



Election 2020



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Voter Safety

The in-person voting process for 2020 will require voters to consider safety risks that aren't always an issue.

As Election Day nears, the country is still under a declared pandemic due to an increase in COVID-19 transmissions. If you are planning to visit the polls this year, you must adhere to the safety rules posted by those in charge.

It's a good idea to ask authorities about the location of your regular polling place this November. To keep those vulnerable safe, some are relocating their polls away from nursing homes, long-term care facilities and senior living residences. When asking about the new location, find out what kind of other safety restrictions are in place, so you vote without delay.

Here are some things to expect to stay safe while making your 2020 vote.

KEEPING WARM

Since social distancing is a significant factor in curbing the virus transmission, you should expect that a limited number of people will be allowed inside your polling place. If you live in a colder region where November invites freezing or chilly temperatures, dress warmly to remain safe and comfortable. Check out these tips from the



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National Wildlife Federation to ensure your body is prepared for extended periods outside.

- Dress in layers, so the heat captured between clothing will keep you warm.
- In case of rain or snow, wear a base layer that is water and windproof.
- Make sure your head, neck, hands and feet are covered and protected.
- Wear waterproof boots to keep your feet dry.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The pandemic is also creating unique challenges for both voters and polling place operators. Follow these safety rules from the CDC to ensure Election Day is safe and limits the transmission.

For voters:

- Wash hands before and after voting.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with the inside of your elbow.
- Consider voting alterna-

tives if you are sick or awaiting test results.

- Wear a mask and maintain a six-foot distance from others.

Use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol generously while at the polls.

For poll operators:

- Create signs that display the rules like mask enforcement, social distancing guidelines, etc.
- Ensure the location is

stocked with extra masks, hand sanitizers and hand-washing stations.

- Disinfect voting equipment after each use.

Ensure polls are adequately staffed if a worker tests positive or has recent contact with someone who has.

- Buy a sufficient supply of pens, ballot cards and single-use objects to avoid sharing.

Register to Vote

While many Americans are registered to vote, some are still hesitant to participate.

The primary reason people head to the election polls is to express that they are for or against an issue or candidate. However, before filling out a ballot, voters must register to ensure their voices can be heard.

Fortunately, there are numerous ways Americans can register and confirm that they are legitimate voters. Registration laws may vary by state, so it's imperative to check with your local officials before Election Day. Whether you are preparing for your first vote or are an active participant, it's essential to ensure you are legally registered to avoid disappointment at the polls.

HOW TO REGISTER

If you have never registered to vote, make the 2020 election your chance to express yourself. Check out these easy ways to become eligible, as recommended by the Official Guide to Government Information and Services.

- Register online. The organization states that this option is available in 39 states plus the District of Columbia.

- Fill out the National Mail Voter Registration Form. This can be downloaded at usa.gov/

register-to-vote. Complete the document and mail it to the location listed for your state; don't forget to sign.

- Ask local leaders for guidance regarding states and territories with different registration procedures.

Keep in mind that every state, except North Dakota, requires voters to register. Depending on the location, the registration deadline could be

as much as a month before the election.

CONFIRM YOU'RE REGISTERED

In addition to checking with your local voting office, you can easily confirm that your registration status online. Simply visit www.nass.org/can-i-vote, to check your status, find a polling place and apply for absentee or early voting.

The service, offered by the National Association of Secretaries of State, is provided to ensure Americans take advantage of the individual right to vote.

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE

If you're on the fence about visiting a polling place this election, consider these reasons to register and vote, as suggested by the organization

Nonprofit VOTE.

- Most communities that vote get more attention from candidates and officeholders.

- Vote for your children's future as those under 18 are unable to do so.

- Fewer than 100 votes decide many elections.

- Vote for issues specific to your location like health care access, affordable housing and school funding.

Who Is Joe Biden?

While he is most known for serving under President Barack Obama as the 47th vice president from 2009-17, Joe Biden has a rich history in United States politics.

Before this last role, he served as the longest-tenured senator in Delaware, holding the seat between 1973-2009. He is the Democratic candidate for the 2020 presidential election.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF JOE BIDEN'S CAREER

1965: Graduated from the University of Delaware in history and political science.

1968: Acquired a law degree from Syracuse University Law School.

