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Get organized to vote

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Be prepared to vote on election day.

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Get out and vote! It's our right - and responsibility - to participate in the selection of the officials who make decisions that affect our daily lives. Whether you vote regularly or occasionally, here's how to get organized to participate the upcoming elections.

1. **Register to vote** in your jurisdiction. Visit USA.gov for registration information.
2. **Confirm the location** of your polling place. Visit [Vote 411](#) to find your closest location.
3. **Find out about absentee or early voting** in your area. Link to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) for details.
4. **Study the candidates and the issues** on the ballot. [Project Vote Smart](#) is a site that links to the candidates and issues they represent.
5. **Adjust your schedule** to make time to vote. Find out in advance the hours when your polling place will be open, and [make plans](#) for work, child care, and other errands to include voting in your routine for this one day.
6. **Be prepared to stand in line.** If it's likely you'll have to wait to vote, don't be discouraged. Take along something to read; complete a crossword puzzle or other activity; or chat with other voters in line. Make waiting a pleasant experience.
7. **Remember to take a photo ID.** Most polling places require a photo ID before you'll be admitted to a voting booth.
8. **Bring friends or neighbors.** Make the experience fun, and encourage others to vote as well.
9. **VOTE!**

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