

# VOICE FOR REFUGE

ACTION FUND

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about voting

### 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.

### 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!



Did you know?

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.

## 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!

## 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.

## 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](http://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.



**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!

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

**CONTACT US**