



Q2 2026

# HOW TO HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES REGISTER AND VOTE

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EMPLOYER TOOLKIT



**BUSINESSFORWARD**  
FOUNDATION



Small business owners have an important role to play in boosting participation in our November 2026 elections.

If we fail to act, more than half of voting-age Americans will stay home on Election Day. That's because one in four voting-age Americans has yet to register, and tens of millions of registered voters do not know where to vote or how to request a ballot. With nearly 30 million voting-age Americans moving each year, even experienced voters could need your help.

This guide features recommendations, best practices, and resources for business owners interested in helping their employees, colleagues, clients, and customers register and vote. We provide links to dozens of organizations that can help.

If you need additional support, please contact us at [info@businessfwd.org](mailto:info@businessfwd.org).

# FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO

1.

HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES REGISTER AND PREPARE TO VOTE.

2.

GIVE THEM TIME TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.

3.

SPEAK OUT ABOUT POLICIES THAT ENCOURAGE VOTING AND MAKE IT EASIER.

4.

STAND UP FOR VOTERS MOST LIKELY TO BE SILENCED OR SUPPRESSED.

## IT'S ON YOU TO SPEAK OUT

Fewer than

**5 IN 10**

consumers trust their state government.

Fewer than

**4 IN 10**

trust the media.

Even fewer trust the federal government and big business.

BUT

MORE THAN

**8 IN 10**

STILL TRUST SMALL BUSINESS.<sup>1</sup>



# WHY YOUR EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS NEED HELP

## 1. REGISTRATION IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

Voters must register before the election in most states (27 out of 50).<sup>2</sup>

## 2. VOTING RULES ARE COMPLICATED.

ID requirements, registration deadlines, and early voting and absentee voting rules vary by state.

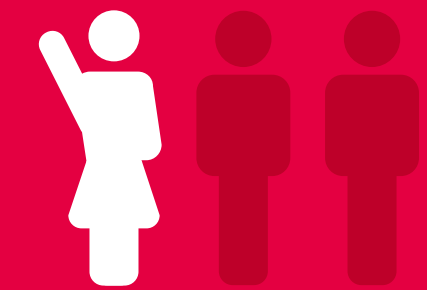
## 3. VOTING TAKES TIME.

One in five non-voters say scheduling conflicts with work or school kept them from voting.<sup>3</sup>

## 4. VOTING REQUIRES INFORMATION.

Among young voters in particular, would-be voters are unfamiliar with campaign issues and do not appreciate why their vote matters.

## DID YOU KNOW?



# <50%





Less than half of eligible voters vote in midterms.<sup>4</sup>

The U.S. ranks 31st out of 50 developed democracies in voter participation.<sup>5</sup>

# GETTING STARTED

## 1. HELP YOUR TEAM FIND THE BASICS ON REGISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND WHEN/WHERE/HOW TO VOTE.



	<b>CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION</b> → Not sure if you're registered to vote? We'll help you check and register if you can.
	<b>REGISTER TO VOTE</b> → It takes less than 2 minutes to register.
	<b>VOTE BY MAIL</b> → Can't or don't want to vote in person on Election Day? Request an absentee ballot.
	<b>POLLING PLACE LOCATOR</b> → Need to find your polling place? View the list of state polling place websites.

## 2. FIND A PARTNER THAT FITS YOUR COMPANY'S CULTURE AND YOUR EMPLOYEES' POINT OF VIEW.



Artists coming together to make art that encourages people to #GoVote.



Encouraging young Hispanic and Latinx voters to register to vote and become more politically involved.



Linking culture and policy to create a voter mobilization campaign that's bigger, more diverse, and more powerful.



Works with musicians, labels, and concert promoters.



Led by Gen Z women for Gen Z women.

## 3. REMEMBER "DOS" AND "DON'TS."



**DO**

ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEES TO VOTE



**DON'T**

ENCOURAGE THEM TO VOTE FOR A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE

# FOCUS ON EARLY VOTING OPTIONS

Lines are shorter during early voting than on election day. It's also easier for workers with young children, a second job, or earning a degree. But, chances are, your employees do not know when early voting starts.

## KEY DATES



# #1

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAKE SURE YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE REGISTERED.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[CHECK YOUR STATUS](#)

[CHECK YOUR STATE'S DEADLINE](#)

# #3

## ABSENTEE REQUEST

ABSENTEE DEADLINES AND RULES VARY BY STATE AND COUNTY.\*

[REQUEST A BALLOT HERE](#)

[CHECK YOUR STATE'S OPTIONS](#)

\*USPS RECOMMENDS MAILING YOUR BALLOT AT LEAST 1 WEEK BEFORE ELECTION DAY

# #2

## EARLY VOTING

EARLY VOTING CAN BEGIN AS SOON AS SEPTEMBER 18TH.

