

Template: Section Intro



Template: Content slide



Stated objective for fellows

This fellow will help make sure basic election information is kept up to date, including on issues of voting rights, deadlines, how-to content and other voter guide basics. This fellow can also track questions from the public and create roundups to keep readers and viewers informed.



ELECTION



Voter Guides

ELECTION



Voter Guides *that actually guide voters*



HEARKEN

Your public's interest



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Voter Guides in 2020



What Should Be Included in a Voter Guide?

- Different candidates that are running
- Measures on the ballot
- Precinct info - where your precinct is, when it opens, what you should have with you when you go
- The deadline to register for voting
- Alternative ways to vote - vote by mail, voting early
- State/county ID requirements!



What Should Be Included in a Voter Guide?

- **Who** is on the ballot
- **What** you need to know about candidates to cast an informed vote
- **Where** you can vote safely
- **When** important deadlines are
- **Why** this year will be different



Setting Expectations



What Should I Do To Get Started?

- ✓ **Ask** what the goal is for the voter guide (and if there isn't one, work with your newsroom contact to make one)



What Should I Do To Get Started?

- ✓ **Ask** what the goal is for the voter guide (and if there isn't one, work with your newsroom contact to make one)
 - *“help Southern California residents navigate elections and voting through personalized research”*
 - *“help voting be easier than building IKEA furniture”*



What Should I Do To Get Started?

- ✓ Ask what the goal is for the voter guide (and if there isn't one, work with your newsroom contact to make one)
- ✓ **Research** your newsroom's previous voter guides - any changes?



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- ✓ **Set your deadlines** - which components need to be live, when



What Should I Do To Get Started?

- ✓ **Ask** what the goal is for the voter guide (and if there isn't one, work with your newsroom contact to make one)
 - People, tools, time - who will you be working with, on what and how?
- ✓ **Research** your newsroom's previous voter guides - any changes?
- ✓ **Set your deadlines** - which components need to be live, when
- ✓ **Consider your platforms** - how will you reach voters?
- ✓ **Sources** - reach out early (more info to come)



KANSAS VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTING GUIDE

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

- Online: sos.ks.gov/elections/elections.html, if you have a Kansas driver's license
- By mail
 - You can also print the application at the Main Library location of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library at printer.on.net/kckpl/main or through the Johnson County Public Library at <https://www.pageafterpage.org/wireless-printing>
- You can check your voter registration status at myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview/



DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

OCTOBER 13TH

ACCEPTED FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION



- Driver's license or state ID card
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military ID
- Native American tribe ID card
- Government employee badge or ID
- Concealed-carry license
- Public assistance ID card
- Over age 65, you can use an expired ID.
- Student ID from accredited postsecondary education institution in Kansas

No ID? You can apply for a free nondriver identification card here at ksrevenue.org

KANSAS VOTE-B

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

- Online: sos.ks.gov/elections/elections, if you have a Kansas driver's license
- By mail
 - You can also print the application at Library at [printer.net/kckpl/main](https://www.printeron.net/kckpl/main) <https://www.pageafterpage.org/wire>
- You can check your voter registration s

ACCEPTED FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION

- Driver's license or state ID card
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military ID
- Native American tribe ID card
- Government employee badge or ID

No ID? You can apply for a free nondriver's license

KANSAS IN-PERSON VOTING GUIDE



With the COVID-19 pandemic raging on, Election Day may look a lot different this year. Voters wanting to avoid long lines and large crowds on Election Day may want to vote by mail, while other Kansans are still planning on voting in-person on Nov. 3. No matter what your voting plan is for Election Day 2020, this nonpartisan guide is here to help you navigate and understand the state's voting process, protocols, and deadlines so that you can successfully cast your ballot on Nov. 3.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Polling places in Kansas will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- If you are still in line at 7 p.m., you will still be allowed to vote.
- Find your polling place at myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview



HEALTH AND SAFETY



- Did you check all of the options for advance and mail-in voting first? Reducing the amount of contact you have with other people is the best way to stay safe.
- Look at a sample ballot in advance so you can minimize your time at the polling location.
- Check your local county election office.
- Try going during midmorning on Election Day, when the polls aren't as crowded.
- If you have time, wait in your car until the line looks shorter.
- Make sure you wash your hands before going to vote and again when you get home after.
- Bring hand sanitizer with you and use it after touching any surfaces such as door handles and voting machines, or after exchanging materials with a poll worker.
- Wear a cloth face mask.
- Make sure you stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Bring your own black pen or pencil.

