



# Your Vote Counts

With the midterm election coming up on November 6, October's Civic Lab explores the topic of voting. Get informed, join the discussion, and participate in activities. For each activity you submit, you'll be entered to win a \$75 gift certificate to Amazon.com. DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOV. 6!

## Kentucky Voter Registration

- The deadline to register or update your registration for the November 6 election is **October 9**.
- Register or update your registration online at <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/ovrweb/govoteky>
- Review your registration at <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/VIC/>

## Find Your Polling Place

Find out where to vote and view a sample ballot at <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/VIC/>

## What to Bring With You

- You must either know a precinct officer or bring an ID with you.
- According to the State Board of Elections, "Acceptable types of ID are personal acquaintance of precinct officer, driver's license, Social Security card, county issued identification card approved in writing by the State Board of Elections, U.S. government-issued identification card, Kentucky state government-issued identification card with picture, credit card, or another form of ID containing both picture and signature."

## Absentee Voting

- Some Kentucky voters, including the military and students who live outside their home county, may be eligible to cast an absentee vote.
- Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/ybsvnfvx>

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## Know Your Rights

As a Kentucky voter, you have the right to:

- Vote if you are a registered voter
- Ask questions on election procedures
- Review a sample ballot before voting
- Vote in privacy and free from coercion or intimidation
- Have non-discriminatory equal access to the elections system for all voters, including elderly, disabled, and minority, military, and overseas citizens
- Vote if you are in line to vote by 6:00 p.m., prevailing time on election day
- Occupy the voting booth up to two minutes if others are waiting in line
- Have your ballot count if it is cast legally and timely
- Vote in an accessible voting place
- And more...

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycvw6btz> for a complete list of Kentucky voter rights and responsibilities.

# Candidate Information

## Newspapers

Find out about local candidates in *The Jessamine Journal* or the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. Both are available at the library in print or online through the NewsBank database, which you can access at <https://www.jesspublib.org/databases-by-subject>.

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# Candidate Information Cont.

## Websites

### BallotReady

<https://www.ballotready.org>

Enter your address to view nonpartisan information about the issues and candidates on your ballot. Build your own printable ballot that you can take with you to the polls.

### Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

<https://kref.ky.gov>

Find information on Kentucky campaign finance rules, and find receipt records for candidates, political issues committees, and exploratory committees.

### ProPublica's User's Guide to Democracy

<https://tinyurl.com/yaeby5k>

Sign up to receive a series of eight personalized emails "about political campaigns, who your representatives in Congress are (and what it is they do), the candidates who want to represent you in Congress, and the sometimes convoluted business of voting."

### Vote411

<https://www.vote411.org/>

This website from the League of Women Voters lets you enter your address to build a personalized voter guide. Compare candidates' positions and print out a ballot to take with you. (Note: The full ballots are ready close to election time.)

### Vote Smart

<https://votesmart.org/>

This nonpartisan, nonprofit website researches candidates using primary sources. Get information on candidate positions, ratings from special interest groups, speeches, funding, and more.





# Voter Turnout

According to the Pew Research Center, just 55.7% of the voting-age population voted in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. That figure “puts the U.S. behind most of its peers in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).”

## Conversation Starters

- What are citizens' voting responsibilities?
- How important was voting in your family?
- Is high voter turnout important? Why or why not?
- Do you think election outcomes would change if we had higher voter turnout? Why or why not?

## Read

“On The Sidelines Of Democracy: Exploring Why So Many Americans Don't Vote” by Asma Khalid, Don Gonyea, and Leila Fadel.

<https://tinyurl.com/yagvtwqr>

“U.S. Trails Most Developed Countries in Voter Turnout” by the Pew Research Center. <https://tinyurl.com/ybko8d7x>

“Kentucky's Best and Worst Counties for Voter Turnout” by WKYT.

<https://tinyurl.com/yaa9prec>





CIVIC  
LAB

# Activities

For each activity you submit, you'll be entered to win a \$75 gift certificate to Amazon.com. Submit your activities in the entry box in the main library by Nov. 6, 2018 (DEADLINE EXTENDED). JCPL employees and their families are ineligible to win prizes.

## Voting Activity 1

Attend the **Civic Lab Discussion Group** on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 PM.  
Registration is required.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Voting Activity 2

Use the resources listed under Voting in Kentucky to answer the following question:

Do Kentucky voters have the right to request and have an immediate hearing before the county board of elections on election day if their eligibility to vote is questioned?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Voting Activity 3

Use any of the resources listed under Candidate Information to find out one thing that you didn't already know about a candidate.

Resource used: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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