

The Basics of Election Integrity



Agenda

- Introduction and background
- Overview of Voter fraud, Election laws and relevant players and organizations.
- Wrap up



Objective

Understanding how elections work and what can go wrong are key to ensuring the integrity of the electoral process. At the end of this course you should be

- 1 More informed about your voting rights
- 2 Feel confident communicating with your local elections office
- 3 Better understand the problem of election fraud
- 4 An election Volunteer!



Voting Qualifications

- 1 18 years old
- 2 Resident of state you're voting in
- 3 Citizen of the U.S.
- 4 Registered to vote



Other Voting Qualifications

Registration: Citizens must register to vote in order to vote in elections. Some states allow same day registration, but most require advance registration. Check with your state to ensure you're registered!

- ! If you do not vote for several consecutive years your name may be removed from the list of registered voters.



Why do people vote

The right to vote is among our greatest freedoms

People should exercise their right to vote because it allows citizens to:

- Choose their government leaders
- Elect new leaders if dissatisfied with the performance of current leaders
- Express their opinions on public issues



Types of Voting



1. Mail-in and Absentee Ballots

Ballots sent by mail are referred to as either mail-in ballots or absentee ballots. Each state has established its own standards regarding the use of mail-in ballots.

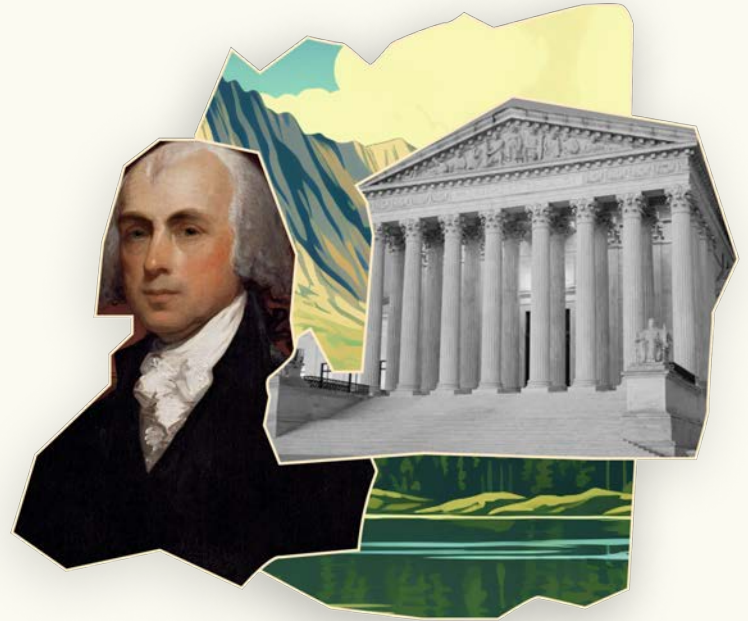
Certain states conduct elections entirely by mail. These states are Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Hawaii, and Utah.

The term “absentee ballot” is used to describe a voting method available to voters who cannot vote in person. An absentee ballot typically must be requested by the voter, it will not automatically be sent to the vote, unless the state supports a permanent absentee list. States have established their own standards to determine acceptable reasons for voters to receive absentee ballots, including but not limited to: age, disability, and location.



2. Early Voting

- Early voting is the process by which electors can vote on a single or series of days prior to the recognized “Election Day”. Early voting can take place remotely, such as by mail, or in person, usually in designated early voting polling stations.
- The availability and time periods for early voting vary based on jurisdiction and type of election.
- The goal of early voting is to increase participation and relieve congestion of polling stations on the election day.



3. Provisional Ballots

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote when there is some question regarding a voter's eligibility. You have the right to vote by provisional ballot if:

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4. Military Voting

Military personnel and family members eligible to vote may vote absentee from within and out of the United States.



Each state accepts the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form as a request for registration and ballot. The FPCA is sent to overseas corporations, organizations, military installations and U.S. Embassies and consulates for regions in which U.S. citizens reside.



Timely receipt of absentee ballots continues to be a major problem among military members, their family members, and overseas civilians attempting to vote.



Voter Rights

- To request and receive written or oral voting instructions;
- To request and receive assistance in voting;
- To not be prevented from voting for any reason if you are a registered, eligible voter;
- To bring an aide or interpreter if you are disabled or have a language barrier;
- To vote if you are in line by the time the polls are closing;
- To be provided an explanation and offered a provisional ballot if your eligibility cannot be established;
- To be provided with up to three ballots if you make a mistake in voting (at a polling place);
- To vote in a process that will accurately record your vote
- To ensure that every legally cast vote is counted!



Voting Points to Remember

- Any voter has the right to receive assistance from a family member or poll worker
- To avoid causing coercive situations, voters cannot be assisted by their employer, union agent, political candidate or other representative of a political party.
- Voting instructions are available in a variety of languages



Election Integrity: First Steps



Election Integrity

A Historical Perspective



Voter Registration Laws

👉 NVRA

(National Voter Registration Act)

👉 HAVA

(Help America Vote Again)

👉 Voter ID



National voters registration act (NVRA)

NVRA requires agencies to offer voter registration when a person applies for:

- Unless the applicant refused, bilingual services must be provided in completing a voter registration application and/or declination form.
- Voter registration services must be provided even if the interaction with the client is remote (e.g., by phone, internet, or mail).



Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

Signed into law by former President
George W. Bush on October 29, 2002

- Provided more than \$3 billion to the states to improve the administration of federal elections.
- Marks the first time in American history that the Federal government provided funds to the States to help pay for the cost of Federal elections.
- Provide accessibility in minority languages for voters with limited English proficiency.



Voting & Civil Rights Legislation

Voting Rights Act

Gave Attorney General power to enforce voting laws. States had to get pre-clearance or permission from the court to make changes to voting laws.

This law guarantees the right to vote to all racial, ethnic, or language minority citizens. The legislation forbids any discriminatory practices that may prevent fair opportunities for voters to participate in elections.



Voter ID Laws



Voter ID Can Prevent

- ! Impersonation fraud
- ! Voting under fraudulent or fictitious registrations – both as to the identity or the residential address of the voter
- ! Voting by illegal aliens
- ! Double voting by individuals registered in more than one state



Why Election integrity



Election Integrity Goals

- Guarantee the right to vote
- Protect equal access to voting
- Accurate and transparent vote counting
- Restore public confidence in elections



Benefits of Election Integrity Efforts

- Identify gaps in the election system and help voters avoid them
- Stop partisan manipulation of the election system's weakness
- Hold election officials accountable to state and national standards



Accusation of Voter Fraud



Citizen Led Initiatives



The Power of Citizen Engagement

- Help register new voters
- Education voters about their right
- Volunteer to be a poll watcher or poll monitor
- Help prevent election fraud
- Ensure election day voting rights are upheld





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making history.**

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