[CHECK YOUR STATE'S OPTIONS](#)

# #4

## ELECTION DAY

MAKE SURE YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE PREPARED FOR NOVEMBER 3RD.

[FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE](#)

[KNOW YOUR STATE'S ID LAWS](#)

## ACT NOW



### CLICK HERE TO:

- REGISTER
- CHECK REGISTRATION STATUS
- FIND POLLING LOCATION AND HOURS
- FIND VOTER ID INFO
- REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT
- FIND INFO ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS



CLICK HERE FOR A SAMPLE EMAIL TO YOUR EMPLOYEES

# HELP THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Some voters need more help than others. Looking out for younger voters and vulnerable communities is critical.

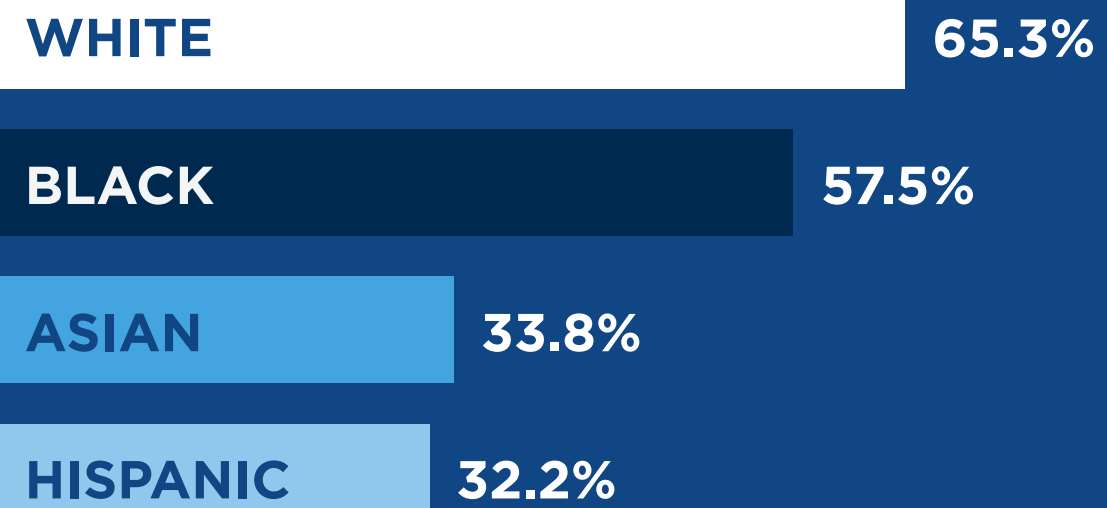
## ONLY 1 IN 2 YOUNG PEOPLE VOTED IN THE 2024 ELECTION<sup>6</sup>



## MINORITIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO FACE OBSTACLES TO VOTING



VOTING RATES BY RACE<sup>7</sup>  
(AVERAGE TURNOUT AS % OF TOTAL VOTING AGE POPULATION: 2000-2024)



Youth voting rates for Gen Z are higher than they were for Baby Boomers and Gen X, but the racial voting gap grows each election cycle. Young Latino voters, for example, experienced the highest drop in voting rates from 2020 to 2024.<sup>8</sup>

## ACT NOW



CLICK THE LOGOS BELOW TO HELP NOW

VOTOLATINO<sup>★</sup>

ROCK THE VOTE

Student PIRGs  
New Voters Project

THE NATIONAL  
Coalition on Black  
Civic Participation

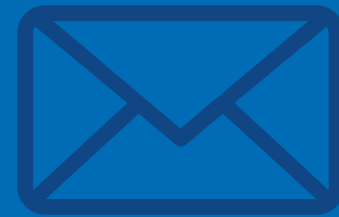
nextgen  
america

## KEY FACTS ON MAIL-IN VOTING

**30%**  
of Americans voted  
by mail and  
**31%**  
voted early in  
the 2024 election.<sup>9</sup>

Mail-in voting remains popular even after the pandemic, when a record 43% of Americans voted by mail in 2020.<sup>10</sup>

**28 STATES**  
already encourage  
vote-by-mail (without  
asking for a reason).



Mail-in voting makes it easier  
to vote for those that face  
obstacles on Election Day.

