

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METROPOLITAN COLUMBUS

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus (LWVMC) is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy. We achieve this through voter education, advocacy, and civic engagement.

Membership and Board run with no corporate funds.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 as the successor to the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which had led the nationwide fight for women's suffrage.

The Metropolitan Columbus chapter serves Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, and is part of a network of approximately 700 local and 50 state Leagues across the U.S.















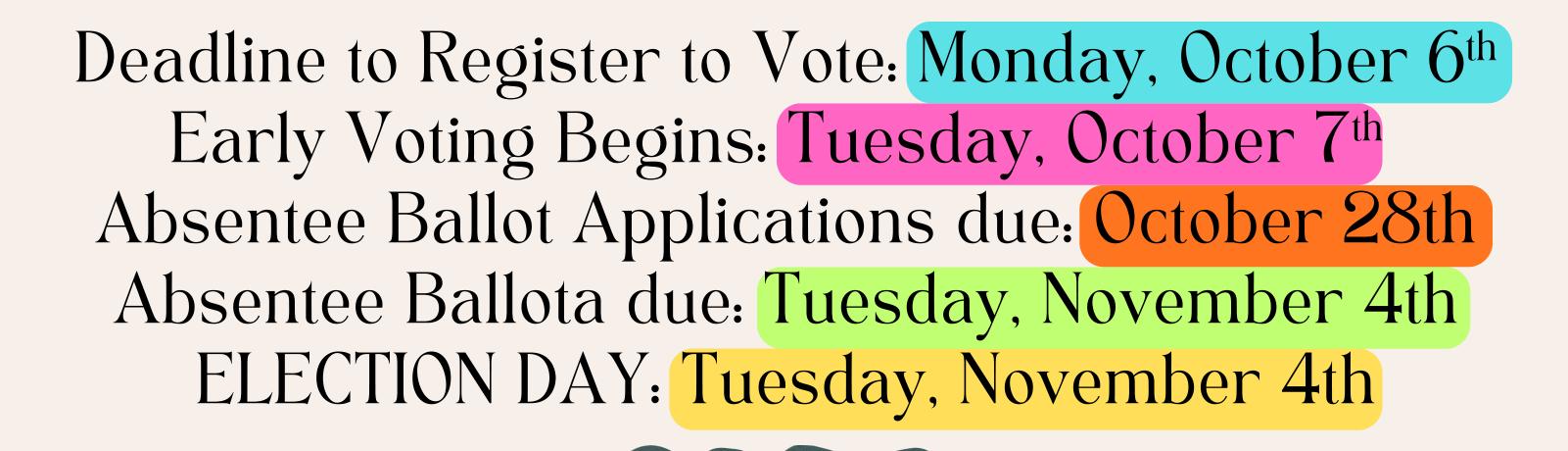












## REGISTER TO VOTE

- 18 Years old on or before General Election Day
- US Citizen in Ohio for at least 30 days
- Not currently serving time in a prison for a felony
  - Before the deadline for the upcoming Election



All are able to register to vote in Ohio!

## IMPORTANT THINGS WHEN REGISTERING TO VOTE

#### **WRITE CLEARLY!**

- Use blue or black pen
- Check the boxes at the top
- Fill out all mandatory sections
- Phone number is encouraged but not publicly listed
- Use the last four of your SSN or your
   Ohio License number (not expired)
- Use the signature that you used on your license or passport

#### **DOUBLE CHECK!**

- Check online if you are registered
- Update your registration BEFORE the deadline if you have moved or changed your name
- Your Drivers License address DOES
   NOT NEED to match your voter
   registration address
- College students have the option where to register

