



DEFENDING OUR *VOTE*

Know your rights.
Vote with confidence.

ACLU

Voting is the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties and our freedoms rest. We only have these freedoms when all eligible voters can decide who holds power through fair elections. Protecting our freedom depends on making sure that eligible voters can vote, and their votes are counted. This requires each of us to understand those rights and how to defend them.

To start, register to vote or check your status and make a plan to vote — early or by mail if you can!

Check Your Registration

To vote in federal elections you must:

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- Be a US citizen and 18 years old on or before Election Day
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- Meet your state's residency and registration requirements
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- Lack a disqualifying criminal conviction or “mental incapacity” that suspends voting rights, as defined by your state's laws

Freedom to Vote

- Voters have the right to cast a ballot freely and without intimidation.
- Voter intimidation is illegal, whether from private individuals or federal, state, or local government. Many federal and state laws protect voters from intimidation.
- In the unlikely chance you encounter concerning behavior when voting, stay calm, take notes, and report it as soon as it is safe to do so to **1-866-OUR-VOTE**.

While Voting

- If the polls close while you're still in line, **stay in line — you still have the right to vote.**
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask a poll worker for a new one.
- If voting machines are not working, ask for a paper ballot.
- Voters with disabilities have the right to accessible voting, including certain assistance or other support.

Questions or concerns before or when you are voting?
Call or text the non-partisan Election Protection Hotline at **1-866-OUR-VOTE** (687-8683), to speak with a trained volunteer.

This information is not intended as legal advice.

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Learn more about your federal voting rights here:

