

INTERVENTIONS FOR THE HOME STRETCH:

What City Leaders Can Still Do to Prepare for Election Day

As election day approaches, city leaders are facing an ever-growing list of needs with less and less time to address them all. We've collected some high-impact, low-cost actions you can take to ensure that voting is accessible, safe, and secure for your residents.



RECRUIT

Create incentives for signing up as a poll worker. Reach out to groups already active in the community, like faith groups, advocacy organizations, unions, and student groups. Share stories from long-standing poll workers in your community. Share the link to [Power the Polls](#) on social media.

» Check out [this guide](#) from the Center for American Progress on Recruiting and Retaining Poll Workers



ISSUE REMINDERS

Advertise election information and reminders of voter registration and absentee ballot deadlines throughout the city, including at bus stops and train stations. Partner with private entities to do the same with employees and customers or consumers.

» Encourage voters to sign up for [vote.org](#) election reminders



USE YOUR MEGAPHONE

Residents are excited to hear directly from their mayors or councilmembers. Engage with your contacts in local television and radio or record a short video to push out information about voting deadlines and recruiting poll workers. Share the story of your first time voting or the story of someone close to you.

» The National Vote at Home Institute has a [comms toolkit](#) to help with messaging and [this guide](#) to storytelling is specific to city leaders



PROMOTE EARLY VOTING... OFTEN

Localities with early voting can participate in Vote Early Day on October 24th. Lead up to the big day with online banners, social media posts with links to more information, and official swag!

» Sign up to get involved (and order swag) at Early Voting Day's [official website](#)



PUBLICIZE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Check whether e-scooter companies like Lime, Bird, or other bike share companies are offering rides for free and what deals [Lyft](#) and [Uber](#) have come up with to reduce transportation costs on election day. Give a shout out on social media.

» Lime's [Roll Call initiative](#) plans to offer free rides to the polls



GET THE WORD OUT

Work with election officials to host virtual walk-throughs of polling places to inform voters of what they can expect if they vote in person during early voting or on Election Day. Hold phone bank sessions to communicate information about ID requirements, early voting and dropbox locations, and procedural changes for voters and poll workers. Direct voters to [vote411.org](#) and [ballotready.org](#) for state-specific information.

» [Ideas42](#) has a list of ideas for ensuring polling places are safeguarded



REACH OUT TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Offer Zoom Q & A sessions for nursing homes and care facilities. Host a virtual town hall dedicated to disability (ADA) access and options. Ask community leaders and poll site coordinators in historically underrepresented and low-income communities what you can do to ensure that no one's needs are overlooked.

» The [Rev Up Campaign](#) aims to protect the voting rights of people with disabilities



EQUIP POLL SITES

Check with election officials about any material needs and coordinate to provide additional supplies, if needed. Make sure poll sites have 6-foot markers to ensure social distancing.

Stop in at local precincts to hand out hand sanitizer to poll workers and reassure voters that you feel safe there.

» [HealthyVoting.org](#) has an extensive resource list



PLAN FOR LONG LINES

Create a plan to ensure city officials are prepared to deliver chairs, water, and umbrellas to voters waiting in long lines during voting periods. Cities can partner with local artists to provide entertainment to encourage people to stay in line at polling places.

» [ElectionTools.org](#) has a voting wait time estimator and simulation tool



BUILD TRUST

Work with election officials and poll site coordinators to clarify who poll watchers are and what they are allowed to do. Ensure that coordinators know how to deescalate tense situations. Make sure voters understand that election results may not be available for days or weeks, and consider live-streaming the ballot counting process. Counter common myths that sow distrust in the system and share the number for the [election protection hotline](#).

» The [NCSL](#) tracks poll watcher requirements by state



KEEP PUSHING FOR CHANGE

Work with election boards, state legislatures, and federal lawmakers on legislation that expands voting access, facilitates the absentee/vote-by-mail request process, and allows more time to count votes. Keep the next election in mind and how you can make it easier.

» Look to NCLC's [list of resources](#) for more information, tools, and organizations working on voting issues