

The Official 2024 Black Voters' Guide

MY BLACK
JOB IS TO
VOTE

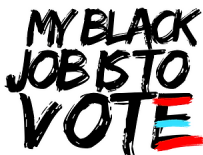


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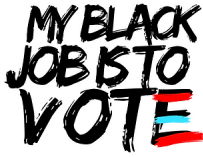
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Disclaimer

The Black Voters Guide is intended to provide general information on candidates, issues, and voting procedures for the upcoming election. While we strive for accuracy and impartiality, the dynamic nature of laws and regulations means that the content may not always be current or complete. The information provided in this voter rights guide is for general informational purposes only and should not be taken as legal advice. The authors and publishers of this guide cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies, errors, or omissions in the content, or for any actions taken based on the information provided. Additionally, the content of this guide is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The guide is not affiliated with any political party or candidate and does not endorse or oppose any individual or platform.

We encourage all voters to verify information through official sources and consider multiple viewpoints before making their decisions. The guide's primary goal is to support informed voting by presenting clear and accessible information.

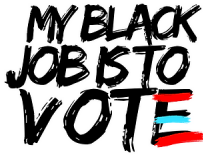
For official election details and updates, please refer to your local election authority or official state election website.

About My Black Job is to Vote

The "My Black Job is to Vote™" campaign was born out of foolishness and revolves around the belief that voting is our true black job. It was sparked by Donald J. Trump's divisive accusation during the first Presidential debate where former President Trump stated that Hispanics were taking "Black jobs". This device rhetoric revived the offensive practice of categorizing jobs by race and prompted a critical reflection on the implications of historical exclusionary legislation. This comment has forced us to confront a pressing question: what constitutes a "Black job" in 2024?

Our campaign emphasizes the urgency of voting, highlighting its crucial role not only in the 2024 presidential election but also in state and local elections. These elections collectively shape our civil rights, economic opportunities, access to healthcare, educational opportunities, and justice system reforms.

The campaign's main message emphasizes the importance of the Voting Rights Act, which was created to address racial discrimination in voting. It also highlights the racist and inaccurate nature of the term "Black jobs." Historical policies allowed racial



discrimination by segregating Black people's employment opportunities, limiting them to specific job sectors. This discriminatory practice aimed to deny them government-sponsored social benefits that were available to white citizens during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s.

Advocating for active participation in the electoral process, our campaign aims to empower the Black community and address systemic inequalities through fair policies and representation.

By encouraging widespread engagement in voting among Black individuals, the campaign aims to amplify Black voices and ensure their interests are prioritized in shaping the nation's future at all levels of government.

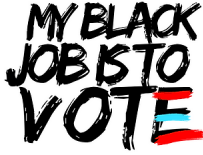
Why the Black Vote Matter

The 2024 elections are a crucial moment for the Black community, representing a generational shift in power. This election will determine voting eligibility for millions of Americans, equal access to employment, and the quality of our healthcare and education systems. We might not all have the same experiences or think the same way, but a lot of these issues affect the black community as a whole

It's more than just picking who's president—it's about what kind of future we want for us and our families. Our voices are powerful, and voting is how we use that power. When we vote, we make sure that what we care about is heard, our rights are safeguarded, and our communities are strengthened. This is our chance to make things more equitable and more just for everyone. Let's not miss it!

The purpose of the Black Voters' Guide

The Black Voters' Guide has got your back for Election Day. It breaks down everything you need to know to make sure your vote gets counted. It's all about giving you the necessary information to show up and make it happen.



How to use the Guide

1. Navigate the voting process

This guide shows you how to vote step-by-step so you know what to do on Election Day.

2. Help other black folk register to vote

Share the guide with your friends and family to help them sign up to vote. Let's make sure everyone knows how to get registered!

3. Discuss voting issues

Use the guide to learn about what's on the ballot and why it matters. Talk with your people and make sure we all vote for what's best for our families and community.

Before Election Day

Register to Vote

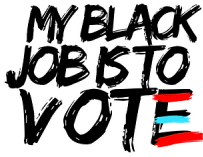
Here's a quick rundown of how to register to vote:

1. **Online:** Check if your state allows [online registration](#). This can be done from your computer or smartphone.
2. **By Mail:** Download the [National Mail Voter Registration Form](#). Note: this is not allowed in New Hampshire, North Dakota, Wisconsin, or Wyoming.
3. **In Person:** Visit your state or local election office or your local DMV, to register face-to-face.

Each state has its own rules, so it's good to check the specifics where you live.

