

## All about Voter Registration

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) launched the High 5 for Kids campaign to ensure candidates and voters prioritize children in the 2020 elections. One of the best ways someone can be a voice for kids is with their vote! We need your help to register new voters to elect public officials who will invest in kids.

SCAN has partnered with [Turbovote.org](https://turbovote.org) to register new voters, provide voting reminders and answers to important questions about voting. Eligible citizens can register to vote and sign up for election updates from their phone, tablet or computer by visiting <https://scan.turbovote.org/>

Encouraging people to register to vote is not only a great way to promote civic engagement, but it also spreads the word about SCAN and encourages people to consider kids' issues when casting their ballot. In this year of social distancing, this toolkit lays out tactics for encouraging voter registration from the comfort and safety of your home through peer-to-peer messaging and social media.

### National Voter Registration Day

**Tuesday, September 22** is National Voter Registration Day, a nationwide holiday to celebrate our democracy by encouraging people to register to vote or update their registration status. This is a perfect day to message friends and family to register to vote since social and traditional media will be buzzing about the holiday.

### Learning about voter registration in your state

When promoting voter registration, the first step is to research your state's voter registration and eligibility laws. [Vote.org](https://vote.org) is a great resource for up to date information on voter registration.

Consider these common issues when researching your state's rules around voter registration:

- **Registration process:** As of January 2020, 39 states plus the District of Columbia offer online voter registration. In the remaining states, voters must complete a paper form and send it to local election officials. Through our online voter registration tool, even if your state does not offer online voter registration, the tool will create a pre-filled paper registration form for you to print and mail or deliver to your local election office.
- **Identification:** In most states, online voter registration requires a state-issued driver's license number or identification card number. However, a handful of states provide online registration for potential voters without such identification. Paper registration forms are available for anyone, and in most states, paper forms do not require a driver's license or ID card number.
- **Preregistration:** Voter preregistration allows eligible youth under 18 years of age to register to vote so they are already on the voter roll when they turn 18. 14 states plus the District of Columbia allow preregistration beginning at 16 years old, and four states permit preregistration beginning at 17 years old. Most other states allow youth to register if they will turn 18 by the next general election.
- **Deadline:** Every state sets its own voter registration deadline. This could include when online voter registration forms must be submitted, or when paper forms have been postmarked (officially mailed). Please pay close attention to your state's deadline, as it may even include a specific time!

- **Same day registration:** As of June 2019, 21 states plus the District of Columbia have enacted same day voter registration, which allows qualified residents to both register to vote and cast a ballot all on Election Day.

### Guidelines for promoting voter registration

Keep these important rules in mind when encouraging your personal networks to register to vote:

- **Don't worry about who is and is not eligible to vote.** Our voter registration tool collects information from users to ensure they meet the state's voting requirements, including age. It can also help people check their registration status so they don't submit a duplicate registration form.
- **Don't discuss your own political leanings or candidate preferences.** Remember that SCAN is a bipartisan organization and you are a voice for kids when representing this organization.
- **Follow up!** Ask people to let you know once they have completed their registration so you can report the number of people you have successfully encouraged to register to your SCAN staff contact. Next, encourage them to spread the word to their own friends and family to have an even wider reach! Consider recruiting these people to join your SCAN club or Community Action Team.

Best of luck with your voter registration efforts! Know that you are helping others exercise their constitutional rights and be represented in government leadership. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your SCAN staff contact.

### How to answer common questions

Below are some questions you may be asked when promoting voter registration and how to answer them!

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Answer:</b>
When is the upcoming election?	Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Find your state's primary election date(s) at <a href="http://Vote.org">Vote.org</a> .
For college students or boarders: Should I register to vote where I go to school or in my hometown?	Either one, but not both. You can only be registered to vote at one address at a time.
Do I have to be a citizen in order to register to vote?	Yes. You must be a born or naturalized U.S. citizen to register to vote.
I think I already registered to vote at a different address, but I'm not sure. What should I do?	You can check your current voter registration status at <a href="http://Vote.org">Vote.org</a> . There is no penalty for registering to vote more than once, but you can only vote once.
Can I use a P.O. Box or dorm as my voting address?	You cannot use a P.O. Box, but you can use the physical address of your dorm. Be sure to include your room number.
Where do I vote?	You can find your polling location at <a href="http://Vote.org">Vote.org</a> .