

GET INVOLVED: VOTE

Civic engagement is a critical part of protecting the Great Lakes. Whether it's asking questions at a candidate forum, chiming in on social media, or highlighting water issues in a letter to the editor, your voice makes a difference. People running for elected office pay attention to issues that bubble to the top in all of these venues.

Voting is the most important way for you to have a voice in how our elected officials protect our water. But unfortunately, voting today is not as simple as just showing up to mark your ballot on election day. Some states have reduced voting access by purging voter rolls and enacting new identity verification rules, which impact many people's ability to vote.

It's important to make a voting plan to be sure your voice is heard on Election Day. Here's how to create your plan to be sure you are ready to vote in November:

Make sure you're registered to vote. Visit our Great Lakes Voter Information Center at www.greatlakes.org/VoterInfo and enter your address to check the status of your registration. You can easily confirm whether or not you are registered to vote. And, if you're not, you can easily find the information you need to register.

Check your polling location (and check it again). COVID-19 health concerns may result in last-minute changes to your polling place or lead to a reduced number of polling places in some communities. Our Great Lakes Voter Information Center at www.greatlakes.org/VoterInfo will help you find, and confirm, your polling location.

Vote by mail or absentee ballot. Some states have expanded access to mail-in voting as an alternative to in-person voting. But the rules vary from state to state. Double-check the rules to be sure your vote is counted. You can learn more about the rules in your state at our Great Lakes Voter Information Center at www.greatlakes.org/VoterInfo

- **Check how to receive a ballot.** Some states are mailing applications for voting by mail, which are not the same as ballots. Other states require voters to request an absentee or mail-in ballot themselves.
- **Check the rules.** The rules vary for absentee ballots. Some states allow coronavirus health concerns as an official excuse to request an absentee ballot, and others have "no-excuse" mail-in ballots
- **Deadlines vary.** It's critical to pay attention to deadlines. Some states have a deadline to request an absentee or mail-in ballot. And states have various deadlines for when ballots must be postmarked or received by election agencies.



ALLIANCE for the
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As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Alliance for the Great Lakes cannot support or oppose candidates or political parties. However, we can, and do, educate candidates and voters on Great Lakes issues.