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# It's General Election Time!



Throughout 2022, Advocacy & Communication Solutions (ACS) has published monthly "voting tips and tricks" to help you gear up for the November General Election. Well, Election Day is almost here! Below we round up the top 5 things you need to do to prepare for November 8.

## 1. Know Your Rights

- ▶ You have the right to cast your ballot without intimidation or coercion, and federal law prohibits any kind of voter intimidation (e.g., disrupting voting lines or blocking polling entrances, following voters around the polling place, or threatening or aggressively questioning voters).
- ▶ You have the right to vote, even if poll workers cannot find your name.

If the poll workers cannot find your name in the system, you still have the right to vote by using a provisional ballot. Once Election Day is over, election officials will find out if you are registered to vote and qualified and, if you are, they will count your provisional ballot.



## 2022 Voting Tips and Tricks

**September:** [National Voter Registration Day is Almost Here!](#)

**August:** [What the heck is a Special Election?](#)

**July:** [Know your voter rights!](#)

**June:** [Got free time? Become a campaign volunteer!](#)

**May:** [Get involved! How can you be an involved citizen and an informed voter?](#)

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- ▶ You have the right to vote if you are in line when the polls close.

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

- ▶ You have the right to vote if the polling machines stop working.

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

- ▶ You have the right to vote if you made a mistake on your ballot.

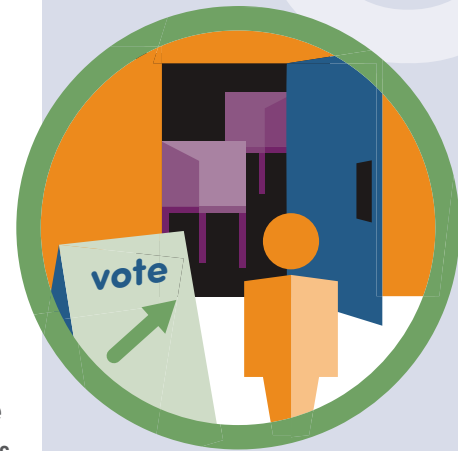
If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new one.

- ▶ You have the right to vote if you don't speak English or have limited English speaking or reading skills.

Under federal law, polling locations are required to allow for in-person assistance by a person of your choice. [In some counties](#) in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Washington, polling locations are required to provide poll workers who speak a specific language and copies of all voting materials in that language.

If you have a disability, your right to vote is guaranteed by federal law. According to the [American Civil Liberties Union website](#):

- ▶ All polling places for federal elections must be fully accessible to older adults and voters with disabilities. Simply 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 (for people with vision disabilities or dyslexia), and lets you vote by pushing buttons (for people with mobility disabilities).
- ▶ 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 (including poll workers) must make reasonable accommodations as needed to help you vote.
- ▶ Election officials must provide you with help, if it's possible for them to do so.
- ▶ A voter with a mental disability cannot be turned away from the polls because a poll worker thinks they are not "qualified" to vote.



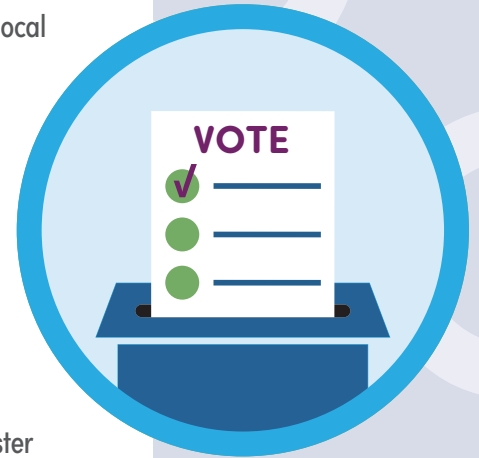
## 2. Get Registered

1: [Determine your state's voter registration deadlines](#)—these vary by state, and some states allow for voter registration up until the day of the election.

2: [Check your voter registration status](#). Not registered? [Register to vote in your state](#).

3: Make sure you're ALLOWED to vote. You can vote in U.S. federal, state, and local elections if you:

- ▶ are a U.S. citizen (some areas allow non-citizens to vote in local elections only)
- ▶ meet your state's residency requirements
- ▶ are 18 years old on or before Election Day
- ▶ are registered to vote by your state's voter registration deadline



Maybe you've registered in the past, but now you're thinking, "Do I need to re-register or change my voter registration?" [According to usa.gov](#), the answer is:

### Yes, if:

You have moved within your state or changed your name.

#### What you must do:

Update your voter registration with your new location or your new name. Make sure you also update your state driver's license or state ID card before the election, if that is the voter ID you will use.

You have moved permanently to another state.

#### What you must do:

Register to vote in the new state.

### No, if:

Your name and address have not changed, and you are an active voter.

### Maybe, if:

You moved to a different state very close to the date of a presidential primary or general election.

#### What you must do:

Check with your old state. You may be able to vote by mail through your old state for that election. After that, you will need to register with and begin voting in your new state.

