


Our Voices ²⁰₂₀

— young people's commitment to our bodies, lives
and futures in this election & beyond.

OurVoices2020.com
#OurVoices2020



The Our Voices 2020 Campaign is led by a coalition of youth-led and youth-serving organizations committed to amplifying and supporting young people's political power in this election and beyond. Participating organizations include:

Alliance For Justice Action Campaign
Blue Future
Feminist Campus
Future Coalition
Generation Ratify
GenZ Girl Gang
Inspire Justice
March For Our Lives DC
Millennial Politics
Mu Delta Alpha
NAPAWF DC
NextGen Iowa
Not My Generation

Novelly
PERIOD
Planned Parenthood Generation Action
Platform
Population Connection Action Fund
The Reclaim
Roosevelt Network
Supermajority
The Fifty
The Melanin Collective
The Outrage
Zero Hour

A special thank you Joy Ikekhua for bringing this to life and Corinne Ahrens for getting us ready to Get Out The Vote.

Questions about the guide?
Email media@plattformwomen.org



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Welcome

There is undeniable youth power across the country—and it's growing. Between the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections, turnout among young people ages 18 to 29 increased by 1.1 percent to 46.1 percent and between the 2014 to 2018 midterm elections, youth voter turnout jumped from roughly 20 percent to 36 percent. Despite these strides, we still fall behind older voters, and political pundits continue to talk about how we're not showing up enough.

But while they point the finger and say, "I just don't understand why young people don't get it," we know young people are owning our political power and leading in unprecedented ways at and beyond the ballot box. Young people are regularly taking to the streets to strike and to protest; we are talking to our communities about issues that matter to us; we are joining in solidarity with our neighbors in so many ways. Yet still far too many of us believe our votes do not matter.

And we get it.

We know that this belief is not rooted in apathy but rather from a deep reality that inside city halls, state capitols, and the chambers of Congress, elected officials make decisions about our bodies, lives, and futures without listening to our voices. It is rooted in the reality that on the campaign trail, we are promised change that counts everybody in, but in session, we are dealt legislation that negotiates people out.

Negotiates our generations out. Our younger generations are the most racially and ethnically diverse and are more likely to identify as LGBTQIA+. We deserve policy that captures how we live at the intersection of our identities and that intentionally serves our communities. We bear the burden of a warming climate, the spike in young adult poverty, the increasing rates of gun-related deaths and overrepresentation in fatal police violence, and a rise in restrictions on our reproductive rights and health. Yet our communities continue to be written out of policy, continue to be underserved by our government; and continue to be subject to the old strategies and rules of politics and civic engagement.

We can change this. We have to change this.

We make change by turning out to vote AND through the actions we take every day before, on, and after Election Day. It is the work we do before Election Day that ensures campaign promises reflect us and the future we are determined to create. It is the voting we do on Election Day that ensures we fill the seats of power with partners in progress. It is the lobbying, the protests and strikes, the die-ins and call outs we do every day after Election Day that turn campaign promises into legislation into the realities we live.



Welcome

Election Day is not the end of the road, but the beginning of a new fight. A fight that becomes easier when elected officials share in our vision and use their position to increase access and amplify our voices in the movement for change. And we have the power to determine who holds those positions.

A candidate's victory hinges upon our decisions to show up and be heard. They don't have a job without us and they cannot keep their job without leading for us. Our votes, or our ability to organize and mobilize voters, is therefore inherently powerful.

So let's use our power and make our votes and voices heard.



How It Works

Politicians are not the only ones who hold the power to make progress happen. We can show up and take action before and beyond the ballot to ensure our issues are centered and our votes are counted. That is why we invite you to make your Our Voices 2020 Commitments. We are calling on young leaders ages 16-28, that means YOU, across the country to make two Commitments between now and November 2020. The first is to make your voice heard on legislation, while the second is to help get out the vote.

Your **Legislative/Lobbying Commitment** can range from calling your lawmaker's office to participating in an organization's lobby day to drafting your own policy (and we have friends to help you with that).

Your **Get Out The Vote Commitment** can include driving your friends to the polls, getting 10 peers to commit to showing up on Election Day, or hosting a voter registration drive.

No action is too small or too large, with our futures on the line—everything counts. If you join us in making a Campaign Promise, you will:

- Receive invites to monthly phone calls with movement leaders from across the country so you can ask your questions, share your highlights, and learn key tips and tricks for advocacy;
- Receive monthly activation alerts so you know where to plug in and power up;
- Have access to weekly office hours with organizers to help you brainstorm, prepare, and implement your activations;
- AND while we don't do this work for the acknowledgement, we will be sharing your success stories across media platforms to inspire people into action;
- Finally, you will get a limited edition Our Voices 2020 button and bag because it's activism but make it fashion.

We need you. We need your vision. We need your leadership.

Make your Commitments today.



Ongoing Support

We know that you have all the ability to make a difference, but it helps to have a community of support behind you to brainstorm, troubleshoot, collaborate, and hold you accountable.

That's where we come in.

Every month, From April 2020 through November 2020 we will have national mobilization calls for all who make the Commitments. On these calls, we will have movement leaders sharing tips and tricks for taking action as well as going over the policy at stake in this election (i.e. Candidate Canvassing & Climate Change). We will also celebrate successful progress on Commitments, laugh about the mishaps, and work together to get over the bumps in the road. These calls will be held on the dates below and registration links will be available on the webpage. We recommend that you add these times to your Google calendar or planners! Topics and featured guests will be announced 1 week in advance.

