

# #STARTSATTHEPOLLS

## VOTER KIT



AN EXCERPT FROM ROAD  
MAP FOR REVOLUTIONARIES



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NATIONAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
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# HOW TO PROTECT YOUR, AND OTHER PEOPLE'S, VOTE

Elections are your chance to change your country and the conversation. The 2016 presidential election highlighted existing concerns about gerrymandering, money in politics, and voter suppression and restriction in the form of everything from new voter ID laws to reduced polling locations and hours in low-opportunity neighborhoods. So it's no wonder that some Americans ask themselves, "Why bother voting at all?" Voting is about far more than presidential elections (although those come with the additional ramifications of the opportunity to make lifetime Supreme Court appointments). We also vote for members of Congress, state legislatures, local councils, school boards, and even for some judicial and law enforcement roles. This guide will help you be a more cautious and prepared voter, to safeguard your vote in advance, and alert you to risks.

## BEFORE ELECTION DAY

**Register now.** Register well in advance of the election—before sites start crawling and staffers become zombies. Double-check that you're legitimately in the system, and get proof of registration with a screen capture or paper trail. Find your registration deadline on [WorkingAmericaVotes.org/register](https://www.workingamericavotes.org/register) or <https://www.vote411.org>.

**Your name here.** Ensure that the name on your birth certificate and the name on your voter registration are the same. Even a misplaced accent mark could prevent you from voting.

**Avoid polling-place panic.** Ever gone to your polling place and found it vacant? Polling areas can be moved between elections. Even though the printed voter guide you receive by mail should include your polling-place address, type your home address into this nifty polling-place locator every time to be sure you know your poll location: <https://www.vote411.org>.

**Know the where and the when.** Restricted polling hours can affect when and if you can vote. Avoid this pitfall. Figure out when it's most likely to be crowded: Before and after traditional working hours, lines can get long and tiresome, and you may give up hope, so bring comfortable shoes—and snacks!

**Absentee ballots.** Out of town on Election Day? Make sure you research your state's laws regarding your ballot in advance. Every state is different. Consider becoming a permanent absentee voter if your state allows it, especially if you're a frequent traveler or homebound.

**Fight disinformation.** Are you sure that the mailer you received has correct voting information and is from your county registrar of voters or from the party with which you're registered? Certain special interest groups have been caught sending out misleading endorsement information or even absentee-ballot/voting instructions that looked legitimate but weren't. Even if such tactics are uncovered pre-Election Day, the damage is already done.

## ON ELECTION DAY

**Bring your license and registration.** Even if your state doesn't require it, bring your identification and proof of registration anyway.

**Disability ability.** The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act ensures that you can bring a non-employer or non-officer of your union to assist you in the act of voting if you're disabled or cannot speak English.

### Your Voting Checklist (Courtesy of the League of Women Voters)

Make sure you know:

- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications and registration forms
- Election dates
- Early voting and absentee-ballot options
- Ballot measure and candidate information for federal, state, and local races
- Polling place locations, hours, and ID requirements
- Voting machine instructions



**If you protect and serve.** The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act ensures that absentee ballots from our armed servicemen and women are counted.

**Report a transgression.** Are people intimidating voters in line? Talking about specific candidates? Campaigning right outside? Passing around cash, gifts, swag, or candy? Something else doesn't add up? Report it as soon as possible to the League of Women Voters Vote 411 hotline:

<https://www.vote411.org>

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

1-844-418-1682 (Arabic)

**Fraud tactics.** Watch out for government: forcing many voters into a tiny polling location causing long lines and discomfort for the elderly or disabled, intimidation, miscounting ballots, discrimination against people with disabilities by not providing adequate access, or excluding your name from the voter list even if you have proper credentials. Watch out for people: impersonating someone else, voting in the name of a deceased person, mail-in ballot fraud.

