



Let's Host a Voter Preparation Party

As a host, you don't have to be an expert on politics. A voter preparation party is an opportunity for all guests to share information and sources. **Below is a guide to help you organize a successful gathering.**



Plan the Basics

- ✦ Decide on a date, time, and location.
- ✦ Set a group size limit — 6-12 people is ideal for discussion.
- ✦ Send out an invitation via email, text, and/or social media.



Prepare Ahead of Time

✦ For Your Guests:

- ✦ Have each guest bring a sample ballot to your party. Ballots can be downloaded from your secretary of state or county elections office website, or from [Ballotpedia](#).
- ✦ Consider dividing up the subjects on the ballot and assigning each guest to do research in advance and share it at your event. You can share [this collaborative spreadsheet](#) with guests.
- ✦ Suggest your guests look at reputable sources like candidate websites, debate recordings, local news reporting, or [Vote411](#). Your state may also have a voter booklet with candidate statements and information for and against bond proposals, amendments, and other questions on the ballot.

✦ For Yourself:

- ✦ Print a voter notes sheet (page 4) for each guest.
- ✦ Choose activities (pages 5-15) to include in your event, and decide how long it will last. You might not get to everything on the ballot, and that's OK! Remember that everyone is there to learn together.

Example Invitation Script

Subject: Join Me for a Voter Preparation Party!

I'm hosting a casual gathering to discuss who and what will be on our upcoming ballot and to discover different ways we can become more civically engaged! We will make sure everyone is properly registered and confidently prepared to vote. I'd love for you to come!

 *Date: [Insert Date]*

 *Time: [Insert Time]*

 *Location: [Insert Address]*

Drop by for a few minutes, or stay the whole time. We'll have games and great conversation!

Let me know if you can make it!

On the Day of the Event



Welcome

- ♦ Set a tone of mutual respect and curiosity. Here are some suggested ground rules:
 - ♦ Guests at this event may have many different viewpoints. Remain curious and open-minded, even when you disagree.
 - ♦ Allow all guests to have a turn to speak, if they wish. Avoid interrupting others or monopolizing the time.
 - ♦ Remember that everyone is here to learn and have a good time. Work together, learn something new, and have fun.



Discussion

- ♦ You can use these questions to begin a discussion about candidates and issues on the ballot. Start at the top, or jump to issues important to the group.
 - ♦ What problems are most critical for our county/city/town to fix now?
 - ♦ What policies have the potential to do the most good?
 - ♦ Will my vote harm others or leave them behind?
 - ♦ What character traits do I want our community to be known for and our leaders to emulate?



Follow-Up

- ♦ **Please take this [brief survey](#)** (estimated time to complete is two minutes). We value your feedback! Help us create more useful resources for you by sharing your experience with us.

Need Help?

Questions while preparing?

Email us at communities@mweg.org — we're happy to chat!



Helpful Tips

- ♦ Local races usually don't get as much participation and interest as state and federal elections, but they have important impacts on our everyday lives. A voter prep party is an opportunity to learn how local government affects everyone.
- ♦ You can use the accompanying [voter prep party slideshow](#) to help you guide the discussion. Make a copy of the slideshow onto your own drive to edit it. Take a few minutes before the party to personalize the slideshow for your needs.
- ♦ Add some fun refreshments and activities to help people mingle and set a cooperative and peaceful tone for your party.



FAQs

♦ *Who should I invite?*

Anyone who is interested in being more prepared to vote! You might want to include people who have not previously been as active in civic life, such as young adults, people who are very busy, parents of young children, or new citizens.

♦ *I'm nervous that it won't be a very peaceful event. How can I make sure we have a peaceful discussion?*

Read the suggested ground rules aloud at the beginning of the party. In small in-person meetings, people are very likely to treat each other much more civilly than they do online.

♦ *How can I get the conversation back on track if it becomes heated or gets off topic?*

Try one of these phrases:

"I love your passion, and I'd love to hear more about how this became such an important issue to you after the party. We have limited time tonight, so let's move on to the next issue."

"Thanks for sharing that. It is clear that's really important to you. I imagine we have a lot of different viewpoints represented in this room."

"Time out [accompanied by the "time out" signal from sports]! Let's get back on track! What's next on the ballot?"

