



A LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK:

Students Vote 2023



"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."

— ~ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

Hey, voters!

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge encourages active and informed participation in American democracy. Through Students Vote 2023, the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge provides institutions of higher education and their students with guidance and resources to promote nonpartisan voter registration and voting in 2023 elections. In addition to the college president, administrators, faculty, students, and community partners can be leaders in the effort to get all eligible students registered and voting this fall.

This handbook is written as an aid to college leaders who not only think that educating students about voting is an essential and worthwhile undertaking for an institution of higher learning, but who are also willing to be part of that effort. The leaders in this effort could include individuals who are a part of your campus' voting coalition, as well as the college president, other administrators, faculty members, student affairs staff, student groups, and community partners.

In this handbook, leaders will find important voting information to provide to students and ideas on how to communicate and to encourage their participation in 2023 elections. Together, college leaders across the country can remind, inform, and motivate a very large number of eligible students to vote in November 2023.

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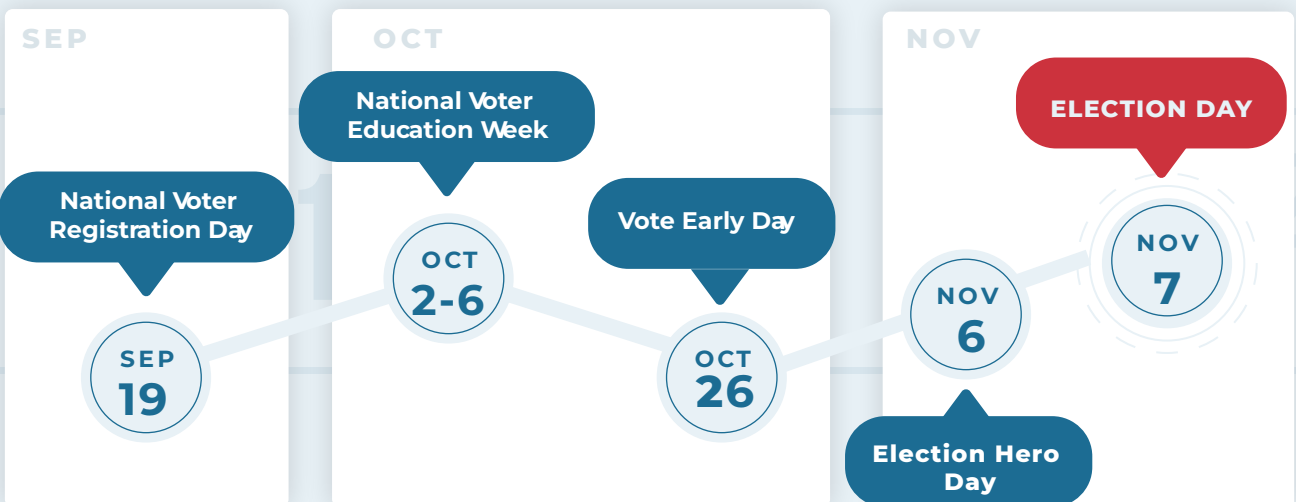
1 What Everyone Needs to Know



Voting is a **fundamental right**, but it is also a process that has **deadlines and regulations**



THE TIMELINE



★ Important Dates

PRE-SEP
PREP

BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19

Getting Ready

Students can register to vote at allintovote.org by providing the zip code where they will be voting. It's important to note that many students have a choice on where they register to vote. Students can register and vote based on their campus address (residence hall or off-campus housing) and based on their home or permanent residence. Then, in real-time, they can register to vote. For states that require in-person or mail-in voter registration, the allintovote.org tool will direct them to the appropriate forms that students can print and mail and/or a location where they can register in person.

SEP
19

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

National Voter Registration Day (NRVD)

This year, the universal date for individuals to register to vote and update their registration in time for the general election is September 19, 2023. This is when students should double-check their registration status and make any needed changes to their address, for instance.

Although September 19 is National Voter Registration Day, many students can register to vote beyond this date. Some states even allow registration on voting day, although this is not something we recommend. State-by-state registration deadlines and registration processes can be found at allintovote.org/rules-in-your-state. Clicking on the state brings up even more useful voting information like ID requirements and early voting start and end dates.

Learn more about getting involved with [NRVD](https://nrvd.org).



