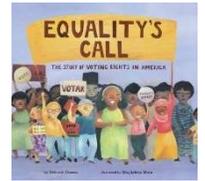


The Voting Process

Your state's Secretary of State page or Secretary of the Commonwealth page can help you learn about the requirements, limitations, restrictions, and/or deadlines for each step of the voting process. Use this worksheet with your teacher and classmates to help explore the information you find.



REGISTER TO VOTE

How old do you have to be? Where do you register? Can you register online? What identification is needed? Who can't register? How long before election day do you have to register?

Decide if you'd like to vote by mail or in person

VOTE BY MAIL

VOTE IN PERSON

Request an absentee ballot application (sent automatically in some states). How is the request made? When does it have to be made by?

Check your voter registration card for your polling location. Find out when your polling location will be open (which day or days; which hours). Is election day a holiday in your state? Are employers required to give time off? Are lines typically long at your polling location?

Complete and return absentee ballot application. When does it have to be returned by? Does it have to be notarized? Do you have to include a copy of your ID?

Are there reasons vote-by-mail may be a better option for many voters?

Are there reasons your application might be rejected? If so, what are your options? Do you have to vote in person?

Receive ballot.

Determine if you will need ID at your polling location. Obtain required ID if you do not have it.

What happens if your mail ballot never arrives? Who do you contact? Can you vote in person?

Learn what safety protocols your polling location has in place for safe voting. (e.g. Is a mask required? Is hand sanitizer provided? Is it suggested you bring your own pen?)

Complete and return your ballot. What methods are available for return? When does it have to be received by?

Go to your polling location. At the polling location, follow instructions to complete and submit your ballot.

Can you track your ballot after you've mailed it?

Can you change your ballot after you've submitted it? If so, how?

Can your ballot be rejected after submission? Will you be notified? Will you have the opportunity to correct it?

If necessary, cast a provisional ballot. Why might this occur?