

an introductory guide to

Voting for the Environment

made FOR
students BY
students!



OVERVIEW

Voting Eligibility:

- ☐ varies by area, see Vote.gov for your area's voting eligibility requirements
- ☐ 18 years or older on or before election day
- ☐ U.S. citizen

Three types of elections:

Local (city/county), State, Federal

What's on the ballot?

- Elected Officials
- Measures and Propositions

How to make informed choices:

- Be aware of your sources!
- Research what and who is on the ballot.
- Review candidate websites and sponsors of measures.
- Read third-party assessments of candidates and measures from reputable sources.
- Talk with people in your community.

Every election is worth voting in!

Every election has major implications for the environment!

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voting for Candidates

When running for elected office, candidates will express their **promises and priorities** for their time serving in office.

Voters can judge candidates by these promises and **hold elected officials accountable** if they win.

Voters can also evaluate elected officials by their **endorsements and funding**.

re-electing

Once in office, you may get the opportunity to vote for an **elected official's reelection**.

Voters can then evaluate the **incumbent's** commitment to their priorities based on the caucuses of legislators they may join, how they vote on bills, and their "scorecards".

Do your research!

Helpful Resources

Following the Money

[FEC.Gov](https://www.fec.gov) - Campaign Finance Data for U.S. Congress and Presidency

[OpenSecrets.Org](https://www.opensecrets.org) - Nonpartisan, independent campaign finance information.

[Power Search](https://www.powersearch.org) - Compiles campaign contribution data in California.

Environmental Voting Guidance

- League of Conservation Voters
- League of Women Voters
- California Environmental Justice Alliance
- Sierra Club
- Greenbelt Alliance
- Environmental Voter Project

National Tools

- [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)
- [GovTrack.us](https://www.govtrack.us)
- [Ballotpedia.org](https://www.ballotpedia.org)
- [OpenStates.org](https://www.openstates.org)

Register to vote: [Vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov)

voting for Measures

In some states, **ballot measures** (a.k.a. ballot propositions) are put up to the people to vote. Governmental bodies propose most measures, but voters can too in some states! There are generally three forms of ballot measures - **citizen initiatives**, **popular referenda**, and **legislative referrals**.

For more information about ballot measures in your state, visit [NCSL.org](https://www.ncsl.org)

Most measures are funded by individuals, companies, and campaign committees. This **financial information is public data** and can illuminate the key players and intentions behind a proposition.

NGOs, politicians, and advocates will announce their endorsement or opposition of a measure leading up to an election. **Pay attention!**