It's enjoyed bipartisan  
support for years.<sup>11</sup>

The 8 states that allow all  
elections to be conducted  
entirely by mail have

**HIGHER TURNOUT**  
and  
**LOWER COSTS.**<sup>12</sup>



Their experience  
demonstrates there's  
higher risk of error or fraud  
from in-person voting  
than mail-in voting.<sup>13</sup>

That's because voters often  
show up at the wrong polling  
location, whereas mailed  
ballots go to only those who  
can use them.



# ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS: WHY CLAIMS OF MASSIVE VOTER FRAUD ARE WRONG

## THE CLAIM

Outside groups claim up to 5% of votes cast are fraudulent.<sup>14</sup>

If true, this level of fraud — the equivalent of 8M votes in 2024 — could flip an election.



## PROTECTIONS IN PLACE

States require proof of residency and citizenship when people register to vote.

Each city or county produces its own ballots, with specific stock and paper, security envelopes, tamper-proof return envelopes, and time stamps.<sup>15</sup>

Ballots are numbered and bar-coded, so they can't be counted twice.<sup>16</sup>

If someone votes by mail and then votes again, in person, on election day, only one of those votes counts.<sup>17</sup>

This makes it virtually impossible to manufacture a single fake ballot, let alone millions of them.

## RESULTS FROM EXTENSIVE AUDIT OF BATTLEGROUND STATES

The most recent and comprehensive investigation by six battleground states reported 475 cases of possible fraud in the 2020 election — out of 25 million ballots.<sup>18</sup>

That's

**0.0019%**

POTENTIAL VOTER FRAUD.

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 5.00% CLAIMS AND 0.0019% REALITY?

**5.0000%**

VS.

**0.0019%**

= **2,600X**  
DIFFERENCE

THAT'S LIKE  
WORKING

**ONE MINUTE**

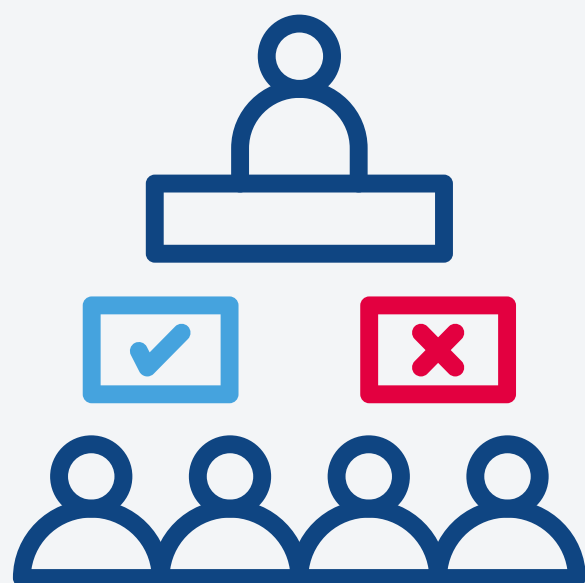
AND BILLING A CLIENT

**44 HOURS**

# ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS: ARE “MILLIONS OF ILLEGALS” ARE VOTING?

## EXTENSIVE AUDITS

In response to claims about “millions of illegals” voting, states investigated their voter rolls and recent elections.



## CONSISTENT RESULTS

### GEORGIA

20 non-citizens out of 8.2M registered voters = 0.00024%.<sup>19</sup>

That's **1 in 413,000**

### MICHIGAN

15 non-citizens out of 8.5M registered voters = 0.00018%.<sup>20</sup>

That's **1 in 565,000**

### UTAH

1 non-citizen out of 2.0M registered voters = 0.00004%.<sup>21</sup>

That's **1 in 2,000,000**

## EVEN IN TEXAS, HOME TO 2.1M UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

Texas conducted America's most comprehensive investigation. They found 581 non-citizens out of 18.6 million registered voters.<sup>22</sup>

That's

**1 IN 32,000**

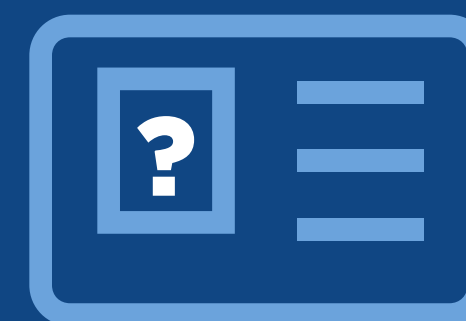
**NOT 1 in 20.**



## FEW NON-CITIZENS WHO END UP REGISTERED EVER TRY TO VOTE

Most false registrations are caused by errors at the DMV.<sup>23</sup>

These non-citizens do not even realize they've been registered by mistake.



