



WE'RE NOT REALLY STRANGERS

We all know that it's important to vote,
but we wanted to dig a little deeper. These questions
are meant to explore not only our knowledge of politics
and the process of voting but also our limiting beliefs.

Not just why we're ready to vote, but why
we may be on the fence.

And finally some tools, resources,
and prompts to go beyond just voting, but to vote
informed. To play, find a friend or loved one wanting
to explore an important topic that is often messier
than a check on the ballot.

Ready?

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VOTING EDITION

Disclaimer: It's important to have open conversations with others, even when we don't agree. However, make sure to explore these questions with people you feel safe with. Political conversations can get charged. Practice healthy boundaries and step away from any conversation that doesn't show mutual respect.



**HOW DID YOUR UPBRINGING
SHAPE YOUR VIEWS ON POLITICS?
HOW HAS IT EVOLVED OVER TIME?**

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**DO YOU HOLD ANY LIMITING BELIEFS
WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING? IF SO,
WHAT ARE THEY?**

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**IF YOU COULD ENACT ONE
POLICY TODAY, WHAT WOULD
IT BE AND WHY?**

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**WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME
YOU VOTED? WHAT GOT YOU TO
THE VOTING BOOTH?**

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**HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE AND
NOT TAKEN IT? IF SO, WHY?**

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**IF YOU COULD ASK EACH
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ONE
QUESTION AND GET AN HONEST
ANSWER, WHAT WOULD
YOU ASK?**

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WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT SOMETHING POLITICALLY? WHAT PROMPTED YOUR SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE?

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WHAT'S ONE THING YOU FEEL UNINFORMED ABOUT POLITICALLY THAT YOU'D LIKE TO GATHER MORE INFORMATION ON? WHAT'S ONE SMALL STEP YOU CAN TAKE TOWARDS GAINING MORE KNOWLEDGE ON THIS TOPIC?

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WHAT BOUNDARIES FEEL IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SET IN THE CONVERSATION SURROUNDING POLITICS?

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I DO / DON'T VOTE BECAUSE _____.

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WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE ASSUME ABOUT YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS / BELIEFS? HOW ACCURATE ARE THOSE ASSUMPTIONS?

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WHAT DO YOU WISH THE PEOPLE FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM UNDERSTOOD ABOUT YOUR POV? WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU UNDERSTOOD ABOUT THEIRS?

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**THE WORLD NEEDS
MORE _____, AND
LESS _____.**

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**HOW HAS SOCIAL MEDIA
INFLUENCED YOUR POLITICAL
VIEWS, IF AT ALL?**

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**HOW DO YOU WANT TO USE
YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM
(BIG OR SMALL) TO ENACT CHANGE
THAT FEELS AUTHENTIC TO YOU?**

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**WHAT BIASES CAN YOU RECOGNIZE
THAT YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR
CURRENT POLITICAL STANCE?**

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**WHERE DO YOU GET THE MAJORITY
OF YOUR VOTING INFORMATION? HOW
HAVE YOU CHECKED IT'S CREDIBILITY?
(SEE RESOURCES KEY TO FIND VARIOUS
FACT-CHECKING WEBSITES)**

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**IS THERE A POLITICAL VIEW
YOU HAVE THAT YOU FEEL TOO
AFRAID TO ADMIT PUBLICLY?**

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**WHAT'S ONE THING YOU
KNOW ABOUT THE VOTING PROCESS
TODAY, THAT YOU DIDN'T IN THE
PREVIOUS ELECTION?**

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**IF THE ELECTION DOESN'T GO YOUR
WAY, HOW WILL YOU OR YOUR LOVED
ONE'S LIVES BE AFFECTED? ARE YOU
INFORMED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL
IMPACT YOUR VOTE / LACK
THEREOF WILL HAVE?**

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**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE
THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING
TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?**

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REMINDER
**NORMALIZE SAYING
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
INFORMATION ON THIS
TOPIC TO FORM AN
OPINION JUST YET.**

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REMINDER

**LISTEN TO LEARN
EVEN WHEN YOU
DON'T AGREE.**

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**WAS THERE A MOMENT RECENTLY
THAT DRASTICALLY SHAPED YOUR
POLITICAL IDEOLOGY? IF SO,
WHAT WAS IT?**

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**DO YOU HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS
WITH PEOPLE WHO HOLD DIFFERING
POLITICAL VIEWS AS YOU?
WHY OR WHY NOT?**

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RESOURCES

1. How to vote – <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>

Voting rules and instructions vary per state (For ex. In one state you may need your I.D. at the voting booth, in other states you may not). This link leads you directly to a page where you select your state and it provides all the information you'll need. Read carefully.