#### PLAN!

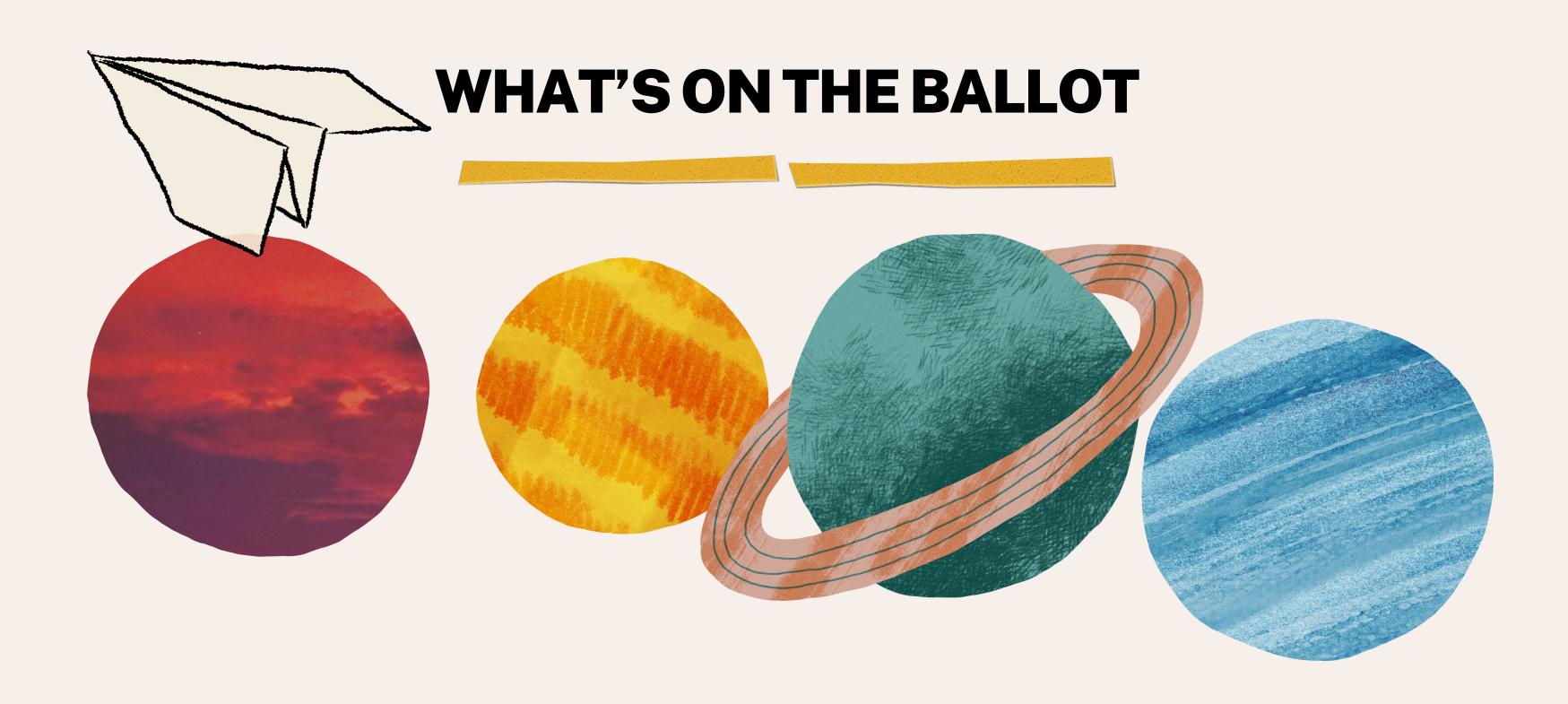
- If you don't have an ID or passport to bring to the polls - vote by absentee ballot at home
- If you request an absentee ballot but vote in-person you will need to vote with a provisional ballot
- Request your absentee ballot first, when receive fill it out and mail it back or turn it into your BOE
- Early voting days and times are wonky
- Lines on Election Day can be long



# LOCAL ELECTIONS HAVE THE MOST DIRECT IMPACT ON COMMUNITY LIFE.

- What's decided locally
  - Schools
  - Housing
  - Public safety
  - Public Health
  - Environment
- Low turnout, big impact
- Loving your neighbor