Important Dates

OCT
2-6

OCTOBER 2-6

National Voter Education Week (NVEW)

During this week, students should visit allintovote.org/plan to learn what they need to know in order to develop their own voting plan. By selecting the Plan Tab at the top of the screen and entering in the zip code where the student is registered to vote, information will populate about candidates, issues, and more:

Which candidates are on their November ballot for local and state positions.

What referendum issues will be on their November ballot.

Where to vote. Based on the voter registration zip code, the street address of their polling location will appear.

When to vote. If early voting and vote by mail are an option, this section of the website will indicate when a ballot application needs to be mailed and when it needs to be received. It will also indicate if a state offers early voting, and if it does, the dates and times that people can vote early.

With this information, students will have time to learn about the various candidates and the referendum issues. Students can become well-informed voters in time for the November election and develop their voting plan.

OCT
26

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Vote Early Day

Students who live in a state that allows early voting should plan to vote early on or close to October 26. When Americans vote early, they ensure that last minute problems will not prevent them from casting their ballots - and help shorten voting lines on Election Day for everyone. But voting early rules - both for in-person and by-mail options - vary widely all over the country, causing confusion and preventing voters from casting their ballots.

Sign up to celebrate Vote Early Day on Thursday, October 26.

★ Important Dates

NOV
6

NOVEMBER 6

Election Hero Day

Celebrate your students and student-athletes alike that sign-up to be poll workers during any of the 2023 elections on Election Hero Day, November 6, 2023. Election Hero Day aims to recognize the essential role of election administrators, poll workers, municipal clerks, and officials for their contribution to the maintenance of our democracy.

NOV
7

NOVEMBER 7

Election Day

People who want to vote in person, opted not to vote early, or didn't complete the steps to vote by mail, **November 7 is voting day!** The majority of states expect people to provide identification to let them vote at the polls, but what's required is not consistent across states. Different states have different requirements for what ID voters need to bring with them, so students should check their state's requirements on allintovote.org.

Given that we're likely still voting in the time of COVID-19, people should plan for extra time in line at their polling location. Further, they should abide by the health guidelines outlined by the CDC: wear masks, wash their hands before and after voting, and maintain social distancing. Clothing with political images/ messages cannot be worn at a polling place.



Illustrations provided by: Pablo Stanley.

★ Common Questions & Answers

“Why should I vote?”

The right to vote is perhaps the most important liberty you have as an American. It is one of the greatest rights and responsibilities of being an American citizen. Voting is a commitment to the future of this country.

“How can I learn about the candidates who will be on my ballot?”

One of the best sources of information about your ballot is www.vote411.org. Click on “Find What’s on Your Ballot.” You may need to click a bit more to find it all, but it’s all there: Who the candidates are and where they stand on various issues, their positions, and their bios. Only candidates whose names appear on your ballot will be listed.

Allintovote.org also provides a plan section on the portal which will share information about presidential candidates, down ballot candidates and issues, voting precinct locations, and vote-by mail opportunities.

“Is voting early a good idea?”

Early voting is a good idea, as is mail-in voting. Both of these ways to vote lessen the number of people who vote in person on November 7. In this time of COVID-19, voting in a way that reduces crowds at the local polling station and limits people’s exposure to other people is a good idea.

★ **Common Questions & Answers**

Can I get time off from work to vote?

The laws surrounding time off from work for voting vary from state to state. This webpage provides information about time off for voting for all states.

www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/taking-time-off-voting-jury-29708.html

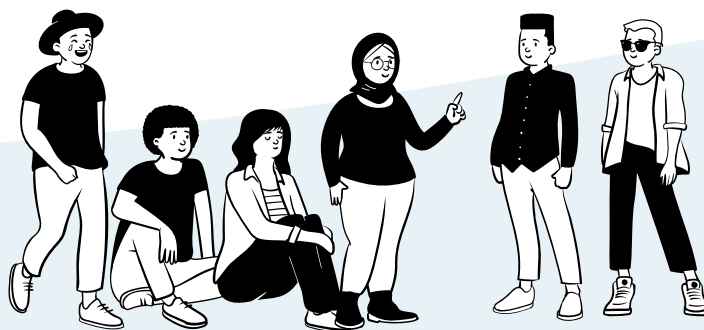
Can I trust mail-in voting?