Key Dates & Deadlines

General Election | Tuesday, November 5, 2024



Early Voting Early voting lets you fit voting into your schedule whenever it works for you. It's a game-changer in cases when polling locations are experiencing long lines and extended wait times on Election Day. [Click here to see dates by state.](#)

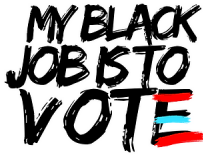
Voting Options

Voting doesn't have to be complicated, and states offer different ways to ensure you can cast your ballot your way. Here's the breakdown:

1. **In-Person Voting:** If you're voting on Election Day, make sure you head to your designated voting location. You can check with your local election office to find your voting location and the hours of operation. Election workers will be available to assist you at each voting location. Depending on jurisdictional rules you will be able to cast your vote via paper ballot or an electronic device.
2. **Early Voting:** Don't want to wait until Election Day? Some states allow open early voting. Look into whether your state offers early voting and get the scoop on the dates and rules from your local election office.
3. **Mail-In and Absentee Voting:** If going to a polling place isn't your thing or you can't make it, some states let you vote by mail. Some even conduct elections entirely by mail. You have to ask for a ballot to vote, and some states might need a reason from you. The rules and deadlines can be different depending on where you live. Each state has its own rules, so see if you qualify to vote by mail. For more details, hit up [your state or local election office.](#)

What's on the Ballot?

This year, you have significant power to shape your state's future. Voters will be voting on critical national, statewide, and local offices. **On the ballot in 2024: 1 president, 1 vice president, 33 of 100 seats in the Senate, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, governor seats in 11 states, legislators in 86 of the country's 99 state legislative chambers, and a wide range of local & special elections.**



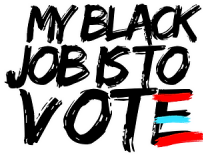
Remember, the President's ability to pass legislation depends on having a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Without these majorities, it can be challenging to get things done. [Click here to see who is on your ballot.](#)

But that's not the whole story. **156 statewide ballot measures have been certified for the ballot in 41 states for elections. A ballot measure is a question or issue you vote on during an election. It could be about making a new law or deciding on something meaningful for your community. You get to vote "yes" or "no" to help determine what happens.** [Click here to see whats on your ballot.](#)

Things We Can Change with Our Vote

Here are some key issues for the **2024 Presidential and Congressional elections**. We might not all have the same experiences or viewpoints, but many of these issues impact all of us.

- **Voting Rights:** Making sure you and everyone else can vote easily, especially people in communities of color.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Fixing issues in the legal system to ensure that everyone, especially Black individuals, is treated fairly by law enforcement and the judicial system.
- **Economic Equality:** Helping bridge the wealth gap so everyone has equal opportunities for jobs, fair wages, homeownership, and entrepreneurship. **Healthcare Access:** Making sure you and everyone, especially those in communities with fewer doctors, can get the healthcare you need, including mental health services.
- **Education Reform:** Ensuring you and all students, especially Black students, have equal educational opportunities, including more support for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and help with student loans.
- **Environmental Justice:** Ensuring your community and others have clean air, safe water, and safe places to live away from any environmental dangers.



How to prepare:

1. **Find Your Candidates:** Check where candidates stand on issues that matter to you. This will help you make an informed decision based on your preferences.
2. **Check Your Ballot:** Only candidates running in your specific district or state will appear on your ballot.
3. **Save the Information for your cheat sheet:** You can print, email, or text the information about the candidates to yourself or others to refer to when you vote.

[Click here to see who is on your ballot.](#)

Know Your Rights

Over the years, federal laws have stepped up to protect everyone's right to vote and make it easier actually to cast that vote: The Civil Rights Acts from the 50s and 60s started the fight against voting discrimination. The 1965 Voting Rights Act kicked things up a notch by stopping racial bias and making sure election info was available in different languages, though some rules got relaxed in 2013. The 1984 law made polling places accessible for people with disabilities, and the 1986 and 2009 laws made it easier for military and overseas folks to vote. The 1993 National Voter Registration Act made it simpler to register and keep voter lists clean, while the 2002 Help America Vote Act gave federal money for elections and set up the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to keep things fair.

For more on how these laws protect your vote, [check out the “Know Your Voting Rights” guide from the Department of Justice.](#)

Who Can Vote?

You can vote in federal, state, and local elections if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Meet your state's residency rules (even if you're unhoused)
- Are 18 or will be 18 by Election Day (some states let you register early if you'll be 18 by then).



