

ELECTION 2016

GUIDE



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Tips For Smooth Voting

As American citizens, we possess a unique right to influence our government. This includes choosing the elected officials who will lead us into the future.

Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Are you ready? Voters will choose between the presidential nominees, including Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. Numerous other leadership positions also will be on the ballot, as well as key issues impacting your local community.

If you choose not to exercise your right to vote, you may be doing yourself and those around you a civic disservice. The fact is that your vote could make all the difference in not only determining an election but in fulfilling your duty as a proud American.

Here are a few tips from the The United States Election Assistance Commission on making your voting experience a positive one:

- **Don't forget to register.** Most states require voters to register. If you are not registered to vote, you may still be able to register until election day. Check with your local or state elections office to obtain a voter registration application.

- **Confirm your voter registration status.** Once you register to vote, check your status with your

state or local elections office a few weeks ahead of time in case you need to change any of your registration information.

- **Know your polling place location and hours.** If you vote at a polling place on Election Day, confirm your polling place location. This includes making sure you know what time your polling place opens and closes, as well as if it has the necessary accessibility for any language assistance or special needs.

- **Understand provisional voting.** Federal law allows you to cast a provisional ballot in a federal election if your name does not appear on the voter registration record. Whether a provisional ballot counts depends whether the state can verify your eligibility, so check with your state or local elections office to learn more details on applicable provisional voting laws.

- **Learn about military and overseas voting.** Special voting procedures may apply if you are in the U.S. military or are an American citizen living overseas. Contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program to find out more about this process.



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About Hillary Clinton

As former U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Senator and first lady, Hillary Clinton has built a diverse political career under two presidential administrations. As the Democratic nominee for the 2016 presidential election, she is hoping to make more history as the nation's first female commander-in-chief.

Born in 1947 in Chicago, Clinton built an early career as a lawyer and politician. Her rise through the American political system has been well documented, both in controversy and accomplishment.

EARLY YEARS

Clinton was the eldest child of Hugh and Dorothy Rodham. With a middle-class upbringing in Park Ridge, Ill., Clinton was active in activism from a young age, involving herself in youth programming at school and church.

She graduated from Wellesley College, a college tenure that saw her join the Democratic party and volunteer in the presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy. After her graduation from Wellesley in 1969, Hillary entered Yale Law School. At Yale, Clinton became passionate about family law and child advocacy. It also was Yale where the Clintons first met.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Clinton's political background has covered major issues and moments in American history. She participated in the Watergate inquiry into the possible impeachment of President Richard M. Nixon. After moving to Arkansas to teach at the University of Arkansas School of Law, she married Bill Clinton in 1975 and became the first lady of Arkansas in 1978 when her husband was elected governor.

She also served as first lady (1993–2001) during the administration of her husband, and as the Democratic party's nominee for president in 2016, she became the first woman to top the presidential ticket of a major U.S. party.

POST-FIRST LADY WORK

In 2001, Clinton was sworn in to the U.S. Senate seat from New York, becoming the first first lady to win elective office. While in the Senate, Clinton served on several senatorial committees, including the Committee for Armed Services.

In December 2008, President Barack Obama announced that Clinton would be his nominee to serve as U.S. secretary of state, just months after beating her in the presidential primary. Clinton served as the 67th U.S. secretary until 2013, when she was succeeded by John Kerry.



About Donald Trump

Born in Queens, N.Y., in 1946, the 70-year-old Donald Trump has taken the political stage by storm. His background as a businessman and television personality turned politician gives him one of the most unique paths to the presidential election the country has seen.

He announced his candidacy for the 2016 presidential election in the summer of 2015. Since then, he picked up new supporters across the country and eventually earned enough delegate support to clinch the Republican nomination for president.

His prospective road to the White House has seen many twists and turns throughout the years, shaping his proposed policies on the economy, immigration, trade and terrorism.

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

Trump has campaigned on the idea of making America great again. Known as a charismatic real estate tycoon throughout his business career, voters have pointed to his straightforward approach as one reason they would cast their ballot for him.

