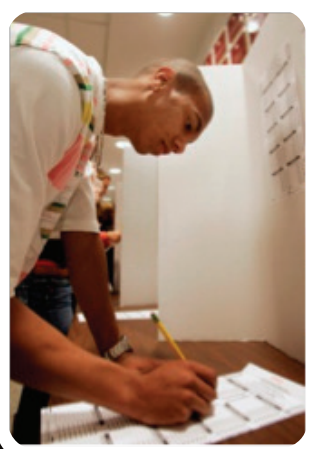


TOP 10

Voters Should Know As They Go to the Polls

THINGS

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power maybe of God and not of us..."



- 10** **Who and what is on the ballot ...** Be an informed voter! Know about all the candidates as well as any ballot initiatives.
- 9** **Where local polling places are located ...** Has it changed since the last time you voted? Have you moved? Polls are generally located in public buildings, with voters assigned to locations based on where they reside. Contact your local election office to find your polling place.
- 8** **When the polls are open ...** Polling hours vary by state. Confirm the time with your local election office. Always plan ahead and arrive early with 2 or more voting age persons prepared to vote. Also, if you are in line to vote when the polls close you have the right to cast your vote.
- 7** **How to cast your ballot ...** Before Election Day, ask your local election office which machine you will be using on Election Day. Familiarize yourself and always ask for assistance if you are unsure how to cast your vote. Poll workers are required to provide you with assistance.
- 6** **How to cast an absentee ballot ...** In a timely fashion, properly complete and send in your absentee ballot application and then submit your absentee ballot before the deadline. Be aware of and meet all deadlines for the absentee application and the absentee ballot itself. Contact your local election office if you need assistance.

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed...

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... we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,'" 2 Corinthians 4:7-9; 13a (NKJV)



- 5** **How to vote early ...** Does your state have early voting or is it known as "absentee ballots" that can be requested by phone, in person or by mail? Contact your local election office to find out and take advantage.
- 4** **How to vote if you are disabled ...** Despite HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002) reforms, many polling places still aren't easily accessible to disabled voters or persons with special needs including reading. Contact your local election office for information about accessibility at your polling place and how you will be able to cast your vote.
- 3** **How to vote if English is not your first language ...** If you require assistance reading an English ballot and casting your ballot on Election Day, in some districts you have the right to receive voting materials in your own language. Contact your local elections office to find out.
- 2** **How to vote if you are a formerly incarcerated person ex-offender...** No federal laws exist on felon voting and therefore the legal ability of people with felony convictions to vote varies from state to state. Check with your local elections office to know your rights – especially if you were convicted of a felony and have fully served and completed your sentence and are no longer on probation or parole. In many states and the District of Columbia, your voting rights are automatically restored upon release from prison and you can register to vote and exercise that vote.
- 1** **What forms of identification are accepted at the polls ...** Since 2008, we've seen problems having to do with voters receiving the incorrect type of ballot, improper information from poll judges about what forms of voter ID are required in their state, and much more. Because of new or unfamiliar voter ID laws in some states, new technology that's not remotely consistent in many jurisdictions from year to year, and the sheer number of voters turning out, we expect more confusion each and every time an election is held. ID requirements vary by state, so check TODAY with your local election office for information on what you'll need to provide.

Believe and speak with your vote!

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African American Ministers Leadership Council
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