

ZSS Engaged Buddhism

Resources for Encouraging Voting

1. [Riverside Church](#) lists Actions You Can Take Right Now that Make a Difference
 - a. Make sure that you are registered to vote. To our children and youth, make sure your parents and other adult family members are registered to vote. Check registration status on www.vote.org. Have a plan of action to cast your ballot. If you plan to vote by mail, request and mail your ballot as early as possible.
 - b. You can now request to obtain an absentee ballot in New York State due to COVID-19. NY City residents, go to <https://nycabsentee.com> to apply for an absentee ballot that you can mail in. For other NYS residents, go to www.vote.org. Make sure to check the “Temporary Illness” box for this purpose.
 - c. Encourage your family members and friends in ALL STATES to check their registration status and to have a plan to vote. The best resource for voting information and volunteer opportunities in all states is www.damemagazine.com/2020-voter-info.
 - d. Volunteer with organizations to turn out voters in states where there is under-voting and voter suppression. Click [here](#) for a list of organizations.
 - e. Sign up to be a non-partisan poll monitor at <https://protectthevote.net>. Provide assistance at the polls to help people vote without obstruction or intimidation. The organization 866OURVOTE will provide training for you. If you are an attorney, you can look for other volunteer opportunities at <https://electionprotection.wetheaction.org>.
 - f. Contact your representatives in the State Senate and State Assembly to advocate for drop boxes at <https://letnyvote.org/take-action>.
 - g. In NYC, volunteer to phone bank, text bank, or share on social media to provide voting information at <https://nycvotes.nyccfb.info/volunteer>. There are events at <https://nycvotes.nyccfb.info/events> you may be interested in signing up for.
 - h. Please fill out your Census and urge family and friends to do the same at <https://my2020census.gov> or over the phone toll-free by dialing 844.330.2020 (English) or 844.468.2020 (Spanish).
 - i. Call your U.S. Congressional Representatives to honor the original deadline of October 31 to complete the Census and to extend to the end of the year.
2. [Reclaim our Vote \(ROV\) Campaign](#) has a special focus on getting out the vote among people of color. This campaign is also working with people in swing states who have been removed from voter rolls. To get involved in this, email ROV.manhattan@gmail.com
3. [Let NY Vote of Common Cause NYS](#) is in the process of recruiting, on behalf of Election Protection (Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights), roving poll monitors to cover five locations per person. People who ride bikes and who have cars are needed as volunteers on Election Day.
4. [Voto Latino](#) unites and empowers the Latinx community. You can get [involved](#) with voter registration drives, text banking, and more. [Donate](#) to Voto Latino.

5. The Poor People's Campaign has a M.O.R.E. Campaign that offers training on becoming a [Voter Encouragement Organizer](#) and a [Prophetic Pledge](#).
6. [The Big Send](#) shows how to write voter turnout letters to people in key states.
7. [Call Crew Training](#) offers thorough, manualized guidance on how to interact by phone with undecided or unlikely-to-vote voters, then assign you to shifts and place calls through to you. This appears to be a popular and well-organized way to reach a large number of voters nationally.
8. Stephen Colbert, at [betterknowaballot.com](#), has created a nationwide state-by-state guide on how to register, vote by mail, and vote in person but early, wherever you are. A very helpful and basic resource to know the facts of voting in any part of the country.
9. [Fair Fight 2020](#) promotes fair elections in Georgia (a battleground state) and around the country, encouraging voter participation in elections, and educating voters about elections and their voting rights.
10. The [Progressive Turnout Project](#) offers a program to send voter-encouragement postcards to registered Democrats in swing states. The project sends each volunteer a given quantity of postcards (you choose how many), which you then mail to a list of addresses provided.
11. Faith in Action is a national organization of faith-based community organizers with a strong [Voter Rights Project](#). Faith in Action believes that faith that is confined to a congregation is misdirected and ineffective. We are organizing to expand access to the ballot box for people of color, persons who live in poverty and persons with disabilities. We are presently organizing to topple restrictions to voting for persons with prior felony convictions. In Florida, persons with prior felony convictions are barred from voting for the rest of their lives. This is unjust and it is immoral. We are partnering with Desmond Meade and Florida Second Chances to ensure voting rights restoration for returning citizens. Watch this [short video](#) to learn more.
12. New York has taken a host of measures to make voting safer and easier during the pandemic. For the first time in our state's history, all registered voters can [request an absentee ballot](#) (under the "temporary illness" excuse). If you choose to vote by absentee ballot, then there are several ways to cast your completed, signed ballot.
 - a. Put it in the mail ensuring it receives a postmark no later than November 3
 - b. Drop it off at an Early Voting poll site between October 24 and November 1
 - c. Drop it off at a poll site on November 3 by 9pm
 - d. Drop it off at your county Board of Elections Office from September 8 through no later than November 3 by 9pm. See [List of County Boards of Elections Offices](#)

In addition to absentee voting, New Yorkers can also take advantage of Early Voting. For nine days, from October 24 to November 1, registered voters can cast their vote in-person at an early polling site. Of course, New Yorkers can still vote in-person on Election Day, November 3, as well. Whatever method you choose, make sure your voice is heard. All new voters in New York must register by Oct. 9.

[Learn more about Early Voting and Absentee Voting.](#)