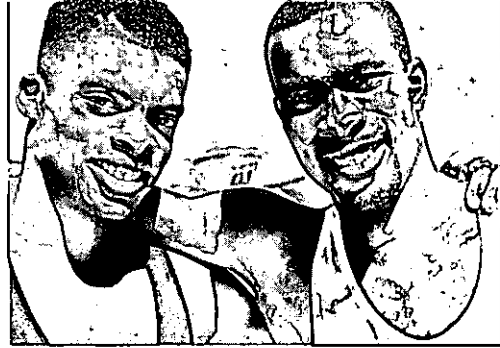


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Tool kits provided by: Charming Shoppes, Inc.

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to vote



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*Take a friend
to vote.*

Congratulations! By joining the Take A Friend To Vote campaign, you are playing an important role in strengthening the voice that you and your community have in government.

Voting is the tool citizens use to select leaders and to hold them accountable. When that tool is not used, when only a few citizens elect leaders and a large number of Americans do not participate in elections, the future of our democracy is threatened. The more we express our values and concerns through voting, the better our elected leaders will be able to represent us.

Over the last 80 years, the League of Women Voters has made tremendous strides in encouraging the active and informed participation of citizens in government -- but there is still much work to be done. Far too many citizens are not exercising their right to vote. Whether this will be your first time voting or you are a long-time voter, I want you to help us reach out to your friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers with the message that voting is important to our families and communities, and it's something that everyone can do.

I hope you accept the Take A Friend To Vote challenge. Talk with your friends and family about issues and candidates' positions, and how they may affect you and your community. Ask them to vote this year and have them sign the Take A Friend To Vote Pledge Sheet. If you and your friends are not registered, or need to find out where to vote in your community, call the election officials in your state at the number listed in this tool kit. When Election Day draws near, send each person a postcard to remind them to vote!

You will make an important difference for your community and start an exciting new tradition. On behalf of the League of Women Voters Education Fund and our Take A Friend to Vote partners, I thank you for your commitment to strengthening our democracy.

Sincerely,




Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D.
Chair, LWVEF



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1730 M Street, NW Suite 1000 ■ Washington, DC 20036-4508

202.263.1300 ■ Fax 202.429.0854 ■ www.lwv.org ■ e-mail:lwv@lwv.org



The VOTING POWER of ONE!

In 1998, 36.4 percent of voters went to the polls to cast their ballots. That's the lowest voter turnout since 1942! Two out of three Americans, 115 million eligible voters, simply stayed home and didn't vote at all. Many people explain their failure to vote by saying: *'I'm just one person. My little old vote doesn't make a difference.'*

There's a lot of historical evidence to the contrary.

- ★ In 1999, Leslie Byrne was elected to the Virginia Senate by 37 votes, less than one vote per precinct.
- ★ Donald Sherwood was elected to the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania by a margin of 515 votes, less than one vote per precinct, making this election the closest House of Representatives race in 1998.
- ★ Loretta Sanchez was elected to Congress from California by less than 4 votes per precinct in 1996.
- ★ John F. Kennedy's margin of victory over Richard Nixon in 1960 was less than one vote per precinct.
- ★ One vote per precinct passed woman suffrage in California in 1911.

Registration and Voting



For more information, visit the Voter Information section of the League of Women Voters website at www.lwv.org.

How do I register to vote?

Contact your local election office. Check your phonebook for your county board of elections, county clerk's office or municipal board of elections. You can also contact your state board of elections (please see attached list). If you're not sure whom to contact, start by calling your local or state League of Women Voters. Registration deadlines are usually 30 days before the election.

What are the requirements to be eligible to vote?

You must be:

- a) A citizen of the United States, and
- b) 18 years old by the general election.

Many states also have eligibility requirements that disqualify citizens for felony conviction or mental incompetence. These are listed on state voter registration application forms.

I have trouble writing. What should I do?

Under the National Voter Registration Act, state agencies required to provide voter registration opportunities, i.e., department of motor vehicles, public assistance agencies and agencies that serve people with disabilities, must provide assistance in filling out the voter registration form if asked.

Do I fill in the whole form?

For the federal mail-in application form, be sure to read the directions for your state. Eligibility requirements and required information may vary.

Is the information on my form confidential?