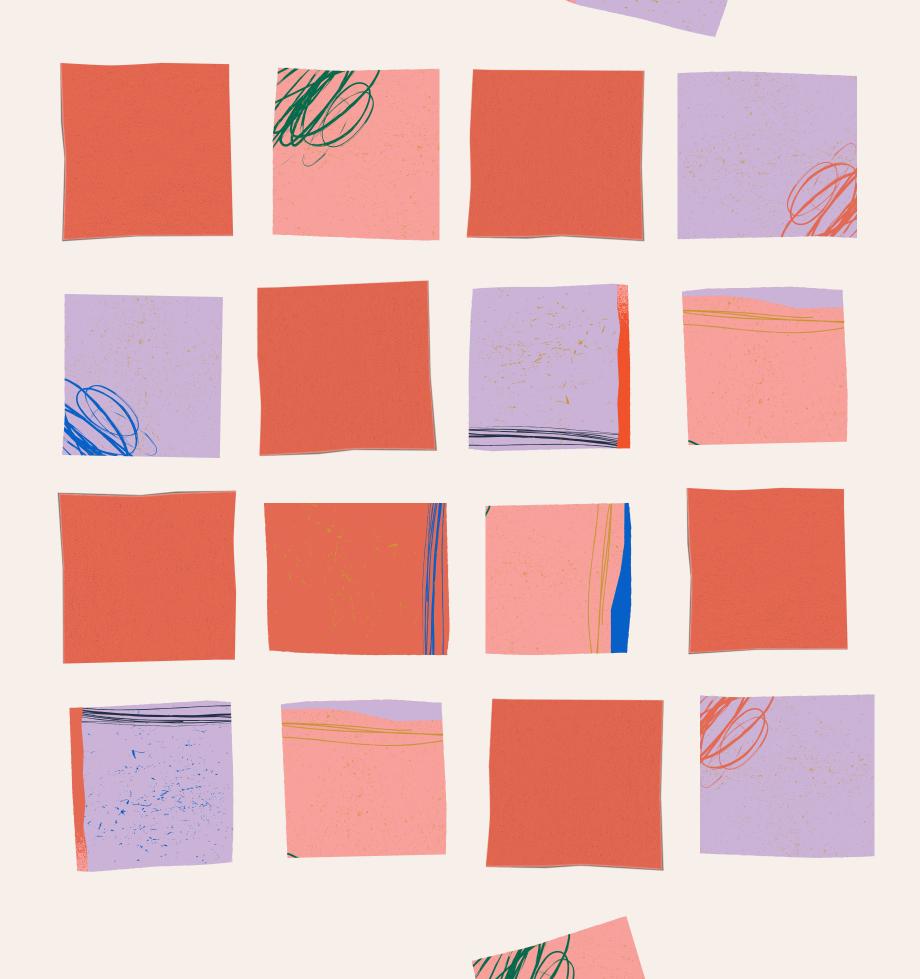


Nonpartisan voter information bulletin with questions to candidates with their real responses and quick information about ballot issues.

## **BALLOTISSUES**

Requests from public entities for voters to approve items such as:

increases in local taxes, funding, services, public projects, or changes to laws or policies.



## FRANKLIN COUNTY ADAMH LEVY

#### **WHATIS ADAMH**

- Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board
- Plans, funds, and oversees services for people with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and related behavioral health needs
- Allocated public funding to local treatment providers, crisis centers, and prevention programs
- Ensures mental health and addiction serves are available to everyone regardless of income

#### WHAT IS THE ASK

- The proposal includes a 0.75 mill increase to the current 2.85 mill levy, extending it for a 10-year period
- Approximately \$77.66 per year for every \$100,000 of home valuation

## **COLUMBUS ZOO LEVY RENEWAL**

#### WHAT IS THE ZOO

- Large, world-renowned zoo located in Powell, Ohio, just north of Columbus
- It's home to thousands of animals from around the world, including endangered species
- The zoo focuses on conservation, education, and research, helping protect wildlife both locally and globally

#### WHAT IS THE ASK

- Renew a property tax levy to fund animal care and facilities at the Columbus Zoo
- The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is seeking a 10-year renewal of its existing property tax levy, which would continue to collect \$11.20 per \$100,000 of a property's taxable value each year. This levy aims to secure approximately \$21.3 million annually, accounting for about 20% of the zoo's annual budget

## COLUMBUS INFRASTRUCTURE BOND PACKAGE

#### WHAT IS THE PACKAGE

- Neighborhood development and affordable housing
- Public utilities
- Public services
- Recreation and parks
- Safety, health, and infrastructure

#### WHAT IS THE ASK

- The Columbus Infrastructure
   Bond Package is a proposed
   \$1.9 billion investment aimed at enhancing the city's
   infrastructure and services
- The city plans to utilize 25% of its income tax revenue to service the debt over a term of 5 to 20 years

## CANDIDATES

270 + candidates in Franklin County
Uncontested vs Contested
Party Affiliation vs Nonpartisan
Write-In vs Select
Full Term vs Unexpired Term

#### **CITY ATTORNEY**

The Columbus City Attorney serves as the chief legal advisor for the City of Columbus, representing the city in legal matters, providing legal counsel to city officials and departments, and overseeing the prosecution of criminal offenses under city ordinances.

- Zach Klein
  - Incumbent
  - Uncontested

#### **AUDITOR**

The City of Columbus Auditor is responsible for overseeing the city's finances, including managing income tax collection, payroll, investments, and financial reporting. The Auditor ensures the city's money is spent properly and provides transparency to residents about Columbus's budget and financial health.