Voting by mail is generally considered to be a safe and secure way to vote. In many jurisdictions, however, it is a low-tech process regulated by laws that have been in effect for many years. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some new laws and regulations are in place to make mail-in voting easier. The Post Office is expecting a surge of mail-in ballots, so you should mail your completed ballot as soon as possible. Be sure to read ballot instructions carefully, especially any instructions about where your signature is needed.

Where can I get the voting information I need for November?

Check your local elections' website, which you can find through allintovote.org.

2 What College Leaders Can Do



Illustrations provided by: Pablo Stanley.



Ideally, all eligible voters in the United States would vote, but we know that doesn't happen. College leaders are uniquely positioned to reach out to students and encourage them to participate in the electoral process. Wanting to do something, the question many campus leaders ask is **“how?”** Here are four steps to a successful turn out the vote effort.



★ College Leader Guide

1

CHOOSE & CONNECT

Who should be reached & how to reach them

No one needs to do this alone. It's up to you; you choose. Clearly, the first and easiest group to reach are current students, and there are numerous ways to connect with them: email, campus intranets, course software, and more. The most appropriate way/ways to reach students will depend on the particular college or university. Campus leaders should decide what will work for their college community. Campus leaders might decide to widen the net to include alumni, students on leave, etc.

★

2

COLLABORATE & COORDINATE

Who should join the outreach effort, how to work together

A college president doesn't need to do this alone. Other campus leaders can join the voting effort. Administrators may have more frequent contact with certain groups of students, and faculty members can get the attention of students in their courses.

Pulling together a group to develop a strategy for reaching students is a good idea, with representation from administration and faculty. Both collaboration and coordination are important in this voting effort. Collaborate with other campus leaders to generate good ideas and to make decisions about how to move forward. Then, coordinate your efforts, so people aren't hearing from multiple campus leaders, all with the same message.

★ College Leader Guide



COMMUNICATE & CONVINC

What voting information to provide, how to motivate voting

There are two goals to keep in mind: communicating important information about the voting process and convincing people to vote in November. Reach out to students to remind them why voting matters. And make it locally/regionally relevant, if most students live in the area. Include information from this handbook: dates, questions and answers, and resources. Campus leaders will know what additional information would be helpful. Useful links should also be included.

In addition, you might want to include some motivating statements:

"The right to vote is perhaps the most important liberty you have as an American. It is one of the greatest rights and responsibilities of being a US citizen."

"Become educated about candidates for Congress and for President, and learn about the local candidates as well."

"Become educated about the issues that will be on your ballot."

"Exercise your right to vote."

For virtual engagement examples check out the work of the [University of California](#) and [New York University](#).



CONGRATULATE & CELEBRATE

How to acknowledge/recognize accomplishments

If the goal is to get out the vote, is there a way to follow up? Maybe the reach-out communication can include a link so that people can report they have voted. Maybe a follow-up email goes out that congratulates them for doing so. And what about a celebration/party (socially distanced) on election day. Host an event on campus and/or virtually.

3 Resources



ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

(ALL IN) is a national nonpartisan initiative of Civic Nation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Established in 2016, the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge has grown to more than 965 participating campuses in 50 states plus DC with a reach of more than 9.8 million students. The Challenge now has active state level challenges with Secretary of State offices and other nonprofit supporters in ten states and two cities. ALL IN also supports athletic conference voting challenges across the following athletic conferences: AEAC, ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Big Sky, C-USA, Ivy League, MAC, MAAC, MIAC, NESCAC, OAC, Pac-12, and So Con.

ALL IN TO VOTE

ALLINtoVote.org

ALLINtoVote.org is a one-stop shop for campuses and their students to navigate the voting process. This site is an essential tool for helping campus leaders put together materials for their students and to navigate support for their geographically diverse student bodies. This site provides students with tools to pledge to vote, register to vote, confirm their voter registration, determine how and where to vote, and understand what is on their ballot.



Campus Vote Project

The Fair Election Center's Campus Vote Project (CVP) has created state-specific guides that provide details on what ID requirements there are for registering to vote and to present at the polls as well as relevant information to meet a state's guidelines for voting in general. These can help a student-athlete understand the parameters necessary to exercise their vote regardless of the state in which they register and choose to vote.



