



SHOW UP FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR

How You Can Support New American Voters at the Polls

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS.

For many New American voters, casting a ballot for the first time can feel unfamiliar, confusing, or even frightening, especially in the current environment. Having a trusted ally by their side can make all the difference between a neighbor who votes and a neighbor who stays home.

You do not need to be an expert. You need to be present, patient, and prepared.

HOW TO SUPPORT BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

Help them make a plan.

Ask your neighbor, friend, or community member if they know where their polling place is and how they plan to get there. Help them look it up at vote411.org if they do not know. A plan made in advance is a vote that actually happens.

Offer a ride.

Transportation is one of the most common barriers to voting. Offer to drive them to their polling place or early voting site. If you cannot drive, help them find a bus route or arrange a ride with someone else in the community.

Help them review their ballot.

Sit with them ahead of time and walk through the sample ballot together using vote411.org. You are not telling them how to vote, you are helping them feel familiar and confident with what they will see when they get there.

Practice the process.

If this is their first time voting in the United States, walk them through what to expect arriving at the polling place, showing ID, receiving a ballot, using the voting booth, and submitting their ballot. Removing the unknown removes the fear.

For election information, visit: vote411.org

The 2026 General
Election is Tuesday,
November 3rd

HOW TO SUPPORT ON ELECTION DAY:

Go together.

Accompany your neighbor to the polls. You can enter the polling place together. While you cannot be in the voting booth with them unless they ask for your help, simply being there waiting outside the booth or in the polling place provides enormous comfort and confidence.

Help with language if needed.

If your neighbor needs help understanding the ballot or instructions, you can assist them inside the voting booth if they ask you to. Federal law allows voters to bring a person of their choice to help, with limited exceptions. You cannot tell them who to vote for only help them understand what they are reading.

Stay calm and be patient.

Lines can be long. Processes can feel slow. Your calm presence makes a difference. Remind your neighbor that if they are in line when the polls close, they have the right to stay and vote.

Know who to call if things go wrong.

If anything goes wrong if your neighbor's name is not on the voter list, if they feel intimidated, or if there is any problem at the polling place call the Election Protection Hotline immediately:

Election Protection Hotline:

 **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**

This line is free to call and available in multiple languages.



WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

- ☐ You cannot tell anyone how to vote or influence their choice inside the polling place
- ☐ You cannot wear or display materials for any candidate or party at or near the polling place
- ☐ You cannot handle or submit someone else's completed ballot for them in most states
- ☐ You cannot pressure or rush anyone while they are voting

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO

Ask. A personal invitation from someone a New American voter already knows and trusts is the single most powerful tool in civic engagement. Research consistently shows that people are far more likely to vote when someone they respect personally asks them to. So ask. "Can I take you to vote this year?" That one question could change everything.



NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

More Resources: CWSglobal.org/Rise-Up/Civic-Engagement