ACS recommends checking your voter registration status—[before your state's registration deadline](#)—to register to vote. Better safe than sorry.

### 3. Make an Informed Decision

Being an involved citizen and an informed voter go hand-in-hand; you can't have one without the other. The best way to be an informed voter is to do your research on your local, state, and federal issues and candidates in advance of Election Day.

Many local [League of Women Voters](#) chapters offer unbiased information on levies, constitutional amendments, candidates, and more. That's a good place to start.

These other resources will help you find information that is factual instead of opinionated.

[www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org)

[www.theconversation.com/us](http://www.theconversation.com/us)

[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)

Remember, loyalty to only one news source will not give you the entire—or accurate—picture. Reading a variety of narratives, even those different than your political leanings, can help give you a more well-rounded view on those hot topics everyone seems to be discussing.

### 4. Make a Plan to Vote

[Before you vote, you need to know your state's rules.](#) Plan ahead for how you're going to vote.

In most states, you have the following options.

#### Option 1:

**Vote early!** Most states have early voting, but the [exact rules, deadlines, and locations](#) that guide how to vote early vary significantly by the state and/or community in which you live. There are, however, [great resources](#) to help you every step of the way so you know all you need to do to ensure your state allows early voting and if that early voting is in person, by mail, both, or something else.

#### Option 2:

**Vote by absentee ballot.** Voting by absentee ballot (also called mail-in voting) has made it easier for those with disabilities, those living abroad, even those who are in the hospital, to make their voices heard on Election Day. It's convenient and eliminates wait time for early or in-person voting. Like most voting laws, different states have different regulations surrounding mail-in voting; [learn your state's laws before you request your absentee ballot](#). Regardless of what you've heard in the media, voting by absentee ballot is a safe and verifiable option for those who need—or want!—to use it. Read more about safe voting and election integrity in ACS' eBlast "[Election Integrity: Everyone is watching...but is the U.S. doing the right thing?](#)"

### **Option 3:**

**Vote at your polling place.** Traditionalist? Great! If you prefer to vote in person on Election Day, [make sure you know where you're going](#), as polling locations can change from election to election.

## **5. Help Friends Get Information**

First, forward this newsletter to your friends and family.

Second, share these important phone numbers. The Election Protection Hotline offers voting help in a variety of languages. Don't let new voting laws prevent you from voting. Know your voter rights before you hit the polls and make your voice heard!

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

Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682

Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287

Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or  
Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683

***Want to know more? Review our series of voting tips.***

[advocacyandcommunication.org/newsletter/2022-voting-tips-and-tricks](https://www.advocacyandcommunication.org/newsletter/2022-voting-tips-and-tricks)

Did you know that you can sign up with your local board of elections as a poll worker for Election Day? Poll working is a necessary role to ensure that each polling location has enough workers to help make for an easy voting experience. You can find out how to be a poll worker in your community, including requirements, hours, pay, training, and more [here](#).

## **Go Deeper—More Analysis about Voting and Campaign Trends**

### **The 'Cost' of Voting in America: A Look at Where It's Easiest and Hardest**

The [2022 edition of the Cost of Voting Index](#), a nonpartisan academic study, seeks to cut through the politics of voting access. The study ranks all 50 states based on the overall investment a resident must make in time and resources to vote.

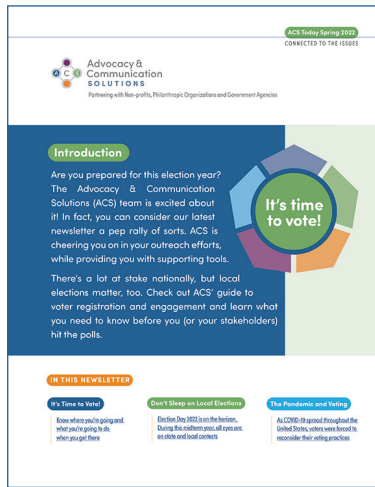
### **Once Skeptics, National Democrats Embrace The Georgia Model**

In 2018, Stacey Abrams, Georgia's current Democratic nominee for governor, came extraordinarily close to winning her first campaign for the office. In 2020, her organizing helped Joe Biden narrowly win the state before boosting the fortunes of two Democrats who won both of the state's Senate seats two months later.

The strategy is now widely accepted on the left—although it is expensive. But Abrams, her fellow Democratic candidates and several voter-focused organizations in Georgia are counting on it again this year.

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## Spring 2022 Newsletter



## Summer 2022 Newsletter



## WANT MORE?

Want to learn how communication, strategy development, advocacy, or capacity building can move your organization forward? Need an expert for training sessions or conference presentations?

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Scarlett Boudier, President

Nikki Reiss, Senior Strategist

Cassie Gaffney, Senior Strategist

Lauren Sogor, Senior Strategist

Jennifer Judkins, Senior Communication Manager

Morgan Riley, Senior Operations and Administration Manager



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