

Take Action

“Our generation has been labeled the most educated generation in history. That statement doesn’t only refer to our pursuit of advance degrees; it refers to our access to information. We were raised with information at our finger tips and as a result we seek out answers for everything. Our access to information also means we educate ourselves on the issue before voting.”

- Huffington Post, “Think Globally, Vote Locally”

As a millennial, it is important to not only educate yourself but also to take action and vote on the issues you care about. Your voice is louder when you use it in local, midterm, and primary elections.

Sources

“Why the Presidential Primary Elections are So Important” by Robert Longley for aboutnews

“Think Globally, Act Locally” by Kellan White for Huffington Post



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**

For more information, visit
lwv-eastalabama.org
alabamavotes.org

**Your Vote
Matters**

**Why you should vote
more than once every
four years**

Local Voting

Although they don't carry the same hype and media coverage as the general presidential election, other elections such as mid-term, state, and local elections are the best way to enact visible change.

In 2012, over 50% of millennials voted in the general election. We want this percentage to show up at local elections as well.

Some of the issues on millennials' minds are

- ◇ social justice
- ◇ education
- ◇ economy

Your voice can make an impact on issues such as

- ◇ marriage laws
- ◇ public school funding
- ◇ minimum wage

It's also an opportunity to elect public officials including

- ◇ governor of your state
- ◇ mayor of your city
- ◇ city council members
- ◇ school board members

Primary Voting

Primary elections take place months before the general election. Each political party nominates candidates, and voters then choose a ballot with Democrats running against Democrats or Republicans running against Republicans.

In Alabama, the primary is open, which means that you can choose which ballot you want: Democratic or Republican.

A lot of people don't register in time to vote in the primaries, but voting in the primary allows you to

- ◇ learn about all the candidates
- ◇ become familiar with their platforms
- ◇ have another opportunity to use your voice in choosing the leader of our country

In general elections, your vote goes through the Electoral College. However, in the primaries, your vote goes straight to the candidate without a middleman.

Sample primary ballots are available on alabamavotes.gov if you want to familiarize yourself with the positions and process beforehand.

Absentee Voting

Many of us are attending college in a different county than the one in which we are registered to vote. This can make voting difficult if our homes are hours away from our schools.

Fear not! You can obtain an absentee ballot by filling out an application that can be found at www.alabamavotes.gov.

After you complete and return the application, you will receive an absentee ballot in the mail. You have a certain time frame to fill out and mail back the ballot.

Make sure you get two witness signatures on your ballot. These signatures can be from friends or family.

People with physical disabilities, people who work shifts that coincide with voting poll hours, and people serving in the armed forces are also eligible for absentee ballots.

Another great alternative to voting absentee is registering with your new address. That way you can vote at a polling location, as well as vote in local elections for the city or state you currently live in!