Trump represents the first businessman who has never held public office to win the GOP nomination since Wendell Willkie in 1940, according to a CNN report. It's this "outsider" background that propelled Trump above the field during the presidential primary campaign.

BUSINESS & CELEBRITY

Trump's real estate development career exploded in 1980 when he opened the Grand Hyatt. In 1982, he opened his signature apartment-retail complex — Trump Tower — featuring 58 stories, an 80-foot waterfall and a \$200 million price tag.

Trump has continued to grow his business empire, finding success in the gambling industry, menswear and golf course development. In 2004, Trump



began starring in the hit NBC reality series *The Apprentice*, which spawned the popular *The Celebrity Apprentice*.

EARLY YEARS

Trump was the fourth of five children of Frederick C. and Mary MacLeod

Trump. Frederick Trump was a builder and real estate developer, inspiring the younger Trump's entry into the family business.

According to Biography.com, Trump's parents sent him to the New York Military Academy to help channel his

energy. After graduating in 1964, he entered Fordham University and two years later transferred to the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. Trump graduated from Wharton in 1968 with a degree in economics.



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Americans' Biggest Concerns

With their recent collection of statistics, Pew Research Center has compiled an interesting snapshot into the minds of American voters. The group found that the economy is still very much top of mind for United States citizens, as is terrorism, foreign policy, healthcare, gun policy and immigration.

No matter where you stand on these issues, you're likely looking to align your views with those of a presidential candidate. This underscores the importance of researching the proposed policies of both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, as well as their vice president running partners. Here is a look at the Pew

Research Center findings from their survey taken earlier this summer:

- Eighty-four percent of registered voters say the economy will be very important to them in making their decision about who to vote for in the 2016 presidential election.
- Eighty percent say the issue of terrorism will be very

important to their vote.

- Other issues in order of importance include: foreign policy (75 percent said very important), health care (74 percent), gun policy (72 percent) and immigration (70 percent).
- Sixty-five percent say appointments to the nation's Supreme Court will be a very important factor in their deci-

sion this fall, including the present vacancy.

- Sixty-three percent say the issue of how racial and ethnic minorities are treated will be very important to their vote.
- Forty-five percent of voters consider abortion very important to their vote, while 40 percent see the treatment of gay, lesbian and transgender people as very important to their vote.
- Among Trump supporters, 90 percent call the economy very important to their vote and 89 percent say the same about the issue of terrorism.
- Large majorities of Clinton supporters also see the economy (80 percent) and terrorism

(74 percent) as very important issues to their vote.

- Clinton backers are somewhat less likely than Trump supporters to say immigration will be very important to their 2016 decision (65 percent vs 79 percent).
- Clinton (74 percent) and Trump (71 percent) supporters say the issue of gun policy will be very important to their vote.
- On the issue of Social Security, 78 percent of those 65 and older and 75 percent of those 50-64 say it will be very important to their 2016 decision, compared with 58 percent of those 30-49 and 57 percent of those 18-29.

The Economy

M myriad issues have crossed into the political debate during this contentious presidential campaign. Although both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are weighing in on this broad range of topics, the economy is still the No. 1 issue on the minds of American voters. In fact, 44 percent say it's their top concern.

As the economy continues its slow, steady climb out of the Great Recession of the late 2000s, voters are left to analyze which candidate can spark major change in American manufacturing jobs, the tax code and working wages.

Read on for a breakdown of where the candidates stand on the economy.

TRUMP'S VIEW

One of Trump's go-to messages during his campaign has been his background as a successful businessman. He has continuously stumped on the message that too few Americans are working and too many jobs have been shipped overseas.

According to his website, here is his four-step plan for improving the economy:

- Provide tax relief for middle-class Americans;
- Simplify the tax code to let everyone keep more of their money;
- Grow the American economy by discouraging corporate inversions, adding new jobs and making America globally competitive; and
- Avoid adding to the United States' debt and deficit.

