



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
About 66% of eligible voters turned out for the 2020 Presidential election—the highest rate for any national election since 1900.

# Get involved in the election

This is an exciting time to participate in our democracy!

You can make a difference in the upcoming national election—even though you're not old enough to vote. "There are lots of ways for kids to get involved," Andrea Hailey, chief executive officer of Vote.org, told *The Week Junior*. Here are some steps you can take.

### Understand why elections matter

On November 5, Americans will elect the next President as well as thousands of national, state, and local leaders. "The results are going to affect kids' lives, now and later," said Hailey. After the winners take office, they will create and vote on policies in areas ranging from the cost of goods to healthcare, education, and the environment. The more you know about what's at stake, the more you can discuss the issues with family and friends and the more exciting the election will be for you. With an adult, you can research what the Republican and Democratic parties stand for as well as the positions of different candidates.



Help get out the vote!

### Be a vote captain

You can help family members cast their ballots by taking on a special role: vote captain. "A vote captain is a leader who encourages and supports others in their voting

journey," Hailey explained. As vote captain, you can help your family make a voting plan using the form at right. "We know that if people wait until Election Day to decide when they'll vote, something may come up to keep them from participating," said Hailey. So making a plan now can help ensure that everyone exercises their right. You can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older cousins and siblings in your plan too, Hailey said. Also ask if you can join relatives when they vote—research suggests that sharing this experience helps kids form lifelong voting habits themselves.

### Stay positive

One of the best parts of living in a democracy is that everyone is free to express their views. The election provides an opportunity to practice listening to other opinions, being respectful of differences, and stating your own viewpoints clearly and calmly. "The key is to continue using your voice in the way that you best know how," Hailey said.

### Make a pledge

Kids between ages 13 and 17 can pledge now at Vote.org to register to vote when they turn 18. You'll get a text reminder to register on your 18th birthday!

### What is Vote.org?



Vote.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan website with information about voting in all 50 states. Your family can find:

**An easy way to register** Anyone age 18 or older can check to see whether they're registered to vote. If they're not, registering takes two minutes. Deadlines vary by state.

**Important dates** In many states, people can cast ballots during an early voting period before Election Day. Find out what the rules are for your state.

**What's on the ballot** Voters can get a preview of the specific races, candidates, and any special statewide or local issues that will appear on their ballot.

GETTY IMAGES (2); VOTE.ORG



# Make a family voting plan

You can use this form to help make your family's voting plan. After you fill it out, hang it in a prominent place, such as on your refrigerator, so family members can easily see and remember the plan. Mark your family's calendar: Election Day is Tuesday, November 5!

Vote captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Who in our family will be voting? List their names here.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which voting method will each family member use? For instance, will they be casting their ballot by mail? Will they be voting in person?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When will each family member vote? For example, if they are voting by mail, on which day will they mail their ballot? If they are voting in person, are they voting early or on Election Day? Where is their polling place, and when will they go?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Use this space to draw a picture of your family voting.

Blank space for drawing a picture of your family voting.