



# WHO CAN VOTE IN THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

## VOTING IN THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS AMERICANS CAN PARTICIPATE IN OUR DEMOCRACY



### BEFORE YOU VOTE – MAKE SURE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE!

Unlawfully voting in an election or claiming to be U.S. citizen, in order to vote, is a violation of federal law punishable by fines and imprisonment. It may also affect your eligibility for certain immigration benefits and lead to removal proceedings. Even if you were inadvertently registered to vote, such as when you renewed your driver's license, you are not eligible to vote unless you meet the requirements described below. If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote, please contact your immigration attorney.

### TO VOTE IN U.S. FEDERAL ELECTIONS, YOU MUST:

- Be a U.S. citizen
  - Through birth in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
  - Through birth overseas to a U.S. citizen parent<sup>2</sup>
  - Through naturalization<sup>3</sup>
  - Lawful permanent residents cannot vote in federal elections, though they may vote in some local elections.
- Meet your state's residency requirements
- Be 18 years of age on or before election day
  - You may be able to register before the election if you will be 18 years old on election day; check your state's requirements here: <https://www.usa.gov/voter-registration-age-requirements>.
- Register to vote by your state's deadline
  - <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>

### SOME STATE LAWS PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING BASED ON:

- Felony convictions
- Mental incapacity

If you have questions about whether you may vote in your state, contact the election officials in the jurisdiction (usually the county) where you wish to register and vote.

### WAYS TO VOTE:

- Vote in person at your designated polling place on Election Day
- Vote early in person at your designated early polling place
- Request a mail-in/ absentee ballot if available and vote by mail

### WHAT OUR OFFICE IS DOING

We are closely monitoring the situation and encourage you to contact our office at [NAME] at [NUMBER] if you believe you may be impacted by this USCIS budget crisis.

<sup>1</sup> To obtain U.S. citizenship through birth in the U.S. you must have been subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. at the time of your birth. If you were born in the U.S. to diplomat parents and have not yet confirmed your citizenship status, consult an immigration attorney.

<sup>2</sup> For children born abroad to U.S. citizen parents, the rules are complex. If you are in this category and have not yet confirmed your citizenship status, consult an immigration attorney.

<sup>3</sup> You must have completed the naturalization process by taking the oath of citizenship prior to the election.

