

FIRST TIME VOTER

2008 IS A FEDERAL ELECTION YEAR! AS A FIRST TIME VOTER, YOU WILL BECOME A PART OF THE CHANGE PROCESS.

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO REGISTER TO VOTE. TAKE TIME TO BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE ISSUES AND THE CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS.

BY NOT VOTING, YOU ALLOW OTHERS TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR YOU.

REMEMBER...
VOTE NOVEMBER 4, 2008!



A BIT OF VOTING HISTORY

Although the right to vote was established over 200 years ago, the battle to extend that right to all Americans would take place over many years. It's important not to take this right for granted, not only because it's a foundation of democracy and freedom in this country, but because so many people have struggled throughout history to ensure that all people would have an equal voice. And we should never forget that, even today, people all over the world continue to come to this country because of the freedoms and liberties that are so central to everyday lives.

IMPORTANT HISTORICAL MILESTONES IN US VOTING

THE 15TH AMENDMENT - the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the US or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition or servitude.

THE 19TH AMENDMENT - the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the US or by any State on account of sex.

THE 26TH AMENDMENT - the right of citizens of the US who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the US or by any State on account of age.

THE FOUR SIMPLE STEPS OF VOTING

- 1. REGISTER TO VOTE - 3 EASY WAYS**
 - Pick up a voter registration form and complete it in person at one of the following locations: post offices, the DMV, state offices that provide public assistance, your local board of elections office, military recruitment centers, state offices that provide state-funded programs and public libraries.
 - Call your local county election official or state Secretary of State's office to ask for a voter registration form.
 - Visit the World Wide Web to Register to Vote.
- 2. REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

If you are planning to vote absentee, you must request an absentee ballot from your local election office in most states, you must do this between 15 to 30 days before the election, so check the rules for your state. You can obtain an absentee ballot by downloading and printing an absentee ballot request application from the Web or by contacting your local county or city election official or register.
- 3. FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE**
 - After you've mailed in your registration form, you will receive an information booklet or sample ballot in the mail about where and when you should go to vote.
 - Save the information about your polling place and note to date for Election Day on your calendar or planner.
- 4. VOTE!**

To make it easy, you can vote in one of two ways.

 - Go to the polling place indicated on your information booklet to vote on Election Day.
 - Bring a photo ID with you, just to be safe! You might need it.
 - If you are an absentee voter (someone who will vote in a state different than the one in which you are a resident), you can vote by mail.

LEARN ABOUT CANDIDATES

- Read your local newspaper.
- Watch your local television news.
- Visit candidates' websites and learn about the issues they support.
- Use the Internet's many voter-information websites to find out more about local and national candidates for public office.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- The next chance to elect the President, Vice-President, and some members of Congress takes place on November 4, 2008. Don't wait until the last minute to register!
- Each state has a different deadline for voter registration. Make sure you know your state's deadline by going to:
<http://www.usa.gov>
- Each time you move to another city or state, you must re-register to vote. Follow the same steps in the "Four Simple Steps of Voting."

THE REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE

You must

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of the state in which you are planning to register.
- Be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election.
- Not be imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony.
- Not be currently judged mentally incompetent by law.



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VOTER REGISTRATION: 4 SIMPLE STEPS

**VOTE 2008! VOTE 2008!
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VOTE 2008!

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