Voter Notes

Be prepared to vote in the general election!

Ground Rules

- ◆ Guests at this event may have many different viewpoints. Remain curious and open-minded, even when you disagree.
- ◆ Allow all guests to have their turn to speak, if they wish. Avoid interrupting others or monopolizing the time.
- ◆ Remember that everyone is here to learn and have a good time. Work together, learn something new, and have fun.

Consider These Questions

- ◆ What problems are most critical for our county/city/town to fix now?
- ◆ What policies have the potential to do the most good?
- ◆ Will my vote harm others or leave them behind?
- ◆ What character traits do I want our community to be known for and our leaders to emulate?

Thank You For Participating!

Scan the QR code to complete our guest survey.

Be sure to share your experience online and encourage others to get ready to vote! Tag us at @mormonweg.



VOTER PREP *Bingo!*

It's bingo for your ballot! Get five in a row for bingo or, better yet, try for a blackout to earn "principled voter" status.

Enjoy a little competition? Send each of your voter prep party guests home with a copy, and award the fastest friend with a prize!

Decide what day you'll vote, and add it to your calendar	Help a friend make their voting plan (and offer childcare if they need it to vote)	Print out a sample ballot from your state's voting website	Discuss with a friend how you plan to vote in the upcoming election	Make phone calls or write postcards for a candidate you believe in
Text someone who doesn't drive, and offer a ride to the polls	Knock doors with a campaign you believe in	Visit a candidate's website	Read the pros and cons for any measures or amendments that will appear on your ballot	Follow two reliable local news sources
Fact check a political headline before sharing it	Host or attend a voter prep party	FREE	Post your "I Voted" sticker selfie on social media	Write down your vision for your town, county, state, or country
Share your favorite post from the VOTE highlight @mormonweg on Instagram	Research a local race, and share what you learn with a friend	Play a game from the voter prep party package	Follow a local candidate on social media	Pledge to be a "golden rule" voter — keep others' needs in mind as you vote
Meet a candidate on your ballot	Double check your voter registration	Watch a candidate debate or forum	Put up a yard or window sign supporting a candidate or issue	Ask a friend what experiences led them to their perspective on an issue



Add this element to any event you're already throwing to get your party guests talking about what matters — in a fun way! Throughout the party, guests can vote for the candidate quality that is most important to them — make it a competition and see how many people you can convince to vote your way.

Materials

- Bowl of small wrapped candies
- 4 mason jars or small bowls or cups
- “The Very Best” sign

Instructions

1. Write candidate qualities on four small pieces of paper. Some suggestions: trustworthy, belongs to my political party, good debater, really smart, empathetic, funny, supports policies I love, etc. Attach each paper to an empty mason jar.
2. Print the “The Very Best” sign below (card stock recommended) and place it by the jars.
3. Party guests vote for the candidate quality that is most important to them by putting a candy into the corresponding jar.
4. At the end of the night, tally up the results, remind everyone to vote in their upcoming local election, and send the candy-filled mason jars home with your guests as prizes.



(Vote here!)

**The Very Best
Candidates...**



**The Very Best
Candidates...**

(Vote here!)



VOTER PREP Mocktails!

Just say, “Hey!” For this game, you’ll need a fun drink to sip or a little treat (like mini marshmallows). Every time someone says a certain word (like freedom, transparency, rights — you decide!), everyone says, “Hey!” and takes a swig of their drink or eats a treat. This one will keep you on your toes!



Just Peachy GovernMINT Julep

Put all your guests at ease with this refreshing mocktail twist!

SERVES 4

Ingredients

- 8 slices fresh (or frozen and thawed) peaches
- 12 fresh mint leaves, plus more for garnish
- 4 cups crushed or pebble ice
- 1 cup simple syrup
- 1 cup sparkling water (try your favorite flavor!)
- Lime wedges

Instructions

1. Muddle mint leaves and peaches together well and divide into glasses.
2. Add 1 cup ice, then ½ cup sparkling water into each glass.
3. Top each with a splash of simple syrup (to taste) and a lime wedge.
4. Enjoy!

Berry NonpartiSangria Mocktail

Bringing together red and blue for this sweet take on nonpartisanship!

