Be Election Ready! Worksheet

Unfortunately, the United States lags behind most of the world's democracies in voter turnout, and young people and people of color vote at disproportionately lower rates. We also know that the health of our democracy depends on an informed and engaged citizenry, and when we don't vote, our voices aren't heard and our community suffers. Research shows that the best way to ensure we all vote is by educating ourselves on how to vote, making a plan to vote in every election, and creating a culture of voting by sharing this information with family and friends.

If you are not eligible to vote, this information will help you get engaged in your community, not to mention you can help your friends and family prepare to vote. You can help others register to vote; volunteer on a candidate's campaign; educate others about issues you care about; and share your story, your voice matters!

Use mdc.edu/vote to find the answers to these questions:

Step 1: Learn about the General Election

1. Which MDC website has all the information you need related to voting?
    a. www.mdc.edu
    b. www.mdc.edu/vote
    c. www.mdc.edu/iced

2. List at least five things you can do and/or find on this website?

3. When is the next election?

Step 2: Register to vote or update your voter registration! (or help someone register/update)

4. The deadline to register to vote for the November 3rd General Election was October 5th!

5. **ACTION STEP:** Find out if you are already registered to vote (or help someone check their registration status) by visiting www.mdc.edu/vote and click "Check Your Voter Registration." Checking your registration status is important because your address must be current and you may need to update your signature or party affiliation.

6. What did you discover about your (or someone else's) registration status?

7. What are the three steps to register to vote on www.mdc.edu/vote? (hint, click on "Register to Vote" to find the three steps)

Step 3: Learn about your ballot and make a plan to vote!

8. **ACTION STEP:** If you are eligible to vote, find your customized sample ballot and download it.
    a. If you are not eligible to vote, find a sample ballot and download it.

9. What are some of the things on the ballot that we will be voting on?

10. **ACTION STEP:** Visit votemiami.org/candidate101 to research the candidates for the 2020 General Election. Then, visit votemiami.civicengine.com and create a sample ballot based on your research. You do not have to be a citizen to create the sample ballot. (These resources can also be found at mdc.edu/vote/decodingtheballot.)

11. What did you discover about your ballot?

12. **ACTION STEP:** Make a plan to vote (or help someone make a plan) in the November 3rd General Election using the information at mdc.edu/vote/studentelectionguide/plantovote.

13. How will you vote?
    a. By mail?
    b. In-person through Early Voting?
    c. In-person on Election Day?

14. Where will you vote?
    a. If by mail, will you return it in the mail or drop it off at an Early Voting site?
    b. Early Voting Locations
    c. Find my Polling Place

15. When will you vote?
    a. If voting by mail, the elections department must receive it by 7pm on November 3rd. You can also return it at an Early Voting site between October 19th and November 1st.
    b. Early Voting schedule - hours vary by week, so be sure to check the schedule first
    c. Election Day polling places open from 7am – 7pm

Step 4: Why vote?

1. Watch this short video on the history of voting and answer these questions: What did you learn from this video? What surprised you? How does the information make you feel?

2. Explore the "**Why Vote? Tool"** on the next page and answer the "**YOUR VOTE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES"** questions on page 3.

EXAMPLES OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES



☐ **HOUSING**

Section 8
Public Housing
Homeless Services



☐ **INCOME / SUPPORT**

TANF (Welfare)
Food Stamps
Social Security / SSI
Earned Income Tax Credit



☐ **SAFETY**

Police
Emergency Services



☐ **HEALTHCARE**

Medicaid
Medicare
Disability Services



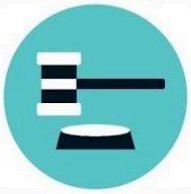
☐ **SCHOOLS**

Free Lunch Program
Special Education
Extracurricular Programs



☐ **JOBS**

Job Training
Unemployment
Internship Programs



☐ **COURTS**

Family
Housing
Small Claims



☐ **ADULT EDUCATION**

GED
Adult Diplomas
Financial Aid
Community Colleges



☐ **CHILDREN**

Head Start
WIC
Child Care Vouchers



☐ **NEIGHBORHOODS**

Street Lights
Parks
Bus / Metro
Roads



WHICH 3 SERVICES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

RQI Right Question Institute

Source: Right Question Institute
www.rightquestion.org

CC BY NC SA

YOUR VOTE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Elected officials make decisions that affect all these services.
It is their job to represent our interests when making these decisions.
By voting, you can have a say in who's making those decisions.

Which three services mentioned in the previous page are most important to you? Why?

Why would YOU want to vote and have a say in who is making decisions about those services?

What questions do you have about being able to vote in the next election?
Ask as many questions as you can. Refer back to these questions as you complete this workbook.