<https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote> (general voting how-to's)

2. How to check your voter registration – Double-check that you're registered to vote, don't just assume. If you have you moved recently or changed your name, you will need to reregister to vote even if you are already an active registered voter.

<https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/voter-registration-status>

(direct link to check your status)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voTLxlfXpWk>

(quick animation video explaining the process from the US gov)

3. Registering to vote – Visit <https://vote.gov/> and select your state to begin your registration. The whole process should take about 5 minutes. You got this.

RESOURCES

4. How to request an absentee ballot (and what that even means) – The terms absentee ballot and mail-in ballot are interchangeable. They are your vote from home ballots. You can return your vote ballot by mail, in person, or to a drop box. Carefully check your ballot and make sure ALL information on it is correct. If any section is filled out improperly, your ballot will be rejected. You CANNOT vote both by mail and in person at a voting machine. You must pick one or the other.

If you are submitting your ballot by mail, it must be sent and postmarked before Election Day (November 3rd) and received by your county elections office no later than 17 days after Election Day. The USPS has been experiencing issues with delays. We recommend sending in your ballot with plenty of time to spare or dropping your ballot off in person at your local polling place.

If you are returning your ballot in person or dropping it in a ballot drop box, it must be delivered no later than 8:00 p.m when polls close on November 3rd.

Visit <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/absentee-early-voting> to request your absentee ballot.

Visit <https://www.vote.org/early-voting-calendar/> to view the early voting calendar.

5. How to get election reminders – Sign up for election reminders at: <https://www.vote.org/election-reminders/>

RESOURCES

6. Voting during Covid – States are making it easier for citizens to vote absentee by mail this year due to the coronavirus. Every state’s absentee voting rules are different. Be sure you know and follow the rules for your state if you decide to vote absentee.

Visit <https://www.vote.org/covid-19/> OR [usa.gov/absentee-voting#item-214662](https://www.usa.gov/absentee-voting#item-214662) to check your states’ rules and guidelines.

Another resource for requesting a mail-in ballot and seeing state updates about Covid: <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/absentee-early-voting>

7. Where to vote – You can vote by mail or in person. If you plan on voting in person or dropping your ballot off, check here to find your local polling location: <https://www.vote.org/polling-place-locator/>

8. How to fact check:

- **Check the source** – Some websites are made to look credible, for example “abcnews.com.co” but are not the legitimate website you think you are looking at. Double-check the url and make sure your source is credible.

- **Read beyond headlines** – Headlines are created to draw attention. Read a little further and get the full story before you share shocking information. Even in credible news stories, the headline doesn't always tell the full story.

- **Check the author** – Google and research the author listed to verify that they are a real and credible person. This will help weed out fake stories.

RESOURCES

- **Check the date** – Sometimes a legitimate story from the past is twisted to seem like it is recent and relevant to current events. By checking the date, you can help sort out distorted information.

- **Check your biases** – This can be hard but is perhaps one of the most crucial things to do. Take a moment to check out the opposing perspective before creating your opinion

- **Double triple check** – Check to see if the topic is being covered by multiple credible sources.

