



# PEER TO PEER

*Autism Peer-to-Peer Series* is a publication of the Center on Secondary Education for Students with ASD (CSESA).

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## Your Vote Matters!

- Voting gives you the chance to support the candidates that can help your community, state, and the nation.
- Your vote is your chance to make your voice heard on issues affecting housing, education, employment, healthcare, equal opportunity, and so much more!
- When you vote, you are taking an active role in decision-making about the issues that you care about.

## Voting Rights

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects the rights of voters with disabilities.

The right to vote is one of the nation's most fundamental rights. Title II of the ADA requires state and local governments to ensure that individuals with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote. Every person has the right to vote, even if you have a legal guardian in place. You also have the right to have a person of your choosing to help you vote. Staff and volunteers at the polling place are available to help you and ensure that accessibility features at the polling place are operational.

For more information, visit [https://www.ada.gov/ada\\_voting/ada\\_voting\\_ta.htm](https://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/ada_voting_ta.htm), or call the ADA Information Line: 800-514-0301 (Voice) and 800-514-0383 (TTY).



**ROCK THE VOTE**  
<https://www.rockthevote.org/>



# Steps to Vote

## 1 Register to Vote

- To vote in U.S. elections, you must be a U.S. citizen, turn 18 years old on or before Election Day, and meet the registration requirements of your state. Most states require citizens to be registered in order to vote.
- Each state has its own requirements and deadlines for registering to vote. [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org) provides a list of voting rules by state. Here are the three most common registration options:

### In-Person

In some states, you can register at the DMV or through participating in a voter registration event. Visit [Get Registered](#) to search for upcoming events by your zip code.

### Online

Some states offer online voter registration. Visit [RocktheVote](#) to locate a link to register online on your state's official website.

### By Mail

Visit the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#) to locate state-specific instructions and print out a National Mail Voter Registration form.

## 2 Research the Candidates

- Learn about the candidates running for election and the issues at stake from reliable sources such as mainline news outlets, established journals, and publications with data citations.
- The [2020 Presidential Election Site](#) provides a side-by-side comparison of where the presidential candidates stand on multiple issues.

## 3 Vote!

- Citizens can choose to vote one of three ways:

### Vote by Mail

Each state has its own rules for mail-in absentee voting. To find out if you can vote by mail, visit [Instructions for Absentee Voting By State](#). You must be registered to vote before your state will send you an absentee ballot.

### Vote Early In-Person

Some states allow you to vote in-person before Election Day. To find out if your state offers early voting, visit the [2020 Early Voting Calendar](#) or the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#). Then, visit [Polling Place By State](#) to locate a link to find polling places in your state.

### Vote In-Person on Election Day

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Registered voters may vote on Election Day at their assigned polling place. Visit [Head Count](#) to search for your Election Day polling place.



- Search your state at [RocktheVote](#) for more information about voting in your state and answers to common questions.
- You can contact your Local Election Office if you have questions about voter registration, early voting, voting by mail, finding a polling place, or other local questions.
- Visit [Local Election Office Directory](#) to find out the contact information for your Local Election Office by searching your state.

## Additional Resources

### Find Your Local Election Office Contact Information

<https://www.usa.gov/election-office>

### U.S. Election Assistance Commission – Voter Resources & Helpful Links

<https://www.eac.gov/voters/voter-resources-helpful-links>

### U.S. Election Assistance Commission – Voting Accessibility

<https://www.eac.gov/voters/voting-accessibility>

### Americans with Disabilities Act & Voting Rights

[https://www.ada.gov/ada\\_voting/ada\\_voting\\_ta.htm](https://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/ada_voting_ta.htm)

### National Disability Rights Network

<https://www.ndrn.org/voting/>

### RocktheVote

<https://www.rockthevote.org/>



**FRANK PORTER GRAHAM  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

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