

ELECTING THE PRESIDENT: A GUIDE TO THE ELECTION PROCESS

Thank you for joining our series about electing our leaders and the presidential election. Running twice a week through mid-October, this series will help students in the classroom—as well as citizens of all ages—to understand the election process.

DAY 1: REGISTERING TO VOTE

The presidential election is the biggest event in American politics. It's an exciting and complicated process. In this series, you'll learn how to become an informed voter, how to watch debates and how to understand some of the complex issues on the ballot in our state.

The presidential campaign is an elaborate production, with candidates crisscrossing the country and blanketing the airwaves with poll-tested political commercials. The goal during the fall is to appeal to as many different kinds of people in as many different ways as possible.

Before we delve into the upcoming election, we want to make sure everyone who is eligible has the opportunity to vote. It's estimated that 1 million potentially eligible citizens are not registered in Washington. Today — September 25 — is National Voter Registration Day. Organizations from all over the United States are supporting this effort. Don't be left out!

REGISTER SO YOU CAN ROCK THE VOTE!

Do you care about: Keeping crime low in your neighborhood? Healthcare for your family and friends? Funding for sports, art and music programs? Financial aid for college or finding a job when you graduate?

The people who run your school board, work in city hall and represent you in Congress are making decisions every day that impact your life. Voting is your chance to choose the decision-makers and tell them what you want, but first you must register to vote.

To register to vote in Washington State, a person must be:

1. A citizen of the United States
2. A legal Washington State resident
3. 18 years old by Election Day
4. Not presently denied voting rights due to a felony conviction

If you have questions about your eligibility, contact your county elections office. In King County call **206-296-VOTE (8683)**. Look up election offices outside of King County at <http://bit.ly/P3TjaS>.

If you have a current Washington State driver's license or ID card, you can register to vote, verify your registration, or update your address at myvote.wa.gov through October 8. Your community library can help you access the website.

Washington residents can also now register to vote and check voting information using the MyVote app on Facebook. Search for MyVote – Washington State.



Prefer paper? Print the form in one of several languages at <http://bit.ly/P13wXb>, or request a form from your county elections office. If you mail the form back, make sure it is postmarked by October 8. You may register in person at the office through October 29.

If your signature has changed over time, you should update your registration using a paper form. Mail-in ballots are validated by comparing the signature on the back of the envelope to the registration signature on file.

LEARN MORE

Ask people about the first time they voted. People especially remember their first presidential election. Perhaps there are stories about the first women to vote in your family. When did you first vote, or when will you be eligible?

WHAT IS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS?

The League's primary mission is to engage all Americans in the election process — from defending voters' rights, to helping voters learn what the candidates think about the issues that impact every American's life. The League is a community-based nonpartisan political organization. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. The League has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and public policies through education and advocacy.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Join passionate men and women in the important work of keeping your community strong, safe, and vibrant. In King County, seattlelwv.org; outside of King County find your local League at lwvwa.org.

NEXT: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA



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