CLINTON'S VIEW

During her political career and

current presidential campaign, Clinton has backed efforts to raise the federal minimum wage, overhaul immigration laws and increase women's workforce participation.

Like Trump, she also proposes simplifying the tax code to make things more streamlined for individuals and businesses across the country.

According to Clinton's campaign website, here are a few more points of emphasis on her proposed economic goals as president:

- Launching the most comprehensive infrastructure development since the construction of the American interstate highway system in the 1950s;
- Establishing the U.S. as the

clean energy superpower of the world with half a billion solar panels installed by the end of her first term;

- Strengthening American manufacturing with a \$10 billion "Make it in America" plan; and
- Pursuing smarter trade policies that put U.S. job creation at the forefront of any deal.

Immigration has been one of the biggest hot-button issues during the presidential campaign. With 42 million immigrants living in the United States, it is a debate that impacts a large portion of the population.

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have campaigned on two differing stances when it comes to immigration. The winner of the 2016 presidential election will have many challenges in trying to tackle immigration, one of the most complex issues facing lawmakers today.

TRUMP'S VIEW

Trump has made headlines with one of his signature campaign positions on immigration: building a wall between Mexico and the United States. The Republican nominee has proposed erecting the wall at Mexico's expense to help reduce the number of illegal immigrants entering the country.

While campaigning to be the Republican presidential candidate, he also called for completely banning Muslims from entering the U.S. after the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, Calif., in December 2015. According to the Associated Press, his campaign then softened its Muslim stance, instead back-



ing the temporary suspension of immigration from regions linked with heavy terrorism.

Some of Trump's immigration-related strategies, according to his campaign website, include:

- Deporting the 11 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally;
- Ending the granting of citizenship to those born on U.S. soil to foreign parents; and

- Subjecting those who overstay visas to criminal penalties.

CLINTON'S VIEW

Clinton has pledged to create the first national office of immigrant affairs if she wins the presidential election. Voters who have agreed with President Barack Obama's immigration policies can expect Clinton to take similar actions, as she supported his

executive order that blocked deportations for 4 million illegal immigrants.

One of her campaign's focal points has been "allowing parents of immigrants who came to the United States as children and others with a history of service in this country to make an individual case for staying in the United States," according to her website.

Clinton's campaign website points out a few more strate-

gies:

- Introducing comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to full and equal citizenship;
- Mitigating the family visa backlog, upholding the rule of law, protecting borders and national security, and bringing millions of people into the formal economy; and
- Ending family detention and closing private immigration detention centers.

Ways to Vote

If this is your first time voting in a presidential election, you may be surprised to find out that you don't have to wait for election day to cast your ballot. Many states have policies in place that allow eligible voters to vote during an early voting period or vote by absentee ballot, or both.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, there are currently 14 states in which early voting is not offered. Here is a brief breakdown of the various alternative voting methods: (Check in with your local precinct to find out what your state allows.)

Early voting. In 33 states and the District of Columbia, any qualified voter may cast a ballot in person during a designated period prior to election day, according to the NCSL.

Absentee voting. All states will mail an absentee ballot to certain voters who request one, and the voter may then return the ballot

by mail or in person.

Mail voting: Only three states mail ballots to all eligible voters for every election, according to the NCSL. Other states use mail voting for specific elections.

ALTERNATIVE VOTING BY THE NUMBERS

The U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey has uncovered some interesting statistics related to early voting. They include:

- In 2014, 10.3 percent of voters reported voting in person before election day, while 20.9 percent reported voting by mail. These numbers show that nearly one

third of all voters reported using some alternative method to cast their vote.

- The level of alternative voting in 2014 represents a threefold increase since 1996.

- In 2014, a reported 30.6 percent of mail voting in the CPS came from three states.

- In 2008, the rate of alternative voting increased to 30.7 percent and then dropped to 26.5 percent in 2010. In the next presidential election, in 2012, the rate of alternative voters once again increased (32.8 percent) before dropping off slightly again in the most recent congressional election, in 2014 (31.2 percent).