[Register to vote](#)

Who Cannot Vote?

- Non-citizens, including permanent residents, can't vote.
- Some folks can't vote if they've been convicted of a felony, are serving time, or **are** on active probation. It varies by state, so check out the [DOJ guide for specifics](#).
- U.S. citizens living in territories can't vote for president.

Got questions? Hit up [your state or local election office](#).

Navigating Issues While Voting

1. Voting machines stop working?

Ask for a paper ballot.

2. Registered, but can't find your name on the voters' roll?

Ask if you can cast a provisional ballot (see below for more on provisional ballots)

3. Forgot your ID?

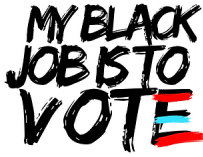
Ask if you can cast a provisional ballot or sign a form affirming your identity (select states will allow this). [Check your state's ID requirements](#).

4. Made a mistake on your ballot?

Ask for a new one.

5. Polling place closing while you are in line?

If you are already in line, stay in line. You have the right to vote.



Suspect Shady Business?

If you spot or suspect any election shady business, you can report it. Report voter fraud and any violations of voting rights. And remember, you get to vote in private. No one can force you to say who you're voting for if you don't want to.

Here's the rundown on election crimes and restrictions:

1. **Campaign Finance Violations:** This is when candidates take money that breaks the law, like too much cash or from banned sources.
2. **Voter Fraud and Registration Fraud:** This includes voting in someone else's name, whether they're dead or have moved away. Many states have stricter ID laws to try to stop this.
3. **Civil Rights Violations:** This covers intimidating, threatening, or pressuring people to stop them from voting.
4. **Election Rules Near Voting Places:** Every state has rules about what people can do near voting places on Election Day. For example, you can't show signs, give out flyers, or ask people to vote within a certain distance, usually 50 to 200 feet from where people vote. [Learn more about the restrictions in your state here.](#)

To report voter fraud, contact:

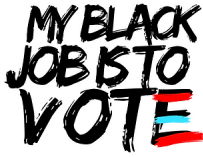
- Your [state or territorial election office](#)
- [Local FBI office](#)
- A [local U.S. attorney's office](#)
- The DOJ's [Public Integrity Section](#)

To report voter intimidation or suppression, you can:

- Contact your [state or territorial election office](#)
- Reach out to the DOJ's [Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division](#)
- Use the election [Complaint Report online form](#)

Voting using a provisional ballot?

Provisional ballots are like a backup plan if there's any issue with your registration on Election Day. If election officials can't confirm you're good to go, ask them for a provisional ballot and a receipt. Please read the instructions on the provisional ballot



and any materials you receive. **Don't forget to sign it.** Ask questions if you aren't sure what to do next. If they can verify your info after, your vote counts. If not, it won't. Please follow up by [tracking your ballot here](#).

Reasons why you may need a provisional ballot?

NOTE: *The availability of provisional ballots is mandated by federal law—the Help America Vote Act of 2002—but varies by state.*

- Your name isn't on the voter rolls
- You have the wrong ID
- You tried to vote at the wrong place

Dress Code

When you head to vote, be mindful of what you're wearing—many states ban political gear near polling places. In California, for instance, you can't sport hats, shirts, or buttons with candidate names within 100 feet of the polls. Masks and tees with general slogans, like our ["My Black Job is to Vote" shirt](#), are usually okay but double-check. Also, make sure to dress comfortably so you're ready for any wait times. Always check local rules to be sure. **Click here for state statutes banning electioneering apparel.**

Get Involved

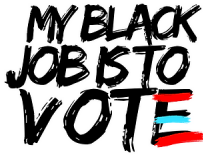
Work the Polls

So, what's a poll worker?

It's someone who helps run the polls on Election Day. Your job would be to set up the polling place, check in voters, hand out ballots, and ensure everyone knows how to vote.

Why sign up?

Because you play a crucial role in ensuring the voting process runs smoothly. Your help ensures everyone gets the assistance they need and has a positive experience



casting their vote. Plus, it's a chance to make a real difference in your community and support democracy.

Become a Poll Watcher

As a poll watcher, you're not working the polls directly but acting as an observer and reporter. Your role is to make sure voting laws are being followed—keeping an eye out for things like voter intimidation, ballot issues, or voting machine problems. The qualifications for poll watchers vary depending on where you live. For more info on how to be a poll watcher, [check it out here](#).

Offer Free Rides

If getting to the polls is tough for some people because of physical limitations or a lack of transportation, you can volunteer to give them a ride and ensure their votes are cast. Find out more about how to help with transportation [here](#).