## REQUIRING VOTERS TO PRODUCE A PASSPORT OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS MORE BURDENSOME THAN IT SOUNDS

Only about half of Americans have a passport – and getting one is expensive.<sup>24</sup>

1 in 10 Americans lack easy access to their birth certificate.<sup>25</sup>

4 in 5 married women have changed their name, which means even if they have it, their birth certificate won't work.<sup>26</sup>

# RESOURCES: GET INFORMED AND INVOLVED

## VOTER REGISTRATION



#VOTETOGETHER



I am a voter.

HeadCOUNT.ORG

VOTE.ORG

ELECTIONDAY.ORG

IGNITE

ROCK THE VOTE

TurboVote

THE VOTING INFORMATION PROJECT



## INFORMATION ABOUT CANDIDATES AND ISSUES

BallotReady

BALLOTPEDIA

## WHEN, WHERE & HOW TO VOTE

VOTE.ORG

GET TO THE POLLS

## VOTER ACCESS

Democracy is GOOD FOR BUSINESS

VoteSafe

FAIR ELECTIONS CENTER

FAIR FIGHT

ALL VOTING IS LOCAL

ACLU

WHEN WE ALL VOTE

VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS



## 2026 ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 3RD, 2026 IS ELECTION DAY IN THE U.S.

All employees are allowed three hours paid time off to vote, and managers must accommodate. If you are delayed at the polls by long lines, please notify your manager — and stay in line.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION.](#)

To learn more about the upcoming election, check out the non-partisan voter guide at [ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org).

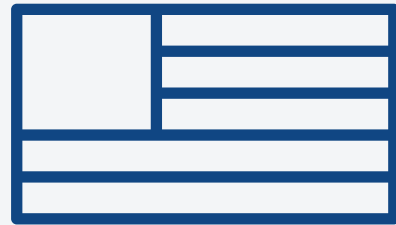
HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING THIS FALL?  
[FIND MORE INFO HERE.](#)

Change requires participation, so we encourage you to vote and make your voice heard.

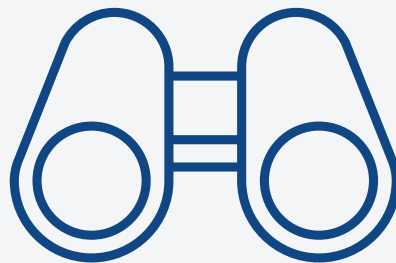


# EXTRA CREDIT: BECOME A POLL WORKER OR POLL WATCHER

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A POLL WORKER VS. POLL WATCHER?



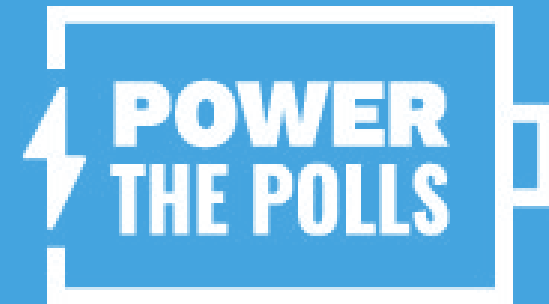
**POLL WORKERS** are trained by local election boards to identify problems and serve at polling places on Election Day. It's a nonpartisan role that simply works to ensure a successful election process.



**POLL WATCHERS** are recruited by political parties to protect people casting their vote. They monitor incidents of voter intimidation and work with voters and election officials to address problems at the polls.

## BECOME A POLL WORKER

### NATIONAL



### POWER THE POLLS

We are proud to partner with Power The Polls, an initiative from [Work Elections](#), which is teaming up with businesses and coalitions to promote civic engagement and poll worker recruitment.

### HELP AMERICA VOTE

August 11th, 2026 is National Poll Worker Recruitment day. [Click here](#) to learn more about working at your local polling place.

### POLL WORKERS GET:

 **TRAINING**

 **PAID\***

[SIGN UP NOW AT POWERTHEPOLLS.ORG](#)

\* Depending on locale



## HELP YOUR PARTY AT THE POLLS

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON POLL WATCHERS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR POLL WATCHER QUALIFICATIONS IN YOUR STATE](#)

Check with party leadership in your county for the opportunity to become a poll watcher. To see an example, [click here](#).

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