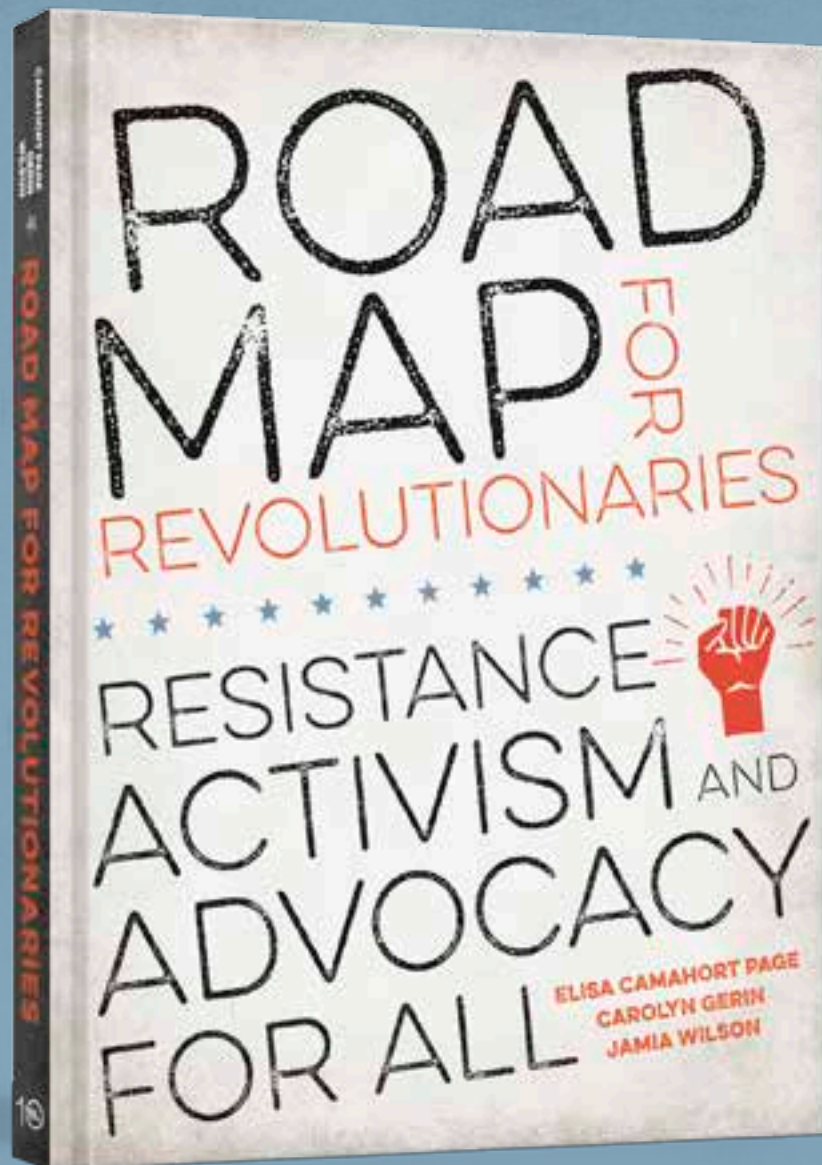
## AFTER THE FACT AND ALWAYS

**Fight the power.** Document your ordeal or report a transgression:

- By email at [voting.section@usdoj.gov](mailto:voting.section@usdoj.gov)
- By telephone at (800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
- By telephone at (202) 307-2767
- By complaint form at <https://www.justice.gov/crt/complaint/votintake/index.php>

- By letter to Civil Rights Division—Voting Section  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Room 7254—NWB  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

**Technical difficulties.** A bigger-picture issue is that many electronic voting machines use “black box” or third-party software with security vulnerabilities that poll workers may not have the necessary technical skills to troubleshoot, not to mention the fact that vendor technicians have unsupervised access to this equipment. In addition, not all systems provide a paper ballot backup to your electronic vote. Yikes!



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