Make it Your Business to Get the People Involved

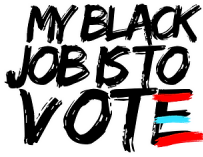
Make it your business to spread key voting info—like deadlines, mail-in options, polling locations, and hours—by sharing it on your social media, with your family or work crew, or through community groups. You can also step up by volunteering or organizing a voter registration drive to get more people signed up. Hit us up at info@myblackjobistovote.com, we can help!

Election Day Planning

This might be the most important election of our lives, so don't leave anything to chance. Making a plan to vote can reduce anxiety and increase the likelihood of voting.

Things to consider:

1. Double check if you're registered
2. Know your early voting options
3. Decide when you will vote. Determine your work or school schedule and take advantage of early voting
4. Confirm your polling spot or arrange a ride



5. Check polling location for accessibility options if needed
6. If you have children, pack snacks and all the things to keep them busy if the lines are long
7. Be sure not to wear political gear
8. Eat before you go and bring water
9. Decide who you are voting for and bring your cheat sheet
10. Remind your people to vote

FAQs

Q. Is it too late to register to vote?

- A. Voter registration deadlines vary by state. Check your state's voter registration deadline [here](#).

Q. I am confused and have questions, who can I call?

- A. Call or send a text to the Election Protection Hotline at 866-687-8683 or visit 866ourvote.org

Q. I am a student. Can I register to vote at my school address?

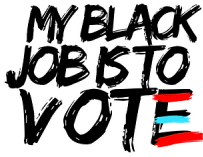
- A. You have the right to register to vote using your school address, even if that's a dorm room. Every student living in a dorm has the same voting rights as anyone else. If someone tells you differently, that's against the law. If you get mail at a P.O. box, you can sign an affidavit or get a letter from your school's Residential Life office to prove you live at your dorm address.

Q. I was previously convicted of a felony. Can I register to vote?

- A. If you have a felony conviction, your voting rights might be restored, but it depends on where you live and the details of your case. Check-in with your lawyer or court rep to make sure you've completed your sentence and met all the conditions. You can also reach out to local advocacy groups that support people with criminal records—they often have lawyers who can help.

For more info, [the DOJ's Guide to State Voting Rules After a Criminal Conviction](#) breaks down voting rights by state, including how things like probation and parole can affect your eligibility.

Q. Can I vote if I live outside of the US



A. Wherever you are in the world, living your best life, if you're a U.S. citizen, you've still got the right—and the responsibility—to vote. Whether you're studying in Accra, vacationing in Jamaica, moving to Montreal, or stationed with the military in Osaka, you can vote. You can register and vote from anywhere by requesting an absentee ballot. Complete the [Federal Post Card Application \(FCPA\) online](#). You must [know your voting residence](#) for this.

Q. I am a new citizen, can I vote?

A. First, congrats. 2024 is going to be a major election year! It's your chance to get involved and make your voice heard. You're all set to register and prepare to vote in this year's elections. [Register here](#) and follow this guide to prepare to vote.

Q. I am unhoused or know someone that is, can I vote?

A. If you're unhoused, you can register and vote in all 50 states. Use a shelter address for your mail, or list a street corner or park if you don't have a traditional address. The registration forms have a spot for this. Check with your local election office for details on what address you can use. [Find your local election office here.](#)

Q. I have a disability, what accommodations are available to me?

A. No matter if you're voting in person or by mail, you've got the right to get the help you need. The law has got your back, and there are accommodations available to make sure you can vote easily. If you know you'll need special accommodations to vote in person on Election Day, [reach out to your state or local election office](#). They can fill you in on what to expect at your polling place.

Q. Can I bring my child to the polls?

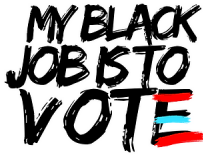
A. Yup. Bring those babies. The government allows minor children to accompany their voting parents in every state.

Q. I'll be 18 years old on or before Election Day, what do I do?

A. You can totally pre-register to vote if you turn 18 by Election Day. Don't wait until the last minute; make sure you're all set to vote and make an impact come Election Day!

Quick Links

1. [Register online to vote](#)
2. [Become a poll watcher](#)



3. Complete the [Federal Post Card Application \(FCPA\) online](#)
4. [DOJ's Guide to State Voting Rules After a Criminal Conviction](#)
5. [State or local election office](#)
6. [Deadline to Register by state](#)
7. [See who is on your ballot](#)