- April 15: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- May 20: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- June 17: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- July 15: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- August 19: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- September 16: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- October 14: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- November 18: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST
- December 16: 7:00 pm–8:00 pm EST

Additionally, starting April 17, every Friday we will host office hours with Jennifer Mandelblatt, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Platform, for one-to-one guidance and support. These will be held from 12:00 pm–3:00 pm EST. You can register on the webpage for a slot. If you are unable to make any of these times, please email jennifer@platformwomen.org to schedule a meeting. Bring your goals and questions to the office hours! Where appropriate, we will use this call to identify partners and collaborators who may be able to best support your leadership and help you meet your goals.



Your Vote

We know that you know that getting out the vote is one of the most important things we can do to show up for our futures and our communities. But we also know that your health is essential. As we navigate an election cycle during this pandemic, stay tuned for updates on how you can best cast your vote while staying safe. Additionally, due to COVID-19, the voting conditions and dates are subject to change. This guide should serve as a base point, but we encourage you to double check the news and reach out to us if you have questions about where, when, and how to show up.

General Election: November 3

Primary Election Dates & States: See Appendix or [this voting spreadsheet](#).

FAQ's

Am I registered or how can I register?

Want to be sure you're registered and double check where you're registered? [Vote.org](#) has got you covered.

If you need to register, head over to [Rock the Vote](#) to get registered in less than 2 minutes. If your state doesn't allow online registration, they'll provide you with the form that you can mail.

Where to register?

Each state has different residency requirements (how many days you live in the state) in order to vote. If you're in college or grad school, you can either register at your campus address or permanent residence address, but you can only register at one location.

What if I am no longer registered?

Because of changes in voting laws, states have purged a number of voters from the records. If you were purged, you still have the right to vote. If you were removed from the voter rolls, go through the same process as a first-time voter would.

Where to Vote?

You are able to vote in person on the day of the election at your designated polling place which you can find by visiting [Vote 411](#) and typing in your registration address (either your permanent residence or campus address, depending on where you chose to register).

Again, as responses to COVID-19 develop, vote-by-mail may be preferable if your state allows it.

Your Vote

How to Vote?

Depending on your state, you may vote electronically or use a paper ballot. [Ballotpedia](#) will let you know which you can expect in person on Election Day. It's normal to be nervous about voting, but there are poll workers available on site to walk you through the process if you have questions.

Need Identification to Vote?

Some states require you to have varying forms of identification. Find out if your state requires identification, what types, and how to obtain it via [Ballotpedia](#).

Can I Vote if I Have A Felony Conviction?

Each state has the authority to determine whether a person with a felony conviction can vote while they are incarcerated, are on parole, or after their sentences are complete. The [ACLU](#) will let you know whether you can exercise your right to vote depending on where you live.

Having trouble registering to vote or while voting?

- [National Center for Transgender Equality](#) published a one-pager on "[Voting While Trans](#)."
- [The American Association of People with Disabilities](#)' [REV Up! Campaign](#) makes clear that if you have a disability, you have the right to the following: to vote privately and independently; an accessible polling place with voting machines for voters with disabilities; wheelchair-accessible voting booths; entrances and doorways that are at least 32 inches wide; handrails on all stairs; voting equipment that is accessible to voters who are blind or who have low vision; bring your service animal with you into your polling place; seek assistance from workers at the polling place who have been trained to use the accessible voting machine; and bring someone to help you vote (including a friend, family member, caregiver, assisted living provider, or almost anyone else, but not your employer or union representative).
- [National Election Protection Hotline](#) can be reached at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
- [The United States Department of Justice](#) enforces ADA Title II and investigates complaints of ADA Title II violations. If you believe that your rights to accessible voting places and equipment have been violated, you have the right to file a complaint with the DOJ. Contact the Department at 800-514-0301 (toll free).
- [Stateline and ProPublica's Electionland](#) are monitoring voter access and issues. You can report your problems to them: SMS: Send the word VOTE, or VOTA (for Spanish), to 81380 (standard text message rates apply) WhatsApp: Send the word VOTE, or VOTA (for Spanish), to 1-850-909-8683. Facebook Messenger: Go to [m.me/electionland](#).



Your Vote

Need assistance voting due to blindness, disability, or illiteracy?

You may have assistance from a person of your choice or from two precinct election officials (one from each party). The person of your choosing may NOT be an employer, someone representing your union, or someone representing a candidate whose name is on the ballot. To learn more about what assistance should be available, visit RevUp!'s [Election Accessibility Toolkit](#).

In line to vote when the polls close and still haven't voted?

As long as you are in line before your polling location is scheduled to close, the polling location must allow you to vote.



Get Out The Vote Actions

Register Voters

Help your friends, colleagues, classmates, and neighbors make their vote count on Election Day by registering them to vote. You can host a registration drive online, over the phone, or in-person, health guidelines permitting. However you choose to build up voting power in your community, [Rock the Vote's](#) How-To Guide on hosting a voter registration drive, is a great place to start.

Voter Commits

It's one (important) thing to register on Election Day, it's another to actually cast a ballot! You can help turn registered voters into voters by hosting a voter commitment drive. You can keep it as big or small as you are comfortable leading.

First: Download our [commitment cards](#) or create a Google Form commitment form [like this](#).

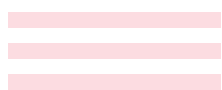
Next, determine where you want to focus your efforts (online or in person). For now, online is the best move but in the hopes we can be together in person soon, you can also start brainstorming how you might want to do person-to-person commitments.

Online: If you're starting online, build a list of who's in your network and their contact information (phone numbers and email addresses). You can choose to reach out to them through a phone call, a text message, and/or an email.

In Person: In the coming months, if you want to try in-person efforts, set up a table in your campus center, your cafeteria, or in-front of a high-traffic business (with permission, of course!).

