions about issues you care about via email, by tagging them on social media, or by attending virtual forums and town halls.

Can my family members vote too?

If they are citizens, over the age of 18, and registered to vote in time, yes! Check your state registration requirements to make sure your family members are eligible and registered. Take every eligible voter with you when you go to vote and encourage them to vote too!

Will people be able to see who I voted for?

No, your vote is always private and you don't have to share that information with anyone if you don't want to.



Did you know?

If you need transportation to get to your polling place, schedule a carpool with family and friends, or see if ride-share services, such as Lyft, are offering special discounts for the election!

Who should I vote for?

No one should tell you how to vote – you can decide that for yourself and you don't have to tell anyone who you are voting for or why. To help you make your decision, you can find a voting guide, sample ballots, and learn more about candidates' positions on issues you care about www.voiceforrefuge.org. We regularly endorse candidates we have researched and confirmed support refugees and immigrants. Maybe one of our endorsed candidates is on your ballot! This can give you a place to start.

Have additional questions about voting or getting involved in elections? Reach out!

CONTACT US