1968-1970: Served as a defense attorney in Wilmington, Delaware.

1973-2009: Represented Delaware as the United States senator.

2009-17: Served as the vice president under President Barack Obama.

BEFORE POLITICS

Joe Biden was born on Nov. 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He would remain in Pennsylvania until 1955, when his family moved to Mayfield, Delaware, which had a growing middle-class



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community.

There, he would eventually earn a spot at the prestigious Archmere Academy, where he worked on-campus to help his family afford the tuition. After graduating from the academy in 1961, he would pursue his collegiate career at the University of Delaware.

In college, he began studying history and political science while balancing football. It was spring break during his junior year when he met his

future wife, Neilia, and ultimately shifted his focus to study law. Biden was married in 1966. Neilia Biden died in 1972. He married Jill Jacobs in 1977.

POLITICAL CAREER

After college, Joe Biden moved to Wilmington, Delaware, to practice at a law firm. This was around the same time he became active in the Democratic Party. He would eventually be elected to

the New Castle County Council in 1970 before beginning his own practice.

Biden ran and won a seat for Delaware the United States Senate in 1972. He remained in this seat until 2007 when he entered the presidential election, serving as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chair of the International Narcotics Control Caucus and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

However, he was unable to

gain momentum in the race against Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. After officially pulling out, Obama picked him to serve as his vice president. Vice President Biden was known for building federal policies regarding Iraq and Afghanistan and securing the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and Russia. He is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction.

Who Is Donald Trump?

Donald J. Trump is the 45th president of the United States. Before the presidency, he was well known as a real estate investor and businessman.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, in the early 21st Century, his private conglomerate, the Trump Organization, included about 500 companies. Industries included hotels, residential properties, merchandise and entertainment agencies.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF DONALD TRUMP'S CAREER

1968: Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce.

1974: Became president of Trump-owned corporations and partnerships.

1983: Opened Trump Tower, a 58-story building which held the headquarters of the Trump Organization.

2004: Starred in and hosted the reality television show, *The Apprentice*.

2016: Won the 2016 presidential election.

HIS EARLY YEARS

Born on June 14, 1946, to a successful New York real estate developer, Donald Trump was the fourth of five children. Throughout his aca-



demical career, he was educated at New York Military Academy and Fordham University. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce. After graduation, he began working full time for his father, assisting with the management of between 10,000 and 22,000 rental units.

In 1974, Trump became the acting president over the corporation, which was later named the Trump Organization.

THE AUTHOR

In addition to being a dominant force in the real estate industry, Trump also penned numerous books before his presidency. In 1987, he published his first title, "The Art

of the Deal," where he gave advice on making business negotiations. The book was successful and found its way on The New York Times best-seller list. He would eventually pen numerous titles ranging from golfing advice, politics and business guides.

PRESIDENCY

On Jan. 20, 2017, Trump

was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States. During his term, there have been nearly 4 million jobs created, including 400,000 manufacturing opportunities.

He also is credited with increasing American coal exports by 60% and propelling the United States oil production industry to an all-time high.

Energy and Health Care Stances

The two presidential candidates are vocal about their differences in numerous issues about which many Americans are passionate.

Educate yourself before heading to the polls to find out how your vote will support their policies.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The fight for avoiding a climate crisis is a core issue for many American voters. Both candidates have a specific view on how to use power while creating and maintaining millions of jobs.

Trump's stance: During Trump's term, he repealed the Clean Power Plan and instead proposed the Affordable Clean Energy Rule. According to the National Economic Research Associates, the CPP would have raised electricity rates by as much as 14%. The ACER promotes the reduction of greenhouse gasses, the empowerment of states and the promotion of energy independence to enhance economic growth and job creation. Trump and his administration acted to increase exports of energy resources to the global market to allow financing for coal and fossil energy projects.

Biden's stance: According to Biden's campaign, he promis-



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es to “launch a national effort aimed at creating the jobs we need to build a modern, sustainable infrastructure now and deliver an equitable clean energy future.”

The key elements involved in a far-reaching \$2 trillion dollar accelerated investment include:

- Position the auto industry to win the 21st Century with technology created in America.

- Achieve a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035.

- Make dramatic investments in energy efficiency in buildings, including 4 million retrofits and building over 1 million new affordable homes.