What to Say: When you reach out, be sure to:

- Start with a friendly greeting;
- Remind them about the upcoming election;
- Share why YOU care enough to call/reach out;
- Ask them if they are planning to vote?;
 - If yes, ask them what issues/reasons are driving them to the polls.
 - If no, ask them about their hesitations and do your best to address their concerns
- Ask them if they will join you in committing to vote by signing a Commitment Card;
 - If yes, thank them then send them a PDF/Form of the commitment card that they can fill out and return back to you.
 - If no, say that you hope to see them at the polls and offer to be a resource if they have questions about the election.
- End with a rallying call to get out the vote!



Get Out The Vote Actions

Voter Commits (cont'd)

Just Before the Election: In the week leading up to the election, contact the commitment-makers using the contact information provided on the commitment card. You can use this as a sample message:

Hi [\(their first name\)](#)! This is [\(your first name\)](#), from the Our Voices 2020 Campaign. It's [X](#) days until the election on Tuesday, November 3 [\(or insert primary date\)](#). This is THE election of our lifetime and I'm so excited you are committed to vote. I just wanted to make sure you knew your polling location is at [\(location name- you can find it by plugging their address into \[Vote 411\]\(#\)\)](#) and the polls are open from [X am to Y pm](#). If you are in line when the polls close, remember that you have the right to cast your ballot. Do you know what time you're planning to vote and how you're getting there [\(having a voting plan helps ensure people vote\)](#)? Have any questions about Election Day? See you at the polls- let's make our voices heard and our votes count!

Canvass with a Campaign

Have a candidate that represents your values and want to see in office? They could use your help! Join your candidates' teams for local, state, and federal office for phone banking and door-to-door canvassing efforts to ensure your community members know when and where to show up on Election Day; have a voting plan; know what your candidate is fighting for and why it matters; and commit to showing up on Election Day for your candidate.

Find out who the candidates are on your ballot via Ballotpedia's [Sample Ballot Lookup](#). From there, you can do your homework on the different candidates and see who best aligns with your priorities. When you know who you want to support, search for their campaign website and sign up to volunteer right there!

In the time of social-distancing, many campaigns use software that will allow you to phone bank without having to leave your couch.

Driving People to the Polls

Let's eliminate transportation as a barrier! Have a car and willing to put some miles on it? Organize a carpool to the polls!

Health guidance permitting, you can either take a car (or 5) to the polls, or recruit drives to help make multiple rounds. [Here's a sample form](#) you can use to identify voters who need rides and drivers who can give rides. If you want to just drive your close friends, that's great too!

Once you know the scale of what you want to plan, you can link up with a local or campus organization to help you advertise this carpooling effort to your community.

Lobbying Actions

When we think of lobbying, it's easy to picture old men in back rooms with big cigars and even bigger wallets. There is a history of truth to that image, and in turn, lobbying has earned a dirty reputation.

But lobbying—in its purest form—is about influencing those in power on an issue. And lobbying—in its purest form—is a right that should belong to and be taught to the people: the people who live with the implications of policy every day. After all, legislation is not just words on paper—it has real consequences for the realities in which we live. Therefore, there is no one better to influence legislation through lobbying than the ones whose lives its impacts every day.

You can lobby at all levels of government and you can find your representatives at all levels of government with help from [Common Cause](#).

Here are ways you can influence those in power on the issues you care about:

Create a Petition

You can choose to collect signatures online exclusively or do a mix of in-person (health guidance permitting) and digital signatures— just be sure to keep track of where your petition is circulating. Change.Org and MoveON have created digital platforms to host your petition. If you want to do some in-person signature collection, print a copy and then create a spreadsheet for people to fill in with their name, address, and email. The address is to show your decision makers that the signatories are constituents.

Here's what you can include in your Petition:

- [Identify which decision maker\(s\) you are targeting.](#)
- [Petitions should be about three paragraphs long and to the point.](#)
- [Explain who you are and why the decision makers should listen.](#) Are you students in their school district? Are you their constituents who can vote to keep them in or out of office?
- [Highlight why you care.](#)
- [Make your ask and be specific in your demand.](#)
- [Bring it back to the decision maker.](#) You made clear why you care and what change you want to see, now let them know why they should care and be compelled to act. Does it impact a large number of their constituents? How so? Is the problem in conflict with one of their stated values?
- [Reiterate your demand and close a powerful call to action.](#)

Lobbying Actions

How to amplify your petition online:

- **Create your visuals.**
 - Create a photo frame on [Canva](#) and reach out to your network to see who would be willing to post a photo of themselves with the graphic on social media.
 - Ask participants to sign a [photo release](#) so you can use the images freely.
- **Create a toolkit with language your supporters can use.** The key with these toolkits is that they should be unbelievably user friendly. Your supporters should be able to copy, paste, and upload without having to get creative (unless they choose to!).
 - Your toolkit should be broken down into the following sections: A thank you to supporters; key links, hashtags, and important account handles; a hyperlink to a graphics folder and alt-text; an email blast template; longer posts with the petition link for Facebook; 240 characters with the petition link for Twitter; and mid-length captions for Instagram that offer “link in bio!”
 - Use the same hashtag in EVERY post to build traction.
 - Have fun with the language. Yes, you need to convey the importance of your policy, but think about what gets your attention on social media and reflect that in your toolkit. Throw in a pun, avoid wonky terms, give people a clear call-to-action.
 - When creating your list of important account handles, include those of your decision makers so that your partners can reach out to them directly.
 - Include a few tweets that give space to include the decision makers’ handle.
 - Be clear in what you want readers to do (i.e. sign the petition).
- **Textbank the petition:**
 - Once you launch the petition, send it to 10 friends. Ask them to sign and then continue the chain by passing it along to 10 more friends.
 - Here’s sample language:

Hi [\(their first name\)](#)! Hope you’re doing well! As you may know, I am really passionate about [\(theme of petition\)](#) because [\(short reason\)](#). I just [drafted/signed](#) a petition to [\(specific topic of petition\)](#). I know you care a lot about this and wanted to know if you will join me in adding your name to the petition. You can check it out here: [\(link\)](#). Let me know if you have any questions.

