

# Be Election Ready! Worksheet

A fundamental responsibility of Miami Dade College, and higher education in general, is to prepare students to become responsible, thoughtful, engaged citizens in our democracy. This includes, most importantly, our collective right and duty to register and to vote.

Unfortunately, the United States lags behind most of the world's democracies in voter turnout, and young people and people of color vote at disproportionately lower rates. We also know that the health of our democracy depends on an informed and engaged citizenry, and when we don't vote, our voices aren't heard and our community suffers. Research shows that the best way to ensure we all vote is by educating ourselves on how to vote, making a plan to vote in every election, and creating a culture of voting by sharing this information with family and friends.

If you are not eligible to vote, this information will help you get engaged in your community, not to mention you can help your friends and family prepare to vote. You can help others register to vote; volunteer on a candidate's campaign; educate others about issues you care about; and share your story, your voice matters!

Use [mdc.edu/vote](http://mdc.edu/vote) to find the answers to these questions:

## Step 1: Learn about the General Election

1. Which MDC website has all the information you need related to voting?
  - a. [www.mdc.edu](http://www.mdc.edu)
  - b. [www.mdc.edu/vote](http://www.mdc.edu/vote)
  - c. [www.mdc.edu/iced](http://www.mdc.edu/iced)
2. List at least five things you can do and/or find on this website?
3. When is the next election?

## Step 2: Register to vote or update your voter registration! (or help someone register/update)

4. When is the deadline to register to vote (or update your registration) to be eligible to vote in the upcoming election?
5. **ACTION STEP:** Find out if you are already registered to vote (or help someone check their registration status) by visiting [www.mdc.edu/vote](http://www.mdc.edu/vote) and click "Check Your Voter Registration." Checking your registration status is important because your address must be current and you may need to update your signature or party affiliation.
6. What did you discover about your (or someone else's) registration status?
7. What are the three steps to register to vote on [www.mdc.edu/vote](http://www.mdc.edu/vote)? (hint, click on "Register to Vote" to find the three steps)

### Step 3: Learn about your ballot and make a plan to vote!

8. **ACTION STEP:** If you are eligible to vote, find your [customized sample ballot](#) and download it.
  - a. If you are not eligible to vote, find a [sample ballot](#) and download it. If not yet available, visit [ballotpedia.org/Sample\\_Ballot\\_Lookup](http://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup)
9. What are some of the things on the ballot that we will be voting on?
10. **ACTION STEP:** Visit [votemiami.org/candidate101](http://votemiami.org/candidate101) to research the candidates for the 2020 General Election. Then, visit [votemiami.civicense.com](http://votemiami.civicense.com) and create a sample ballot based on your research. You do not have to be a citizen to create the sample ballot. (These resources can also be found at [mdc.edu/vote/studentelectionguide/decodingtheballot](http://mdc.edu/vote/studentelectionguide/decodingtheballot))
11. What did you discover about your ballot?
12. **ACTION STEP:** Make a plan to vote (or help someone make a plan) in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election using the information at [mdc.edu/vote/studentelectionguide/plantovote](http://mdc.edu/vote/studentelectionguide/plantovote).
13. How will you vote?
  - a. By mail?
  - b. In-person through Early Voting?
  - c. In-person on Election Day?
14. Where will you vote?
  - a. If by mail, will you return it in the mail or drop it off at an Early Voting site?
  - b. [Early Voting Locations](#)
  - c. [Find my Polling Place](#)
15. When will you vote?
  - a. If voting by mail, the elections department must receive it by 7pm on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can also return it at an Early Voting site between October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. [Early Voting schedule](#) - hours vary by week, so be sure to check the schedule first
  - c. Election Day polling places open from 7am – 7pm

### Step 4: Why vote?

1. Watch this [short video on the history of voting](#) and answer these questions: What did you learn from this video? What surprised you? How does the information make you feel?
2. Explore the “**Why Vote? Tool**” on the next page and answer the “**YOUR VOTE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES**” questions on page 3.

# EXAMPLES OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES



**HOUSING**  
Section 8  
Public Housing  
Homeless Services



**INCOME / SUPPORT**  
TANF (Welfare)  
Food Stamps  
Social Security / SSI  
Earned Income Tax Credit



**SAFETY**  
Police  
Emergency Services



**HEALTHCARE**  
Medicaid  
Medicare  
Disability Services



**SCHOOLS**  
Free Lunch Program  
Special Education  
Extracurricular Programs



**JOBS**  
Job Training  
Unemployment  
Internship Programs



**COURTS**  
Family  
Housing  
Small Claims



**ADULT EDUCATION**  
GED  
Adult Diplomas  
Financial Aid  
Community Colleges



**CHILDREN**  
Head Start  
WIC  
Child Care Vouchers



**NEIGHBORHOODS**  
Street Lights  
Parks  
Bus / Metro  
Roads



**WHICH 3 SERVICES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

## YOUR VOTE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Elected officials make **decisions that affect all these services.**

**It is their job to represent our interests when making these decisions.**

**By voting, you can have a say in who's making those decisions.**

**Which three services mentioned in the previous page are most important to you? Why?**

**Why would YOU want to vote and have a say in who is making decisions about those services?**

**What questions do you have about being able to vote in the next election?**

*Ask as many questions as you can. Refer back to these questions as you complete this workbook.*