

# KNOW YOUR VOTER RIGHTS

KEEP 20  
GOING 20



# GENERAL VOTER RIGHTS

**1**

**If polls close while you're still in line,**  
stay in line – you have the right to vote.

**2**

**If machines are down at your polling place,**  
ask for a paper ballot

**3**

**If you make a mistake on your ballot,**  
ask for a new one.

**If you run into any problems or have questions on Election Day, call the Election Protection Hotline:**

**English:**

1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683

**Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese:**

1-888-274-8683

**“I’M AT THE POLLING STATION AND THE WORKER SAYS MY NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS.”**

## Your rights

As of 2020, a total of 21 states have same day registration, which allows any qualified resident of the state to register to vote and cast a ballot on Election Day.

Voters have a right to a provisional ballot\*, which is a different ballot that ensures voters are not excluded from the voting process due to an administrative error. They provide a fail-safe mechanism for voters whose eligibility to vote is uncertain and can be verified later on.

After Election Day, election officials must investigate whether you are qualified to vote and registered. If you are qualified and registered, they will count your vote.

## Resources

*\*If you are turned away or denied a provisional ballot, call the Election Protection Hotline at **1-866-OUR-VOTE** and report your experience to [local election officials](#).*

*Provisional ballot laws vary from state to state. Idaho, Minnesota and New Hampshire do not issue provisional ballots. [Check your state’s laws here](#).*

## What to do

Ask the poll worker to double check your name on the list of registered voters and other voters. Make sure to spell out your full legal name for the poll worker or show any identification that has your name on it.

If the poll worker still cannot find your name, confirm that you are at the correct polling place: Request that the poll workers check the statewide system to see if you are registered at a different polling place or call **1-866-OUR-VOTE** and ask for help verifying your correct polling place.

If the poll worker still cannot find your name or if you cannot travel to the correct polling place, ask for a provisional ballot. \*

# “I HAVE A DISABILITY.”

## Your rights

Under federal law, all polling places for federal elections must be fully accessible to seniors and voters with disabilities. Allowing curbside voting is not enough to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements.

In federal elections, every polling place must have at least one voting system that allows voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently. Usually, this is a machine that can read the ballot to you and let you vote by pushing buttons.

Under federal law, voters with disabilities and voters who have difficulty reading or writing English have the right to receive in-person help at the polls from the person of their choice. This helper cannot be the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an agent or officer of the voter's union. The helper must respect the voter's privacy, not looking at the voter's ballot unless the voter asks them to do so.

Election officials must make reasonable accommodations as needed to help you vote. A voter with a mental disability cannot be turned away from the polls because a poll worker thinks they are not 'qualified' to vote

## What to do

You can bring a family member, friend, or another person of your choice to assist you at the polls.

If you bring a person to assist you, let the poll workers know that when you check in. They may ask you to swear under oath that you have a disability and that you have asked that person to help you. Your helper may also be required to sign a form swearing that they did not tell you how to vote.

If there are long lines and you have a physical or mental health condition or disability that makes it difficult for you to stand in line, tell a poll worker to help.

Tell election officials what you need. If you are not able to enter your polling place because the pathway to it is not fully accessible, ask poll workers for curbside assistance.

If you have difficulty using the materials provided to make your ballot selections, review, or cast your ballot, let a poll worker know and ask for the help you need. Accessibility is the law.

## Resources

If you face any challenges in voting privately and independently or are unable to cast your vote, report the problem to the Election Protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

Find detailed voting guides at [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#)

For a toolkit on voting with a disability, visit the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#).

Visit [SABE's GoVoter Project](#) for accessible training on how to exercise your rights as a voter with a disability.

For voting information in American Sign Language, visit [SignVote](#).

**“I DON’T  
SPEAK  
ENGLISH  
VERY WELL.”**

## Your rights

Under federal law, voters who have difficulty reading or writing English may receive in-person assistance at the polls from the person of their choice, as long as it’s not their employer, an agent of the voter’s employer, or an agent or officer of the voter’s union.

Counties covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act are required to provide bilingual assistance to voters in specific languages. This means that they must provide poll workers who speak certain languages, and make all election materials and election-related information available in those languages.

Check whether your county is required to provide bilingual election assistance in a language you speak.

## Resources

For detailed guidance on bilingual voting assistance, visit [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#).

## What to do

You can bring a family member, friend, or other person of your choice to assist you at the polls. Do not bring your employer, or an agent of your employer or union.

If you live in a county that’s required to provide bilingual voting assistance for a language you speak, you can request oral assistance from a bilingual poll worker and ask for voting materials, such as a ballot, in that language.

If you have trouble voting due to lack of English fluency, call one of these hotlines:

English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683.

Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese): 1-888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683

**“SOMEONE  
IS GETTING  
IN THE  
WAY OF MY  
RIGHT TO  
VOTE.”**

## Your rights

It’s illegal to intimidate voters and a federal crime to “intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as he may choose.”

## Examples of voter intimidation

- Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications to vote.
- Falsely representing oneself as an elections official.
- Displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and related criminal penalties.
- Other forms of harassment, particularly harassment targeting non-English speakers and voters of color.
- Spreading false information about voter requirements.
  - You do not need to speak English to vote, in any state.
  - You do not need to pass a test to vote, in any state.
  - Some states do not require voters to present photo identification.

## Resources

In many states, you can give a sworn statement to the poll worker that you satisfy the qualifications to vote in your state, and then proceed to cast a ballot.

Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

# CALL TO ACTION

Share and walk through through this in-language toolkit with your Hmong, Khmer, Lao, and Vietnamese communities

Share your voter story by tagging us on Instagram @theseadproject or Twitter @plantthesead and using #Elections2020

Sign up for our newsletter at [theseadproject.org](https://theseadproject.org)

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