Wait for their reply. If yes: Thank you SO much! And if you’re feeling extra motivated, will you help me spread the word and text this petition to 10 of your friends?

Lobbying Actions

Call Your Lawmaker / Host a Phone-Bank

“When a caller offered an opinion, staff members would write the comments down in a spreadsheet, compile them each month and present reports to top officials, she said. If the lawmaker had already put out a statement on the issue, the staff member would read it to the caller... But a large volume of calls on an issue could bring an office to a halt, sometimes spurring the legislator to put out a statement on his or her position.” – [Here’s Why You Should Call, Not Email, Your Legislators](#)

This excerpt from a New York Times Article continues that staffers are moved by personal calls. We caution against using a script, because the more personal, the more powerful, so here’s a framework of what to include:

- Introduce yourself, where you’re a constituent from, and why you’re calling.
- A sentence on why you care.
- A statistic to back up your claim.
- The consequences of that statistic.
- State clearly what you want the lawmaker to do (cosponsor/vote/write a letter).
- Make a final emotional appeal.
- Thank them for their time (if it feels appropriate).

Quick tips on how to host a phone-banking party:

- Be sure to advertise this to your community.
- Create a database of phone numbers for your local/state/federal lawmakers.
- Create a script for participants to use if they need support.
- Provide talking points about your issue for your participants to use if they need support.
- Set goals for each person to reach in terms of call numbers.
- Encourage people to share how their calls are going and any funny stories!
- If you want to host a virtual phone-banking party, set up a video call and play some light music in the background.

Write A Letter/ Host a Letter-Writing Campaign

A handwritten-personal note can go a long way because lawmakers are not just figureheads, they impact the realities that YOU live. And who better to give voice to those realities than you?

This letter is a chance for lawmakers to learn from you, in your own words. We want to affirm, you do not owe anyone what is in your heart and mind. Only share what you feel comfortable sharing.

The content of what to include is similar to your petition, but this letter should be as individualized as possible. The reason hand-written letters are powerful is because they’re personal, so keep this personal. Why do YOU care?

Lobbying Actions

- To start the letter, address your lawmaker by title, i.e. “Dear Senator (name).”
- Then, introduce yourself to let them know they need to listen to you. Are you a voter and/or student in their district? Do you have other connections to the district?
- If you and your peers/colleagues are writing your own letters, but sending them in together, let your lawmakers know you are part of a group. There is power in numbers.
- Next, tell them why you care—that’s your story. Why do you show up and speak out on this issue? Why are you taking the time to write this letter?
- Once you capture their attention and make your demand clear. Let them know it’s time to introduce/ pass/ support/ uplift your policy.
- Close by letting them know you plan to stay active on this issue until change is realized.
- Provide contact information so they can follow up with you (if you feel comfortable).
- Finally, when addressing the envelope, refer to the lawmaker as “The Honorable (name).”

Quick tips on how to host a letter-writing campaign:

- Be sure to advertise this to your community.
- Provide pens, paper, envelopes, and stamps (you can get stamps from a CVS or post office).
- Have a computer so your participants can easily look up where to send their letter to.
- Before you start writing, have everyone introduce themselves, share what topic they are writing a letter about, who they are sending it to, and the change they want to see. Encourage people to work together!
- Provide talking points about your issue for your participants to use if they need support.
- If you want to host a virtual letter-writing party, set up a video call and play some light music in the background.

Tweetstorm

According to a report from the Congressional Management Foundation, which surveyed Congressional Staff, “71 [percent of respondents] said social media comments directed to the Member/Senator by ‘multiple constituents affiliated with a specific group or cause’ would have ‘some’ or ‘a lot’ of influence on an undecided lawmaker.”

Lobbying Actions

Social media is where we learn and engage in the 21st century, so let's use it to our advantage. But we also know one tweet likely won't do the trick! Coordinate with peers, friends, community members, to get digital together.

Start with a Twitter Chat. Here's how:

- **Identify and invite partner** organizations and fellow tweeters to join you online during a designated hour-long time block.
- **Create a hashtag** so people can follow along (accessibility note: be sure to capitalize each word in a # so people using screen readers can easily follow along. i.e. rather than #ourvoices use #OurVoices).
- In advance of the hour, **share question prompts** for your partners and fellow tweeters to respond to when the chat begins.
- When the chat begins, **space the roll out** of each question prompt.
- Label each question (i.e. Q1: xyz?). Participants should then respond (i.e A1: abc.).
- At the end of the Twitter Chat, pull your lawmakers in.
 - You can follow this mad-libs style prompt:

.@**(lawmaker's twitter handle)**, **(outline the problem)**. Will you join us in the movement to **(explain what you want them to do)**? #OurVoices2020

Meet With Your Lawmaker

This is certainly more challenging as we prioritize physical distancing, but there are some legislators and staff members willing to meet through a video call. See if you can schedule a video call or at least a full phone conversation.

The difference between this call and a phone-banking call is that here you will be assigned to a specific staff member to speak, ideally someone who works on your issue area, or you will have a set time to speak with the lawmaker. When you are phone-banking, you are communicating with the first staff member who answers the phone and typically are having a shorter conversation.

Who to meet: The person you will have the most influence over is the lawmaker whose district you live or vote in (or can mobilize voters in). If you can't meet with your lawmaker, see if there is a staff member in their office who can take the meeting. Staff members have a lot of power and play an important role in writing and advancing legislation!

Lobbying Actions

Where to meet: Where you meet depends on whether or not the legislature is in session. If the legislature is in session and it is feasible for you to get to the Statehouse, you have the benefit of having multiple lawmakers' offices in the same location by making the trip. However, you can also meet your lawmaker in-district, which shows your local power.