Voter registration information is a matter of public record. Under the federal motor voter law, however, states may not use information on declinations or the site of individual registration for any purpose other than voter registration. Also, states that require Social Security numbers are required to protect the confidentiality of that information.

How do I know if I'm registered?

States subject to the federal motor voter law are required to send registration applicants a disposition notice. This will note if there is a problem with your application. If not, you will receive a registration card or similar document.

How will I find out where to go to vote?

Your registration card should include the address of your polling place. Many jurisdictions also send additional informative materials to registered voters. If you do not receive the information in the mail, call your local election office.

I'm a college student living away from home. Where should I register?

You can register either at your home or school address. It is important to update your registration each time you move. If you are registered at your home address while you're at school, remember to request an absentee ballot at least 30 days before the election. Check with your state election board for the exact deadline.

I am registered, but I've recently moved. Does this affect my registration?

Yes. If you are registered and have moved within your current election jurisdiction, contact your local election office to determine where you should vote. If you moved outside of your old election jurisdiction, you will have to reregister in your new jurisdiction before the registration deadline in your state.

What do I do if I have changed my name?

You may use your state's form or the universal registration form to submit a change of name.

I am a U.S. citizen living abroad. How do I vote?

You must request an absentee ballot. Contact a U.S. embassy, consulate, designated military personnel or your state election authority.

My friend is a U.S. citizen who doesn't speak English. Where can I get assistance for him/her?

Check with your local election authority to see whether your state provides election materials in a language other than English. The Voting Rights Act requires local election officials to provide bilingual voter registration applications, ballots and language assistance when a certain percentage of the population of the jurisdiction is comprised of a language minority group.

Are there other ways to vote besides going to the polls?

All states are required to have an absentee ballot (vote by mail) programs to allow citizens with disabilities and overseas military personnel to vote. Many states do not restrict absentee voting to these groups. Contact your local election officials for information on absentee voting in your area. If you are registered at your home address and want to vote while you're attending college, remember to request an absentee ballot at least 30 days before the election. Check with your state election board for the exact deadline.

**TO REQUEST A MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING,
CALL THE FOLLOWING STATE OFFICES OR AGENCIES:**

ALABAMA
Director of Voter
Registration
(334) 242-4337

ALASKA
Division of Elections
(907) 465-4611

ARIZONA
Asst. Secretary of State
(602) 542-8683

ARKANSAS
Election Services|
(501) 682-3528

CALIFORNIA
Chief of Elections
(916) 657-2166

COLORADO
Elections Officer
(303) 894-2680 #1

CONNECTICUT
Elections Office
(860) 509-6100

DELAWARE
Election Commissioner
(302) 739-4498

FLORIDA
Division of Elections
(850) 488-7690

GEORGIA
Elections Division
(404) 656-2871

HAWAII
Elections Division
(808) 453-8683

IDAHO
Secretary of State
(208) 334-2852

ILLINOIS
Board of Elections
(217) 782-4141

INDIANA
State Election Board
(317) 232-3939

IOWA
Secretary of State
(515) 281-0145

KANSAS
Elections Office
(785) 296-4561

KENTUCKY
State Board of Elections
(502) 573-7100

LOUISIANA
Commissioner of
Elections
(225) 925-7885

MAINE
Elections Office
(207) 287-4186

MARYLAND
Board of Elections
(410) 269-2840

MASSACHUSETTS
Director of Elections
(617) 727-2828

MICHIGAN
Director of Elections
(517) 373-2540

MINNESOTA
Secretary of State
(651) 296-2805

MISSISSIPPI
Elections Office
(601) 359-6357

MISSOURI
Secretary of State
(573) 751-2301

MONTANA
Secretary of State
(406) 444-4732

NEBRASKA
Secretary of State
(402) 471-2554

NEVADA
Elections Division
(775) 684-5705

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Asst. Secretary of State
(603) 271-3242