Election Hero Day

November 6 is Election Hero Day. Election hero Day aims to recognize the essential role of election administrators, poll workers, municipal clerks, and officials for their contribution to the maintenance of our democracy. In experiencing an election while battling COVID-19, election workers were required to address many barriers to ensure that voters can cast their ballots safely and successfully. From overcoming an unprecedented poll worker shortage to processing record numbers of absentee ballots, these community members continue to work endlessly to keep our communities and election processes accessible and responsive. The 2021 elections produced a record number of voters which would not have been possible without the adaptability and tenacity of our election workers.



Election Protection – 866 Our Vote

The national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Made up of more than 100 local, state and national partners, Election Protection works year-round to advance and defend the right to vote.



National Study of Learning Voting and Engagement

The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) a signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at the Jonathan M. Tisch College for Civic Life at Tufts University offers colleges and universities an opportunity to learn their student registration and voting rates and, for interested campuses, a closer examination of their campus climate for political learning and engagement and correlations between specific student learning experiences and voting.



National Voter Education Week

National Voter Education Week is October 2-6, 2023. National Voter Education Week is designed to help voters bridge the gap between registering to vote and actually casting a ballot. During this week of interactive education, voters will learn to find their polling location, understand their ballot, make a plan to vote in person or remotely, and more.



National Voter Registration Day

September 19 is National Voter Registration Day. You can organize an in-person, social media and/or email campaign to make sure your peers check their voter registration status and confirm it is where they want to vote and encourage students to register and re-register to vote as needed.



Power the Polls

Power the Polls is a first-of-its-kind initiative to recruit the next generation of poll workers and volunteers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters.



Vote 411

This site offers zip code relevant election information, including candidate bios and voting records, and where they stand on various issues. Brought to you by [The League of Women Voters Education Fund](#).



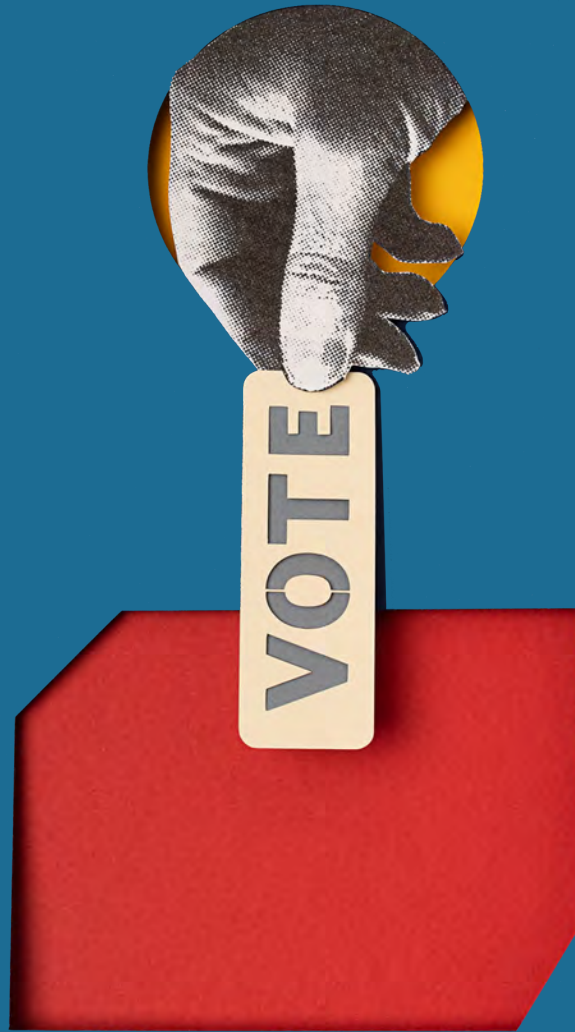
Vote Early Day

Vote Early Day is October 26, 2023. 200 Million Americans are eligible to vote early but voting early rules - both for in-person and by-mail options - vary widely all over the country, causing confusion and preventing voters from casting their ballots. Vote Early Day is a collaboration among businesses, colleges, nonprofits, technology platforms, election administrators, influencers, and community leaders to help all eligible voters learn about their options to vote early and celebrate the act of voting early.



Vote Riders

Vote Riders provides voter ID assistance so that every American can cast a ballot that counts. For a full breakdown of state voter regulations, check out their state-by-state guide available on their website.



A LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK: **Students
Vote
Twenty-
Twenty-
Three**



[ALLINTOVOTE.ORG](https://allintovote.org)