How to get a meeting: Find the lawmaker's email and phone number online to reach out to set up a meeting. It is recommended that you reach out at least 2 weeks in advance and then follow up before the intended date. If you don't hear back from email, you can call or just show up (scheduled is still preferred). It can be helpful to call the office first to get the email address of the best contact. If no one answers, you can email the generic email address listed/ use the online meeting request form.

Determine the goal of the meeting: What is the ideal outcome of your ask (other than a beautiful new law)? Are you trying to start a conversation, advance existing legislation, or raise public consciousness on the issue? Your answer to that will determine your ask: whether that means asking the lawmaker to introduce legislation, co-sponsor existing legislation, tweet about their support, or write a Dear Colleague letter, to name a few.

Your ask should follow the SMART goals framework: **s**pecific, **m**easurable, **a**ttainable, **r**elevant and **t**imely. Some types of asks:

- **Sponsor:** The bill's leader. This lawmaker is in charge of introducing the legislation, are the spokesperson for it, and work to shepherd it through the legislature.
- **Cosponsor:** A lawmaker who signs onto a bill that exists.
 - When every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives is filled, it takes 218 votes for a bill to pass. By gathering cosponsors, it shows the momentum and viability of the legislation.
- **Tweet about it:** After a lawmaker cosponsors, ask them to help raise the public discourse and awareness but taking to social media, writing about the issue.
- **Advance it in the Committee:** After a bill is introduced, it is sent to a committee (or multiple) for further action. If your lawmaker sits on the committee where the bill resides, you can ask them to push for a hearing, markup, or further action.
- **Vote:** In the 115th Congress, there were about 13,000 pieces of legislation introduced and only 3 percent were enacted. This means, most bills do not make it to the floor for a vote. You should focus on getting a lawmaker to cosponsor or otherwise help build momentum for the legislation first, and then ask to vote "yes" when you know it's on track for a vote.

Research your lawmaker: Before the meeting, consider what issues your lawmaker is passionate about and how does that connect back to your policy goal? Have they taken a stand on your issue before? Was it favorable or in opposition and how can you craft your argument so it responds to their stance? What are their districts' priorities and how does this connect back to your policy goal?

Lobbying Actions

During the meeting: You will have maybe 15 minutes with your lawmaker, so you want to use the time effectively. Be sure to introduce yourself and your connection to their district; talk about why you are passionate about this issue; share why this issue should matter to them; make your ask; have a conversation and be open to feedback and ask questions to better understand their stance; figure out next steps for action; leave them with a folder/document explaining your issue, what you would like them to do about it, and how they can get in touch with you.

Want to plan a single meeting or a lobby day? Need help contacting your lawmaker's office? Email Jennifer Mandelblatt, Co-Founder and Executive Director of [Platform](https://platformwomen.org) at jennifer@platformwomen.org.

Write Policy.

You, yes YOU, can write policy thanks to [The Roosevelt Network](https://therooseveltnetwork.org).

Your life is directly impacted by policy, so shouldn't you have direct access to impact policy? The answer is a big YES.

And fortunately, The Roosevelt Network thinks so too. As they say, "Who writes the rules matter." The Roosevelt Network trains, develops, and supports emerging progressive policymakers, researchers, and advocates across the US, focusing on communities historically denied political power. The network supports student-led, scalable policy campaigns that fight for the equitable provision, distribution, and accessibility of public goods at the campus, local, and state levels.

To get started, check out Roosevelt Network's [10 Ideas](https://therooseveltnetwork.org/10-ideas), their powerful student policy journal. Then, once you're ready to author the next big piece of legislative change, contact Katie Kirchner, National Director for the Roosevelt Network at kkirchner@rooseveltinstitute.org.

If you are interested in writing policy related to menstrual equity and want to connect with young leaders who are making policy changes in their states to end period poverty, reach out to policy@period.org.



Get Plugged In

You don't have to start from scratch to make an impact and you certainly don't have to do it on your own! Check out local, state, and national organizations that are ready to build power with you. Participating in these actions and with these organization's initiatives can count as your commitments!

As a note: Actions listed here as well as any candidates or legislation mentioned, are not necessarily endorsed by the entirety of the coalition of Our Voices 2020. They are ways to connect to the partnering organizations in their individual capacities.

51 for 51 is a national campaign to make D.C. the 51st state by passing D.C. statehood legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has often used the filibuster rule to block important initiatives supported by most Americans. That's why the 51 for 51 team has traveled the country asking presidential candidates to support making D.C. a state by removing the Senate filibuster, just as McConnell did in order to confirm Trump's two Supreme Court justice picks. You can help by telling your Senators and Senate candidates to support passing D.C. statehood legislation with just 51 votes in the Senate! If 51 votes is enough to confirm a Supreme Court justice, it should be enough to give full Congressional representation to more than 700,000 D.C. residents. To learn more, visit 51for51.org or on Twitter [@51for51](https://twitter.com/51for51). (Legislative Action)

Alliance for Justice Action Campaign: The Trump Administration has packed our courts with ultraconservative ideologues with written records hostile to all of our rights. Now, is the time to hold our senators accountable for their votes. They need to hear from their constituents to stop the nomination of more conservative judges. Sign the pledge on Alliance for Justice Action Campaign's [website](https://www.afj.org) to ensure that our federal judiciary is protected from these right wing extremists on the bench. Resources on Trump Administration and Mitch McConnell's attack on our judiciary are available on their website. Feel free to contact Rachel Bracken, rachel@afj.org, if you want more details. (Legislative Action)

Blue Future is a national organizing program run out of the Youth Progressive Action Catalyst, a youth-led political action committee (PAC), focused on organizing young people around progressive electoral campaigns. Email hello@ourbluefuture.us to explore ways to get resources and grants to support your electoral organizing work and follow them on social media: [@BlueFutureNow](https://twitter.com/BlueFutureNow) (Twitter) and [@bluefuture.us](https://www.instagram.com/bluefuture.us) (Instagram). (GOTV Action)

