

CIVICS IN REAL LIFE

Informed Voter

Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how "We the People" interact with the government and each other. Let's help each other expand our civic literacy.

November 5, 2024, will mark the 60th presidential election for the United States of America. The winner of this election will go on to be inaugurated as the 47th president. But ballots will present voters with many more decisions beyond a presidential selection. So, what do you need to know to be an informed voter for the upcoming election?



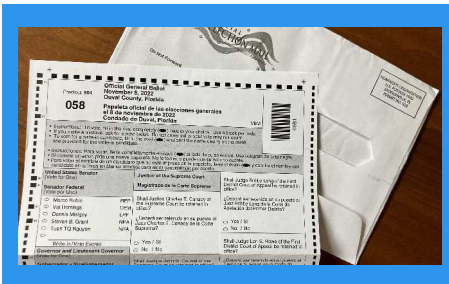
The most important thing will be to not miss the deadline! Each state has different deadlines for registering to vote. In Florida, the deadline is October 7th. Check out your state's registration timeline to make sure that you are able to vote when Election Day comes. Once you're registered, you're ready to vote! But you may have some questions about this process.

How will I vote?

There are lots of options for you once you're registered to vote. Each state has options for early or absentee voting. Your Supervisor of Elections website has information on early voting and the voting process by absentee ballot. This information will also include important dates to know if you are choosing to vote using one of these methods. Others may choose to head to the polls on Election Day. But how do you know where to go? Your polling location is based on where you live. You can find your polling place by visiting your Supervisor of Elections website. Once you know where to go, you'll be able to exercise your right to vote.

Why is there so much on the ballot?

The general election ballot won't just have the race for president on it. Races for local, state, and other national offices will appear on your ballot. For example, you may be voting for your local city council members as well as who will represent you in the U.S. Congress. You may also have to vote to retain judges, or you may have to choose members for the local school board. In addition to electing individuals for office, you may also be asked to vote on certain issues or policies known as ballot measures. Your ballot may have you vote on the implementation of a special tax to help with a local issue or need. You could also be asked to approve an amendment to your state's constitution.



How do I know who to vote for?


There are a lot of people and topics that can appear on your ballot, and all that information can be overwhelming. So, how do you make sure you're making the best decision? You can start by printing a sample ballot. You can also look to see if your state and county offer [voter guides](#) that provide information on candidates and ballot measures. You can spend time researching all the topics and candidates, so you're a well-informed voter. Most places even allow you to bring your notes or sample ballots to the polls; that way, you'll have your research at your fingertips while standing at the voting booth. Next, you can look through some non-partisan websites that offer you just the details on the issues and candidates. A good place to start would be [Ballotpedia](#), [Vote.us](#), or your local elections website ([FL Division of Elections](#)). Part of being an informed voter is investigating information about the candidates and policies by using your civic literacy skills. Spend time watching debates and interviews, going to speaking engagements, checking out social media platforms, and exploring candidate websites.

Being an informed voter is hard work, but it's worth it to know that you did your homework so you could make the most informed decision possible when you cast your ballot and fulfill your responsibility of engaged citizenship. Make the most out of this election season!

Think and To Do: Head to [US.VOTE](#) and take part in the Voter Journey Map to get a better understanding of the process and the topics you'll see on your local ballot.

Learn MORE about elections.

- [Election Administration at the State and Local Level](#), from the National Conference of State Legislatures
- [Voting and Election Laws](#), from USA.Gov
- [Elections](#), from iCivics



Take Part in the 2024 Mock Election

If you are in Florida, join us with [KidsVotingFlorida!](#)

Somewhere else? Check out [DoubleClick Democracy](#) for a program near you.



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