- Secure environmental justice and equitable economic opportunity.

HEALTH CARE

The American health care

system is continuously at the forefront of its citizens' minds. Each candidate has specific plans in place for their potential administrations.

Trump's stance: Trump claims that Obamacare is dangerous to American families, farmers and small businesses due to higher health insurance costs. Under his plan, it is expected that insurance companies would have

to compete for customers with lower fees and higher-quality service.

Biden's stance: Biden is determined to protect the Affordable Care Act to ensure that Americans are not denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions. Under his leadership, he plans to build on the historic plan by reducing health care costs and making the system less complex to navigate.



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The VP Candidates

When preparing to vote in this year's presidential election, it's critical to consider the best fit for vice presidents.

According to the United States Senate, 14 of the former vice presidents have become president of the United States — more than half of them after a sitting leader's death.

While the roles' responsibilities have varied between those in office, the Constitution gives the vice president the formal duty to preside over the Senate. Here are a few ways examples of the type of power they hold and their influence on America.

- Act as an authoritative tiebreaker when votes in the Senate reach a tie.
- Manages and oversees the operations of debates.
- Has the responsibility to take over the presidency if a president dies.

Learn more about the lives and policies of those who will serve under the winning president of the 2020 election.

DONALD TRUMP'S RUNNING MATE: MIKE PENCE

Pence has championed funding for the newly established Space Force and assisted in the approval of the Keystone and Dakota pipelines to boost the energy industry. The sitting vice president earned a bachelor's degree in history from Hanover College in 1981 before attending the

Indiana University School of Law. After graduation, he led the Indiana Policy Review Foundation. He entered the United States House of Representatives at the age of 40.

Before serving as vice president, Pence was elected the 50th governor of Indiana in 2013. According to the White House, he enacted the largest income tax cut in the state's history by lowering rates for individuals, businesses and corporate accounts to strengthen its competitive edge.

JOE BIDEN'S RUNNING MATE: KAMALA HARRIS

In August, Joe Biden named California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate, making history by selecting the first Black woman to compete on a major party's presiden-

tial ticket.

Harris was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat in 2016 and began her first term representing California in that body the following year. She was the first Indian American to serve as a U.S. senator as well as the second African American woman. Harris previously was the state's attorney general (2011–17), according to her bio on Britannica.com.

Prior to this background, Harris worked as a deputy district attorney (1990–98) in Oakland, prosecuting cases of gang violence, drug trafficking, and sexual abuse. Harris became district attorney in 2004, and in 2010, she was narrowly elected attorney general of California, becoming the first female and the first African American to hold the post.

Educate Yourself Before you Vote

Your vote counts and may be the determining factor in a close race.

It's our responsibility to be informed of a candidate's policies and make sure they represent your values and beliefs. While the media is efficient in discussing significant issues they face, you can educate yourself further with valuable resources.

To find an unbiased look into national legislation and the politicians who are in control, the organization Progressive Action for the Common Good, suggests reviewing the website [VoteSmart.org](https://www.votesmart.org). Here, voters can access a non-partisan view into this crucial information.

- Links to candidate's bio, contact information, voting record and endorsements by national and local organizations.

- Policies and procedures regarding voter registration information for every state.

- An interactive tool that matches candidates who best fit your beliefs.

- Access to political speeches, public statements, campaign financing and funding methods.

Because the presidential election is an essential process for our country, it's wise to do your research before using your voice to change or maintain the direction we're heading. Here are some other ways to prepare yourself before cast-



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ing your ballot this November and the future.

GATHER MATERIALS

Put together a book of materials that offers information about a candidate. For instance, look for campaign literature, unbiased voter information and their press

reports. Analyze the documents to follow their political career to discover the commitment they show of their values.

One way to discover their track record is by reviewing their voting history for specific issues. Ask yourself if you can draw conclusions based on the

documents you collect to form your own opinion.

LEARN ABOUT THEIR LEADERSHIP

It is challenging to consider whether a candidate is a good leader based on the image they portray. Immerse yourself in their previous campaigns, pub-

lic speaking events and debates. Pay attention to how they react to criticism, discuss their strategies and act toward opposing politicians.

Debates are an excellent way to watch how they handle tense situations while under pressure. You should expect them to act similarly in office.