- Megan N Kilgore
  - Incumbent
  - Uncontested

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY JUDGE 1/1

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY JUDGE 1/2

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY JUDGE 1/3

A Franklin County Municipal Court judge presides over cases involving misdemeanors, traffic violations, small civil disputes, and preliminary hearings for more serious crimes. They ensure the law is applied fairly, make rulings in court, and oversee courtroom procedures to protect the rights of all parties.

- Jodi Thomas
  - Uncontested

- Jessica G. D'Varga
  - Uncontested

- Ajmeri Hoque
  - Uncontested

#### **CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1**

#### **CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3**

#### **CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4**

A Columbus City Council district representative is an elected official who serves as the voice of a specific geographic area, or district, within the city. Each of the nine districts elects one council member to represent approximately 100,000 residents. These representatives are responsible for advocating for their constituents' needs, introducing and voting on legislation, and participating in citywide policy discussions. Their duties include addressing local concerns, shaping city ordinances, and ensuring that their district's interests are considered in the broader legislative process.

Everyone in Columbus votes for each district representative.

- Chris Wyche
  - Incumbent
  - Uncontested

- Rob Dorans
  - Incumbent
  - Uncontested

- Emmanuel Remy
  - Incumbent
  - Uncontested

#### **CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7**

The Columbus City Council District 7 race is one of the most closely watched contests in the 2025 general election, scheduled for November 4, 2025. This district encompasses downtown Columbus and surrounding neighborhoods, reflecting the city's diversity and central urban issues.

- Tiara Ross
- Jesse Vogel

#### **CITY SCHOOL BOARD**

In the Columbus City Schools Board of Education race, voters will choose from six candidates vying for three open seats. The primary election on May 6, 2025, narrowed the field from ten to six candidates

- Antoinette Miranda
- Patrick Katzenmeyer
- Jermain Kennedy
- Mounir Lynch
- Janeece Keys
- Kimberley Mason

## HOW TO VOTE IN OHIO

- 1. Election Day 11 / 4
  - a. At your polling place
  - b. 6:30am -7:30pm
  - c. Bring a photo ID
    - i. Unexpired, photo
    - ii. Does not need your current address



HOW TO VOTE IN OHIO

- 2. Early Voting
  - a. 1700 Morse Rd
  - b. M+F 7:30am 7:30pm
    - i. Saturday 8:00am 4:00pm
    - ii.Sunday 1:00pm 5:00pm
  - c. Bring an ID



## HOW TO VOTE IN OHIO

- 3. Absentee Ballot
  - a. Deadline to REQUEST 10/28
  - b. Use blue or black ink
  - c. Only need to provide last four of SS
  - d. Mail or bring to BOE before or on Election Day

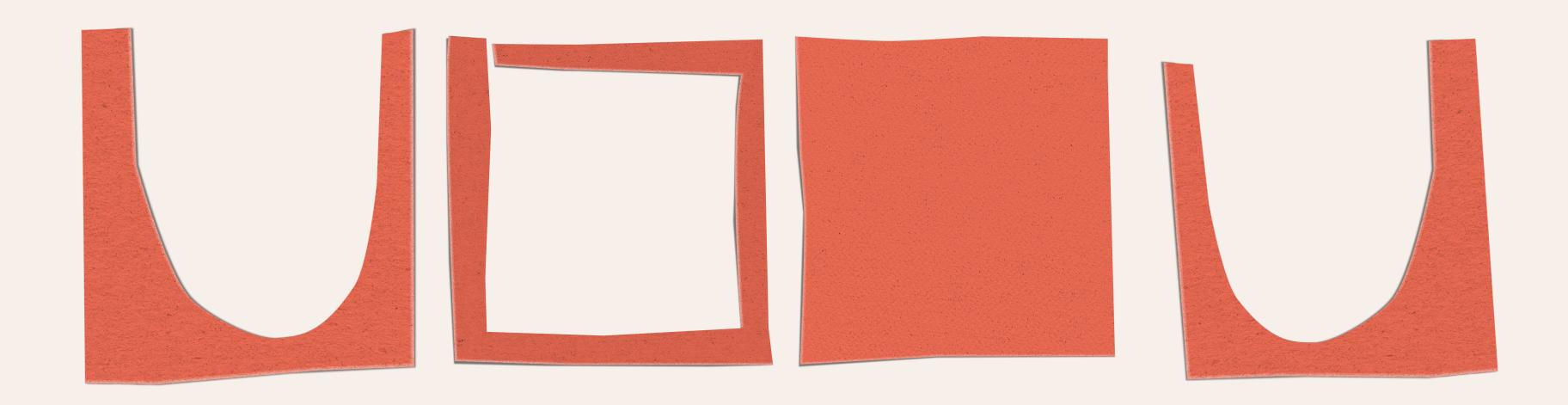


## POLL WORKER

- Be a registered voter in Franklin County
- Attend training and set up
- 5:30am-7:30pm Election Day
- Never convicted of a felony
- \$300