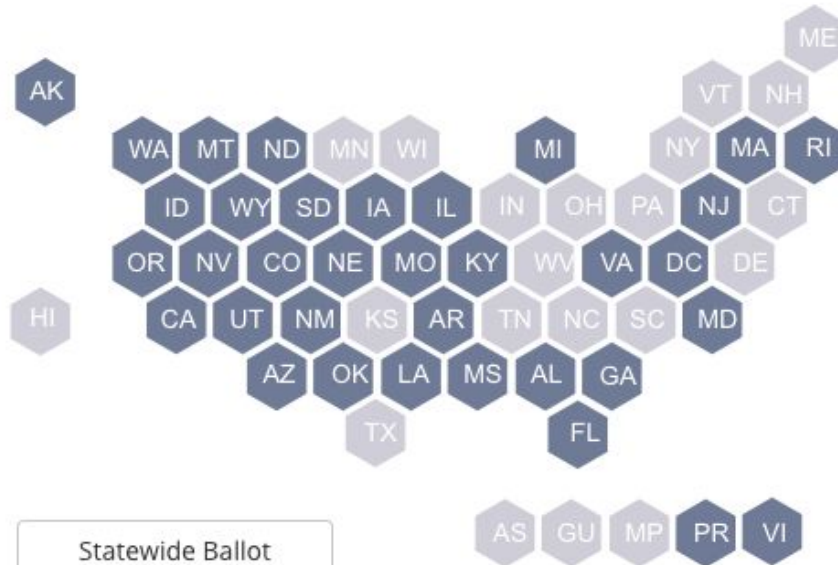
Where to Find Information

- Elections commissions: state and local
 - Reach out to the election administrator for the races you're covering to find out when and how you can best get information
- Source list from your newsroom contacts
- Election Night/Week: Who to contact at election commission for certain issues (IT vs. spokesperson)
- Audience outreach (BT to expand)
- Read local laws/regulations related to elections



Resource: NCSL.org

Ballot Measures



Statewide Ballot
Measures Database 

- States with ballot measures
- N/A

Click on the colored states to learn about the ballot measures pending in this particular state.



Resource: SPJ Journalist's Toolbox



RECENT UPDATES

Journalist's Resource: The Electoral College: How American Voters Pick Their President

U.S. Polling Places Dataset (2012-18)

Built by the Center for Public Integrity.

Presidential Debate History

From the Spokesman-Review



Tips

- Harness the power of the [roundup](#)
- Prioritize speed and clarity
- Regularly ask for feedback
- Objectivity vs. advocacy - where does your newsroom land?



Questions/Comments



Building Your Voter Guide

Mia Sato



What to consider

- Your resources (be realistic!)
- Election landscape + challenges
- What your audience needs
- What you can offer—and how it aligns with your goals



Take One: Illinois Votes (2018)

- Produced by the Better Government Association's civic engagement team (3-4 full-time staff)
- Additional resources/partners
 - Ballot Ready
- Output
 - Website
 - Interactive quiz
 - Hearken widget
 - Email newsletter



Take One: Illinois Votes

- 2018 midterm elections, including contentious gubernatorial race
- We were largely iterating on previous BGA voter guides, which were less actionable and (in my opinion) sort of useless to the average voter 🤨
- We wanted to make the act of voting easier, not clog voters' capacity with boilerplate candidate questionnaires



Take One: Illinois Votes

Your nonpartisan,
one-stop shop for
elections in Illinois.

Produced
by **BGA**

RESEARCH CANDIDATES

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

ASK US A QUESTION

TAKE THE QUIZ

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

SHOP THE VOTE 



Take Two: Chi.Vote (2019)

- Produced by five core newsrooms, plus additional support from five other news outlets and civic organizations
- Audiences were overwhelmed. Biggest hurdle = can't tell candidates apart, much less understand policy differences.
- Solution: A one-stop shop for **everything** they would need:
 - Full-service website (election basics, race-specific research/readings, and make a plan to vote tools)
 - Events (in person and digital)
 - Live election results



Our beautiful, large adult son

CHI.VOTE

Everything you need to vote in Chicago elections

[en Español](#)





Where do I start?

Read through the FAQ

Take the quiz



I'm ready to learn.

Explore the races

Ask us anything



I'm ready to vote!

Get registered

Find your polling place

Archived: March 15, 2019



Our beautiful, large adult son

On housing affordability...

The city's next five-year housing plan calls for Chicago officials to spend \$1.4 billion to build or preserve 40,000 affordable homes during the next ... [read more](#)

Feb 20, 2019

CAASE



**Toni
Preckwinkle**

Lift the ban on
rent control,
amend the city's
Affordable
Requirements
Ordinance, raise
the real estate
transfer tax for
homeless



Feb 20, 2019

CAASE



Willie L. Wilson

Give churches,
community
development
corporations, and
neighborhood
groups to build
affordable
housing



Feb 20, 2019

CAASE



**Susana A.
Mendoza**

Reform the
Affordable
Requirements
Ordinance,
increase low
income housing
tax credits



Feb 20, 2019

CAASE



Amara Enyia

More CHA
oversight, explore

Feb 20, 2019

CAASE



**Neal Sales-
Griffin**

Feb 8, 2019

The Daily Line



David Lightfoot



Useful sources

- <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/election-results.html>
- <https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>
- <https://www.ballotready.org/>
- <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/your-voter-information.html>
- <https://866ourvote.org/state/>
- For the tech folks:
<https://source.opennews.org/articles/chi-vote-guide/>



Lessons + iteration

- Partnerships are really hard and very worth it
- We should try to avoid duplicating work. Look around at other newsrooms—what are they *not* offering that we see a need for?
- Talk to the people who are using your guide
- Don't underestimate the FAQ
- Continuing the work (Lens on Lightfoot)



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Questions/Comments



Questions about Mia's work? Email me!

miarosesato@gmail.com

Questions about your fellowship work?

Email info@electionsos.org