Get Plugged In

Future Coalition is a national network and community of youth-led organizations and youth leaders, working collaboratively to provide young people with the resources, tools, and support they need to create the change they want to see in their communities and in this country. From racial justice to climate justice, from economic justice to education and gender equity, from gun violence prevention to the youth vote, Future Coalition addresses issues through an intersectional, intergenerational approach. Behind the September 20th strikes, Walk Out To Vote, and Earth Day Live, Future Coalition can be found on the web, on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. ([GOTV and Legislative Actions](#))

Generation Ratify is the youth-led movement to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Through mobilizing youth to advocate for the ERA on the federal and state levels, as well as connecting kids to campaigns to elect pro-ERA candidates, Generation Ratify works to amplify the voices of young people in the movement that will enshrine gender equality into the Constitution. Plug into their work by checking out their website, Instagram, or emailing rosie@generationratify.org! ([GOTV and Legislative Actions](#))

Iowa School Counselor Association is advocating to promote mental health policy. support students. Learn more here and here. ([Legislative Action](#))

NextGen Iowa is working to register and engage young voters and hold elected officials accountable through events and petitions! You can get involved by:

- Virtually phonebanking to mobilize young voters in Iowa. Sign up here.
- Telling Sen. Joni Ernst to support the Equality Act
- Telling Congress: We need a universal basic income
- Telling Congress: Expand Ballot Access & Keep Voters Safe From COVID-19
- Demanding Congress cancel student loan payment collection

([GOTV and Legislative Actions](#))

Not My Generation is committed to creating and convening diverse, intersectional coalitions in partnership with young gun violence prevention organizers in cities and communities across the country. Key to NMG's organizing strategy is the coalition model; the National Team supports NMG local coalitions across the country as they work to break down silos within the gun violence prevention movement and ensure that young, diverse individuals are represented and active in their community's gun violence prevention organizing. To get involved, visit their website and follow their work on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. ([GOTV and Legislative Actions](#))

Ohio Women's Alliance is launching a GOTV digital storytelling campaign to share stories about family legacies as avid voters or activists and their journeys to becoming active participants of democracy. To participate, please reach out to Ohio Women's Alliance's Digital Content Manager Olivia Adkins at olivia@ohiowomensalliance.org. ([GOTV Action](#))

Get Plugged In

Planned Parenthood Generation Action is a network of young activists across the country who organize events on their campuses and in their communities to: mobilize advocates for reproductive freedom, raise public awareness about reproductive health and rights, educate young people about sexual health, create lasting change in their communities. With more than 350 campus groups across the country, Planned Parenthood Generation Action is harnessing the power, energy, and enthusiasm of young people to fight for reproductive freedom and for fundamental justice for all. Take action with us! [Sign up to become a member & virtual volunteer](#), find them [online](#), and follow them on [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#) @ppgenaction. ([Legislative Action](#))

PERIOD Inc.'s mission is to fight period poverty and stigma through service, advocacy and education. The tampon tax, classifying menstrual hygiene products as luxury items, still exists in 30 U.S. states and student activists are determined to take it down. Further, as part of the menstrual movement, young activists are also advocating for access to free menstrual products in schools, shelters, and prisons and adding access to menstrual products as part of the SNAP/WIC Federal programs.

Several Policy Bootcamps (co-developed by Platform and PERIOD Inc.) will be led throughout the course of the year by student activists. You can plug into their work by emailing Policy@period.org and following them on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). To learn more about the Period movement, be sure to check out their [website](#). ([Legislative Action](#))

Supermajority is a new home for women's activism. They are training and mobilizing a community of all ages, races, and backgrounds to fight for gender equality together. Join Supermajority to stay informed, participate in important calls to action to impact the upcoming elections, and connect with young women across the country while building your leadership skills. Interested?! Visit the [website](#) and become a member (it's free), follow them on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also email Angela Vo at angela@supermajority.com for more info. ([GOTV and Legislative Actions](#))

Vote Feminist! is a national campaign from Feminist Campus, the Feminist Majority Foundation's youth organizing arm. Feminist Campus is a network of hundreds of student-led feminist organizations on colleges and university campuses across the country, and Vote Feminist! is its campaign to educate, empower, organize, and mobilize for the student vote. Want to know more? Visit their [website](#) to learn about Vote Feminist! and their other feminist issues-based campaigns and follow them on social media @feministcampus (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram). Interested in getting involved with Vote Feminist!? Reach out directly to Senior National Organizer Clarie Randall at crandall@feminist.org. ([GOTV and Legislative Actions](#))

Vote In Or Out is a people-powered research engine for voting that allows everyday users to move past the friction of doing the work to research, pairing them with power-researchers who can break down complicated information into snackable content. Help Vote In Or Out conduct research on the candidates by following the instructions [here](#). Contact: voteinorout@gmail.com. ([GOTV Action](#))

The Platform Pledge

We hope that you will get creative with your Commitments, be true to your vision, and work hard to make change happen. If you are seeking one-on-one guidance from Platform during our office hours, please note that Platform organizes along the principals of their Pledge, which was created by their community at the 2018 Platform National Convention and amended the following year. Please note, the Pledge is not necessarily endorsed by the entirety of the coalition of Our Voices 2020.