#### BARRIERS & MISCONCEPTIONS



## **BARRIERS & MISCONCEPTIONS**

#### "MY VOTE DOESN'T COUNT"

- Local elections are often decided by just a handful of votes. Every single ballot can literally change the outcome.
- Individuals actions add up: even if
   one vote doesn't sway an election, it
   contributes to the culture of civic
   engagement in your community.

#### "I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT IT"

- Many voters feel overwhelmed by candidates and ballot issues.
- There are many neutral, factual voting guides, and you can always ask your community.
- You do not have to answer every single thing on your ballot.

#### "I DON'T HAVE TRANSPORTATION"

- Lack of rides or mobility barriers can keep people from voting.
- COTA is free on Election Day and offers rides to the BOE for Early Voting.
- Always ask your neighbors!

## **BARRIERS & MISCONCEPTIONS**

#### "I HAVE ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS"

- Voting can be hard on the body.
- Absentee Voting and Drive up Voting can help those who have difficulty standing or walking.
- All Polling locations must have a wheelchair entrance and poll workers are trained for multiple accessibility needs.

#### "THE PROCESS IS CONFUSING"

- Voting procedures can seem
   complex registration deadlines,
   early voting, provisional ballots.
- Election Protection (866-our-vote) is here to help with any voting issues!
- It's ok to ask for help, even
   experiences voters need guidance.

#### "I HAVE A FELONY CONVICTION"

- In many states individuals who have a felony cannot vote.
- In Ohio, once you have served your time you are eligible to register to vote, even on parole probation.

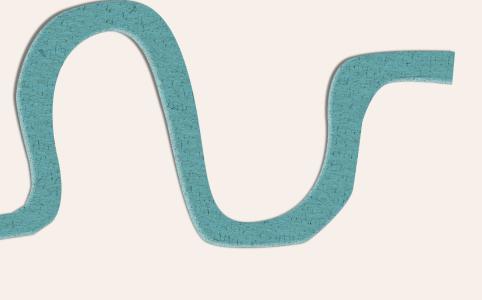
Voting machines have braille and voice.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Voting is one way we love our neighbors — by helping shape a community where all can thrive. Showing up at the polls is showing up for your neighbors, loving your neighbor includes shaping the systems that touch their daily lives.

Women fought for decades to secure the 19th Amendment, earning the right to vote in 1920. Black and Brown communities fought through the Civil Rights Movement, enduring marches, threats, and discriminatory laws to secure access to the ballot (Voting Rights Act, 1965). Indigenous people, immigrants, and other historically marginalized groups had to fight state by state for recognition of their right to vote.

Participating in local elections is a way to honor that legacy and ensure the systems reflect the values of inclusion, equity, and care. "When you vote, you are standing on the shoulders of those who fought for the rights we enjoy today."



## OHIO HOUSE BILL 472

## Restrictions on Absentee Voting and Provisional Ballots

Requires absentee ballots to be received by the close of polls on Election Day, eliminating the grace period for ballots postmarked by Election Day.

Prohibits election officials from opening and scanning provisional ballots before the polls close, potentially delaying the counting process and affecting timely results.



Proof of Citizenship Requirement

Requires individuals to provide additionally documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote.

Makes it harder for independent candidates and citizens groups to get on the ballot.

Bans voter drop boxes and and stricter checks on names.

# Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act

Passed by the US House of Representatives, the SAVE Act would require citizenship documentation to register to vote on top of state requirements.

Many communities of eligible voters would be unnecessarily burdened by the requirements of the SAVE Act. Among them are military voters who would be required to present documentation every time they re-register to vote when their family moves.

Families who have been impacted by natural disasters may have lost necessary documentation and would be required to jump through hoops to replace these documents to register to vote while also going through the traumatic process of rebuilding their lives.

Additionally, Americans who have changed their name, like married women, would also be required to secure updated documentation to register to vote.