SERVES 4



Ingredients

- 2 cups pomegranate juice
- 1 cup sparkling water
- 1 cup cranberry juice
- 1 1/3 cups blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- Crushed or pebble ice
- Pineapple slices for garnish

Instructions

1. Combine the juices and sparkling water.
2. Divide the blueberries into glasses.
3. Add ice, then juice mixture, and top with pineapple slices.
4. Enjoy!



Maybe you're not ready to invite friends over for a full night of talking politics — that's OK! Add this fun trivia game (à la Wits and Wagers) to your next game night, and you'll have the perfect opening to bring up a local candidate, issue, or principle that you support.

Game Instructions

For this trivia game, everyone writes their answer on a piece of paper and then reveals it at the same time. Answers are then put in numerical order, and everyone bets on which answer is closest to the actual answer without going over. You earn points for writing the correct response as well as betting on the right one. On the last question, you can wager the points you've earned to win it big!

Print Instructions

You can print these questions as a master list or as individual cards with a trivia question on the front and the answer plus an additional discussion question on the back.

To print the master list, print pages 10-11 as either single- or double-sided pages.

To print the trivia cards, print pages 12-15 as double-sided pages and cut out each card to read to your guests. If you would like to print additional blank cards for your guests to write their answers on with only the trivia questions on the front, print pages 12 and 14 as single-sided pages in whatever quantity you need.

Q1

How many people voted in the 2024 presidential election?

154 million people, which is just over 65% of citizens within voting age. That's roughly the same number of hotdogs Americans consume each Fourth of July! (Sources: *census.gov* and *history.com*)

Are you voting by mail or in person?

Q2

Of the many letters Abigail Adams and her husband, President John Adams, wrote to each other, how many do we still have today archived with the Massachusetts Historical Society?

1,160 letters, which begin with their courtship in 1762 and continue throughout his political career, ending in 1801. She famously asked him to "remember the ladies" when writing the Declaration of Independence. (Source: *masshist.org*)

When was the last time you hand wrote and mailed a letter?

Q3

In what year did the U.S. first start experimenting with absentee (or not in person) voting on a large scale?

1864, during the Civil War, though there are records of scattered absentee voting pre-Revolutionary War! As early as the 17th century, men could vote from home if their homes were "vulnerable to attack." (Source: "*The Right to Vote*" by Alex Keyssar)

What are some reasons to vote absentee in your state?

Q4

Tennessee was the last state to ratify the 19th amendment before it could become law, granting women the right to vote. What number state was it?

36. Three-fourths of the states have to ratify an amendment before it can become law, and in 1920, there were 48 states. The Tennessee House finally ratified it by one vote, after 24-year old Rep. Harry T. Burn received a letter from his mother reminding him to "vote for suffrage" and "be a good boy" and changed his previous *nay* vote to *yay*. (Source: *history.com*)

What's the best (or funniest) advice your parents ever gave you?

Q5

Astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore voted in 2024 from space after being stranded at the International Space Station. How many miles above the earth's surface is this space "polling" station?

250 miles. Believe it or not, some voters travel farther round trip than that to cast their ballots in person, like voters who live in the Duckwater Reservation in Nevada — their nearest polling station is 140 miles away! (Sources: [nasa.gov](https://www.nasa.gov) and [lwv.org](https://www.lwv.org))

Where is your polling place?

Q6

Victoria Woodhull was the first woman to formally run for president. How old was she when she ran?

33 years old. Despite not meeting the Constitution's age requirement for president, the Equal Rights Party nominated her in 1872 on a platform of women's suffrage, monopoly regulation, an eight-hour workday, and welfare for the poor.

What would be your top issue if you were president?

Q7

Election cake is a 250-year-old tradition in New England states. But in 2020, it was pizza, not cake, that voters were eating. By what percent did margherita flatbread sales increase on DoorDash on election night that year?

825%. Alcohol and weed sales were also up on that nail-biting night. (Source: [vox.com](https://www.vox.com))

What's your favorite comfort food?

Q8

In what year did a first lady wear pants at a formal event for the first time?

1933. Eleanor Roosevelt wore riding trousers to the White House Easter Egg Roll after going for an early morning ride. (Source: [firstladies.org](https://www.firstladies.org))

What are your favorite fashion trends?

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ANSWER 1

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ANSWER 2

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ANSWER 4

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ANSWER 5

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