- ✓ I pledge to make space for young women-identifying, non-binary, gender non-conforming, genderqueer, genderfluid, and femme voices in the rooms where decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures are made.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to end racial profiling and the criminalization of women, girls, and femme-identifying people of color.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to protect all immigrant and refugee rights and opportunities, and support viable paths to citizenship.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to secure economic and employment justice for all women and femme-identifying people.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to end sexual violence, gender-based violence, and guarantee protections and access to affirming resources for all survivors.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to end over-policing in Black, Brown, and LGBTQIA+ communities by state-sanctioned officials.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to end all forms of gun violence.
- ✓ I pledge to dismantle the colonizing history and ongoing colonizing culture of this country as well as center the history and present truths of indigenous and enslaved people in the creation of the land in which I organize.
- ✓ I pledge to pursue solutions to ensure full access to and protection of reproductive justice for all.
- ✓ I pledge to promote, explore, and support sustainable solutions that advance environmental justice and eliminate environmental racism.
- ✓ I pledge to center communities that face systemic barriers, including communities of color; the disability community; American Indian and Alaska Native communities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual and intersex communities, and all other gender identities and sexual orientations; justice-involved communities; and systemically oppressed faiths with the understanding that liberation and progress will not come unless we protect and advocate for the most directly impacted.

Appendix

Light gray indicates election date passed. Information regarding originally scheduled elections via [National Council of State Legislatures](#). Updated dates due to COVID-19 as of [April 9](#). Registration deadlines via [Vote.Org](#).

[View as an excel spreadsheet.](#)

State	State/Territory Primary	Presidential Primary	Registration Deadlines
Alabama	March 3 March 31 Republican Runoff now July 14 (No primary for state legislative seats in 2020)	March 3 primary	In Person: 15 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 15 days before Election Day. Online: 15 days before Election Day.
Alaska	Aug. 18	April 4 Moved to April 10, (D) party-run primary, none (R)	*Primary was conducted entirely by mail.* In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day. If this falls on a Sunday, your voter registration form must be postmarked 31 days before Election Day. Online: 30 days before Election Day.
American Samoa		March 3 caucuses	Received 30 days before Election Day
Arizona	Aug. 4	March 17 primary (D), none (R)	In Person: 29 days before Election Day, or on the next immediate business day if the deadline falls on a legal holiday or weekend. By Mail: Postmarked 29 days before Election Day, or on the next immediate business day if the deadline falls on a legal holiday or weekend. Online: 29 days before Election Day, or on the next immediate business day if the deadline falls on a legal holiday or weekend.
Arkansas	March 3 March 31	March 3 primary	In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
California	March 3	March 3 primary	In Person: 15 days before Election Day. You can also conditionally register to vote in person through Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 15 days before Election Day. Online: 15 days before Election Day.
Colorado	June 30	March 3 primary	In Person: Election Day. By Mail: Received 8 days before Election Day. Online: 8 days before Election Day.
Connecticut	Aug. 11	April 28 primary Now June 2	*Increased access to absentee ballots for the primary* In Person: 7 days before Election Day. If you miss the deadline, you can also register at a designated Election Day Registration location in your town on Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 7 days before Election Day. Online: 7 days before Election Day.
Delaware	Sept. 15	April 28 primary Now June 2	*Increased access to absentee ballots for the primary* In Person: 24 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 24 days before Election Day. Online: 24 days before Election Day.
District of Columbia	No district-specific primary election	June 2 primary	In Person: Election Day, with proof of residency. By Mail: Received 21 days before Election Day. Online: 21 days before Election Day.
Florida	Aug. 18	March 17 primary	In Person: 29 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 29 days before Election Day. Online: 29 days before Election Day.
Georgia	May 19 July 21	March 24 primary Now June 9	*Absentee ballot request forms mailed to 'active' voters* In Person: 29 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 29 days before Election Day. Online: 29 days before Election Day.
Guam	Aug. 29	May 2 caucuses	Territory Primary: Received by August 19 General Election: Received by October 23
Hawaii	Aug. 8	April 4 Now May 22, (D) party-run primary, none (R)	*Primary now entirely by mail* In Person: 30 days before Election Day. You can also register to vote during early voting or on Election Day. By Mail: Received 30 days before Election Day. Online: 30 days before Election Day.
Idaho	May 19	March 10 primary	In Person: Election Day. (You must show proof of residence to register at the polls on Election Day.) By Mail: Postmarked 25 days before Election Day. Online: 25 days before Election Day.
Illinois	March 17	March 17 primary	In Person: Election Day By Mail: Postmarked 28 days before Election Day. Online: 16 days before Election Day.
Indiana	May 5	May 5 primary-Now June 2	*Expanding access to absentee ballots. Ballots with May 5 date will still be valid* In Person: 29 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 29 days before Election Day. Online: 29 days before Election Day.
Iowa	June 2	Feb. 3 caucuses (both parties)	In Person: 10 days before Election Day. If you miss the deadline, you can also register to vote on Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 15 days before Election Day or received 10 days before Election Day. Online: 10 days before Election Day.
Kansas	Aug. 4	May 2 (D) party-run primary, none (R)	In Person: 21 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 21 days before Election Day. Online: 21 days before Election Day.