Here is a list of some well known fake news websites:

<https://www.snopes.com/news/2016/01/14/fake-news-sites/>

9. Propositions cheat code (how to vote INFORMED) –

Propositions vary per state. Propositions are very important because they determine things like rent control, property tax, voting rights, budgets, etc. Props can be a lot of information to take in, so we recommend referencing a voting guide. You should look for a voting guide that references what the proposition is, why you should vote on it, what supporters say, and what opposers say. Check your state's propositions here. Select your state and scroll down to "2020 Ballot measures" to read about each proposition:

[https://ballotpedia.org/List of ballot measures by state](https://ballotpedia.org/List_of_ballot_measures_by_state)

10. Key terms defined (what words should be in any informed voter's back pocket)? – Definitions of Common Voting and Election Terms: <https://www.usa.gov/voting-and-election-definitions>

COMMON FAQs

Q: “Do I need to reregister or am I an active voter?”

A: You will need to reregister if:

- You’ve moved permanently to another state. Register to vote in the new state.
- You’ve moved within your state
- You’ve changed your name.

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’s the voter ID you’ll use.

Click here to register: <https://covr.sos.ca.gov>

Q: How do I know if a website is an official government website?

A: Official websites use .gov. A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. Secure .gov websites use HTTPS. https:// means you’ve safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.

Q: Are the propositions/measures different in each state?

A: Yes. Each state has its own list of propositions and measures.

Check your states’ here: <https://ballotpedia.org/>

List of ballot measures by state

COMMON FAQs

Q: What's on the 2020 ballot besides the president?

A: There are a lot of other things to vote for on the ballot aside from the president and they are just as important. You'll find the presidency, props/measures, local candidates/city officials, and depending on your state senate and congress. Do your research because props/measures, local officials, and seats in the senate/congress have just as much of an impact on your rights as the presidency. Voter guides make this process a lot easier to inform yourself on.

Check out a 2020 sample ballot here so you can familiarize yourself with what you'll be voting for: [https://ballotpedia.org/Sample Ballot Lookup](https://ballotpedia.org/Sample-Ballot-Lookup)

Q: Can I vote for a presidential candidate that isn't in my registered party?

A: Yes. You can vote for any presidential candidate, regardless of your registered party.

Q: What is the deadline to register to vote?

A: Deadlines vary per state. Check your state's deadline here: <https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines>

Q: What is the deadline to vote by mail?

A: Deadlines vary per state. Check your state's deadline here: <https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot-deadlines>

COMMON FAQs

Q: What are the mail-in voting requirements?

A: They vary per state. Use this link to find your state's specific requirements and deadlines. <https://www.usa.gov/absentee-voting#item-214662>

Q: Do I need to bring anything with me when I show up to the voting polls?

A: Some states require you to bring your ID. You check to see if your state requires that here: <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/valid-forms-id>

Q: Can I bring my phone or a voting guide into the polling place?

A: You can always bring a printed out or written voting guide with you into the voting booth. As for phones, some states are strict and some don't mind. If a poll worker asks you to put your phone away, comply.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO

Valid forms of I.D. per state – (For instance, California doesn't require I.D. but Tennessee does) <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/valid-forms-id>

Track your ballot! – Your state may be eligible for ballot tracking! It's easy to set up and takes about 2 minutes. <https://ballottrax.com/>

Volunteer at the polls – Want to get out and do more than just vote? Sign up as a volunteer at the polls, we need as much help as we can get this year! <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/become-a-poll-worker>

Overseas voters – Military and overseas citizens can vote wherever they are! Check the link below for a guide on how to do it. <https://www.fvap.gov/>

Voting with past convictions – If you or someone you know is unsure if they can vote because of a past felony conviction, visit <https://www.reclaimyour.vote/resources/> to check eligibility and steps specific to your state and circumstances.

RESOURCE KEY

nass.org is the National Secretary of State website. They handle most voting needs and are an official nonpartisan government website to rely on.

usa.gov is a government website containing general info and FAQs for US citizens.

<https://www.vote.org/> is a great resource for voting, it will link you to state-specific resources.

<https://ballotpedia.org/> is a nonprofit and nonpartisan online political encyclopedia that covers American federal, state, and local politics, elections, and public policy.

<https://www.fvap.gov/> is a voter assistance and education program established by the United States Department of Defense (DoD) in accordance with federal law to ensure that members of the U.S. armed forces, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens overseas are aware of their right to vote and have the tools to do so from the country where they are residing.

<https://calmatters.org/> is a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom committed to explaining California policy and politics.