NEW JERSEY
Election Division
(609) 292-3760

NEW MEXICO
Bureau of Elections
(505) 827-3622

NEW YORK
Board of Elections
(518) 474-8100

NORTH CAROLINA
Board of Elections
(919) 733-7173

NORTH DAKOTA
Elections Office
(701) 328-4146

OHIO
Secretary of State
(614) 466-2585

OKLAHOMA
State Elections Board
(405) 521-2391

OREGON
Secretary of State
(503) 986-1518

PENNSYLVANIA
Commissioner of
Elections
(717) 787-5280

RHODE ISLAND
Director of Elections
(401) 222-2345

SOUTH CAROLINA
Election Commission
(803) 734-9060

SOUTH DAKOTA
Elections
(605) 773-3537

TENNESSEE
Elections Office
(615) 741-7956

TEXAS
Secretary of State
(512) 463-5650

UTAH
Director of Elections
(801) 538-1041

VERMONT
Secretary of State
(802) 828-2304

VIRGINIA
State Board of Elections
(804) 786-6551

WASHINGTON
Office of Election
Director
(360) 902-4151

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA**
Board of Elections
(202) 727-2525

WEST VIRGINIA
Office of Chief of Staff
(304) 558-6000

WISCONSIN
State Elections Board
(608) 266-8005

WYOMING
Elections Officer
(307) 777-7186

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT YOUR STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

LWV AL (334) 826-8625

LWV AK (907) 262-3941

LWV AZ (602) 997-5218

LWV AR (501) 376-7760
www.insolwvb.net/~lwvar

LWV CA (916) 442-7215
<http://ca.lwv.org/>

LWV CO (303) 863-0437
www.sni.net/lwvco/

LWV CT (203) 288-7996
www.lwvct.org/

LWV DE (302) 571-8948

LWV FL (850) 224-2545
www.pccla.gulf.net/~lwvfl/

LWV GA (678) 547-0755
www.ga.lwv.org/

LWV HI (808) 531-7448

LWV ID (208) 883-8349

LWV IL (312) 939-5935
www.lwvil.org/

LWV IN (317) 241-8683
home.earthlink.net/~lwvin/

LWV IA (515) 777-9739
www.lwvia.org/

LWV KS (785) 234-5152

LWV KY (502) 875-6481
www.lwvky.org/

LWV LA (225) 344-3326
www.lwvla.org/

LWV ME (207) 622-1993
www.curtislibrary.com/lwv/

LWV MD (410) 269-0232
www.bcpl.net/~lwv/

LWV MA (617) 523-2999
www.ma.lwv.org

LWV MI (517) 484-5383
www.mlc.lib.mi.us/~lwvmi

LWV MN (651) 224-5445
www.lwvmn.org

LWV MS (601) 352-4616
www.lwv-ms.org

LWV MO (314) 961-6869
www.umsl.edu/~lwv

LWV MT (406) 549-4120
www.montana.com/lwvmt

LWV NE (402) 475-1411
www.incolor.inetnebr.com/lwvne

LWV NV (702) 363-4382

LWV NH (603) 225-5344
<http://people.ne.mediaone.net/bingel/index.htm>

LWV NJ (609) 394-3303
www.lwvnj.org

LWV NM (505) 982-9766
www.lwvnm.org

LWV NY (518) 465-4162
www.lwvny.org

LWV NC (919) 783-5995
www.rtpnet.org/~lwvnc

LWV ND (701) 232-2701

LWV OH (614) 469-1505
www.lwvohio.org

LWV OK (405) 232-8683
<http://connections.oklahoman.net/lwvok>

LWV OR (503) 581-5722
www.open.org/~lwvor

LWV PA (717) 234-1576
www.pa.lwv.org

LWV RI (401) 434-6440

LWV SC (803) 929-0890
www.lwvsc.org

LWV SD (605) 336-7670

LWV TN (615) 297-7134
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/lwvtn>

LWV TX (512) 472-1100
www.main.org/leaguewv/home.html

LWV UT (801) 272-8683
www.xmission.com/~lwvut

LWV VT (802) 657-0242
www.lwvofvt.org

LWV VA (804) 649-0333
www.monticello.avenue.org/leagueva

LWV WA (206) 622-8961
www.lwvwa.org

LWV DC (202) 347-3020
www.dcvwatch.com/lwvdc

LWV WV (304) 342-2706
<http://access.mountain.net/~mhalley/lwv.htm>

LWV WI (608) 256-0827
www.lwvwi.org

LWV WY (307) 721-8169
<http://lariat.lariat.org/LWV>

Take a friend
to vote.

Just a reminder...

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to vote.

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Just a reminder...

**“We are going
together to vote on
November 7th!”**

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**“We are going
together to vote on
November 7th!”**

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