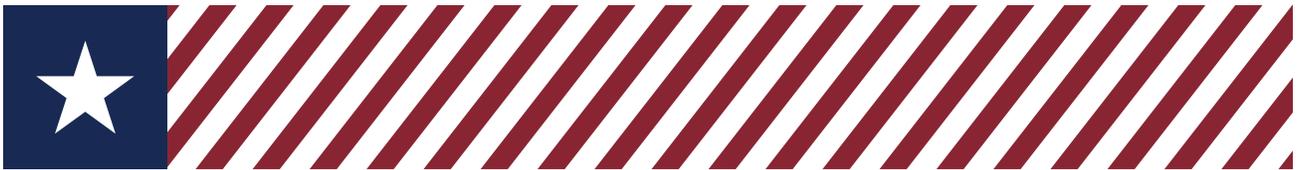


# **WHAT IS YOUR 2020 VOTING PLAN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?**

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*LeadingAge Toolkit for Providers*





As *the* trusted voice for aging in the U.S., LeadingAge is in a unique position to help our members and the older adults we collectively serve navigate an unusual election season. Although our organization is non-partisan, we believe in ensuring everyone has the opportunity to vote. And this fall, because of the coronavirus pandemic, voters may be understandably confused about when, how, and where to cast their ballots.

LeadingAge has never sent out a Voting Plan Toolkit before, but these abnormal times call for extraordinary measures to ensure that everyone understands how to vote: what's the same, what's new, and everything in between. Many experts are predicting extensive misinformation efforts between now and election day; this toolkit will provide all the information you, and the older adults you serve, need to have clarity on being ready for election day.

Whether you are a senior housing provider, a nursing home, home health, or hospice provider, your community may have supported the voting efforts of older adults in the past...or your persons-served may have taken vans to polling places. Because of the pandemic, all of those previous supports and services may not be available this year. This toolkit helps you identify the resources you need to help your residents make individual voting plans. It also includes a worksheet that the adults you serve can use to organize their individual plans and a worksheet for you to use in determining how you ensure that the members of your community have all the information they need.

Your LeadingAge team stands ready to help you navigate this particular election season in a very strange time. We are very excited to share that we have developed a **Civic Action Center** that allows users to go online and look up their registration status, get ballots, or find polling places. We think this tool will be critical as you work with your residents to make their voting plans. Here is the link: <https://leadingage.org/votingplan>

Every election season, it's common to hear the refrain, "This is the most important election ever!" But the lawmakers elected this November will be making major decisions about how we move on from the pandemic and it's important that LeadingAge constituents are able to have their votes counted.



As always, reach out to us if you have additional questions. Contact Joe Franco, vice president of grassroots, at [jfranco@leadingage.org](mailto:jfranco@leadingage.org) or 202-492-0063.

Thank you in advance for all you are doing to help make voting easier for those we serve!



## WHAT DO PROVIDERS NEED TO DO TO ENSURE YOUR RESIDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE?

**In order to help the people we serve prepare to vote, there are a number of steps you can take to offer them reliable information.**

- Identify any older adults that might be registered to vote in another jurisdiction and encourage them to go online to look up their registration status.  
<https://leadingage.org/votingplan>
  - » Enlist family members to help them apply for an absentee ballot.
- For local older adults, learn the rules:
  - » Is *absentee voting* available? What are the deadlines?
    - Are there any special requirements for receiving an absentee ballot?
  - » Is *vote by mail* available? What are the deadlines?
    - Are there any special requirements for receiving a mail ballot?
  - » Are there *collection boxes* where ballots can be dropped off?
  - » Do you know any older adults who prefer to *vote in person*? Are there safety protocols in place? Does your organization arrange to have transportation available to take them? Or, can you work with a local community organization to find drivers?
    - Where are the polling locations? What are their hours?
- Once you have gathered local information and know the registration deadline, hold a voter information event or create an informational flyer for the people you serve. Set up a computer at a “Voting Registration Station” so older adults can go to LeadingAge’s Civic Action Center to make sure they are registered to vote.
- Put up flyers that remind older adults to vote early.
- Use other communications to urge people to participate.
- Encourage older adults to make their own voting plans and reach out to civic organizations like League of Women Voters to find volunteers who will help the older adults you serve navigate the process.

Gather this information as soon as possible and host your voter information event in plenty of time for people to register. The following pages provides a worksheet that may be helpful to you as you prepare to educate the older adults in your community.



# VOTING PLAN WORKSHEET FOR PROVIDERS

**Do you know any older adults that are eligible to vote in a different jurisdiction?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**For local older adults who want to vote by mail or by absentee ballot:**

What is the deadline for requesting a ballot? \_\_\_\_\_

How will ballots be delivered? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any special rules for getting a ballot? \_\_\_\_\_

**For local older adults who want to vote in person:**

Where are the polling locations? \_\_\_\_\_

What are their hours on election day? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the provider have transportation capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there local community groups who will drive residents to the polls? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there sufficient safeguards in the community, given the pandemic? \_\_\_\_\_

## Planning a Voter Information Event

- » When can it be scheduled to ensure older adults can sign up before deadlines?
- » Do you have a place to set up a Voter Registration station?
- » Highlight the Civic Action Center

## Continuing Education

- » Place flyers around the community encouraging people to register to vote. Include key dates according to your local rules.
- » Use your organization's communications to remind people to register and get their ballots in.
- » If possible, sit down with every person you serve to walk through their Voting Plan.



# VOTING PLAN WORKSHEET FOR INDIVIDUALS

## Am I registered to vote?

Check my status at <https://leadingage.org/votingplan>

## What is my voting preference?

In person

By mail (absentee or mail-in)

## If I want to vote in person:

Where is my polling location? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the hours? \_\_\_\_\_

How will I get there? \_\_\_\_\_

Do I feel safe voting in person? \_\_\_\_\_

What is I have to wait for hours, am I prepared to do that? \_\_\_\_\_

Will I need identification documents (driver's license, passport)? \_\_\_\_\_

## If I want to vote by mail or absentee ballot:

What is the deadline for ordering a ballot? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any special rules for obtaining a mail-in/absentee ballot? \_\_\_\_\_

How will I drop it off? \_\_\_\_\_

## What additional information do I need?

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **Is it safe to vote in person this year?**

That depends on the community. But given that older adults are at higher risk for COVID-19, assess the situation in your town and decide if it is safe for older adults to go to the polls. Most polling locations are working to set up socially-distanced, clean locales. But it may be safer and easier to vote by mail or absentee ballot.

## **If someone decides to vote in person, do they need to take an ID?**

That depends on the rules in your jurisdiction, which can be found at LeadingAge's Civic Action Center — <https://leadingage.org/votingplan>. You can also contact your local election board or visit your state election website.

## **Is voting by mail safe?**

Despite a lot of confusion and misinformation, voting by mail is very safe and reliable. However, there is a lot of concern about a rush of ballots being mailed at the last minute, so we suggest voting and submitting your ballot as early as possible.

## **What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a vote by mail ballot?**

The only difference is how the states classify them. In each case you will get a ballot through the mail and will need to submit it back to your local election board through a designated ballot collection point or the mail.

## **How does one know if they are registered to vote?**

Check out LeadingAge's Civic Action Center to find out: <https://leadingage.org/votingplan>. Once you enter your address, we will be able to provide an answer quickly.

## **Where is the most accurate information on voting deadlines?**

You guessed it. Go to LeadingAge's Civic Action Center: <https://leadingage.org/votingplan>. This easy to use website is constantly updated with the latest information and deadlines.

# NOTES





## The Trusted Voice for Aging



### Connect With Us

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