Appendix

Kentucky	May 19 (now June 23 because of COVID-19)	May 19 Now June 23	*Assessing need for changes In Person: 29 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 29 days before Election Day. Online: 29 days before Election Day.
Louisiana	Nov. 3 Dec. 5 (No primary for state legislative seats in 2020)	April 4 primary Now June 20	In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Received 30 days before Election Day. Online: 20 days before Election Day.
Maine	June 9	March 3 primary	In Person: Election Day. By Mail: Received 21 business days before Election Day. Online: N/A
Maryland	April 28 (now June 2 because of COVID-19)	April 28 primary Now June 2	*Urging people to vote by mail* In Person: During early voting or on Election Day with proof of address. See election day registration instructions. By Mail: Postmarked 21 days before Election Day. Online: 21 days before Election Day.
Massachusetts	Sept. 1	March 3 primary	In Person: 20 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 20 days before Election Day. Online: 20 days before Election Day.
Michigan	Aug. 4	March 10 primary	In Person: Election Day. If you plan to register in person within 14 days of Election Day, you will need to present proof of residency (a document with your name and current address in the city or township where you wish to register to vote). By Mail: Postmarked 14 days before Election Day. Online: 14 days before Election Day.
Minnesota	Aug. 11	March 3 primary	In Person: Election Day. By Mail: Received 21 days before Election Day. Online: 21 days before Election Day.
Mississippi*	March 10 March 31 (No primary for state legislative seats in 2020)	March 10 primary	In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
Missouri	Aug. 4	March 10 primary	In Person: 27 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 27 days before Election Day. Online: 27 days before Election Day.
Montana	June 2	June 2 primary	In Person: Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day and received 27 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
Nebraska	May 12	May 12 primary	In Person: 11 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 18 days before Election Day. Online: 18 days before Election Day.
Nevada	June 9	Feb. 22 (D) caucus, none (R)	In Person: 28 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 28 days before Election Day. Online: 5 days before Election Day.
New Hampshire	Sept. 8	Feb. 11 primary	In Person: Election Day By Mail: Received between 6 and 13 days before Election Day, depending on which town you live in. Online: N/A
New Jersey	June 2, 2020 (No primary for state legislative seats in 2020)	June 2 primary-Now July 7	*Expansive vote-by-mail law already in effect* In Person: 21 days before Election Day. By Mail: Received 21 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
New Mexico	June 2	June 2 primary	In Person: 28 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 28 days before Election Day. Online: 28 days before Election Day.
New York	June 23	April 28 primary Now June 23	*All voters now eligible for absentee ballots* In Person: 25 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 25 days before Election Day and received no later than 20 days before Election Day. Online: 25 days before Election Day.
North Carolina	March 3 (A second primary may be held on either May 12 or April 21, in certain circumstances)	March 3 primary	In Person: 25 days before Election Day. If you miss the voter registration deadline, you can still register in person during early voting until 3 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 25 days before Election Day and received 20 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
North Dakota	June 9	March 10 (D) party-run primary, (R) caucus Jan-March	In Person: North Dakota does not have voter registration. You simply need to bring valid proof of ID and residency to the polls in order to vote. By Mail: North Dakota does not have voter registration. You simply need to bring valid proof of ID and residency to the polls in order to vote. Online: North Dakota does not have voter registration. You simply need to bring valid proof of ID and residency to the polls in order to vote.
Northern Mariana Islands	--	March 14 (D) caucus, March 15 (R) convention	In person: 60 days before Election Day By mail: Postmarked 60 days before Election Day

Appendix

Ohio	March 17 (now June 2 because of COVID-19)	March 17 primary Now April 28	*Primary to be conducted primarily by mail and ballots must be postmarked by April 27* In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Received 30 days before Election Day. Online: 30 days before Election Day.
Oklahoma	June 30 Aug. 25	March 3 primary	In Person: 25 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 25 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
Oregon	May 19	May 19 primary	In Person: 21 days before Election Day. By Mail: Received 21 days before Election Day. Online: 21 days before Election Day.
Pennsylvania	April 28	April 28 primary Now June 2	*Mail-in option already accessible* In Person: 15 days before Election Day. By Mail: 15 days before Election Day. Online: 15 days before Election Day.
Puerto Rico	June 7	April 26 Now delayed indefinitely (D), June 7 (R)	For Presidential Primary (D): TBD For Presidential Primary (R): April 20 For Territory Primary: April 20. For General Election: September 15
Rhode Island	Sept. 8	April 28 primary Now June 2	*All registered voters will receive a mail-in ballot with pre-paid postage* In Person: 30 days before Election Day. You may also register in person on Election Day but only for Presidential elections. By Mail: Received 30 days before Election Day. Online: 30 days before Election Day.
South Carolina	June 9 June 23	Feb. 29 (D) primary, none (R)	In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: 30 days before Election Day. Online: 30 days before Election Day.
South Dakota	June 2 Aug. 11	June 2 primary	In Person: 15 days before Election Day. By Mail: Received 15 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
Tennessee	Aug. 6	March 3 primary	In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day. Online: 30 days before Election Day.
Texas	March 3 May 26	March 3 primary	In Person: 30 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day. Online: N/A
Utah	June 30	March 3 primary	In Person: 7 days before Election Day. You can also register at the polls on Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day. Online: 7 days before Election Day.
Vermont	Aug. 11	March 3 primary	In Person: Election Day. (You must show proof of residence to register at the polls on Election Day.) By Mail: Received by Election Day. Online: Election Day. But if you register online the day before or on Election Day, your application may not be processed and your name may not appear on the checklist and you may be asked to fill out another application at the polls. To be sure your name appears on the checklist, please register by the Friday before the election.
Virgin Islands	Aug. 1	June 6 caucuses	Registration for Primary: Received by July 2 Registration for General: Received by October 4
Virginia	June 9 Now June 23 (No primary for state legislative seats in 2020)	March 3 primary (D), none (R)	In Person: 22 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 22 days before Election Day. Online: 22 days before Election Day.
Washington	Aug. 4	March 10 primary	In Person: Election Day. By Mail: 8 days before Election Day. Online: 8 days before Election Day.
West Virginia	May 12	May 12 primary Now June 9	*Extended deadline for absentee ballot requests* In Person: 21 days before Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 21 days before Election Day. Online: 21 days before Election Day.
Wisconsin	Aug. 11	April 7 primary	In Person: Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 20 days before Election Day. Online: 20 days before Election Day.
Wyoming	Aug. 18	April 4 Now April 17 (D) caucus, (R) caucus Feb-March	*Primary was switched to entirely by mail and is accepting votes received by April 17.* In Person: Election Day By Mail: Received 14 days before Election Day. Online: N/A

Our Voices ²⁰₂₀

Make your Commitments today.

