



WHY DO I NEED TO MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE?

To Ensure Your Vote Counts. To Raise Up Future Generations.

Thank you for taking a moment to review this document and to consider why you need a plan to vote. You may ask: “Why Do I Need This Document If I Know I plan to vote”? Two reasons immediately come to mind. First, life happens and although we sometimes have good intentions to get something done, we don’t do it if we don’t plan for it and then leave it to the last possible moment. Second, by making a plan, we can bring others into this moment with us.

When you think about one of the most important moments in your life, you will realize that you planned for it – whether it was your high school, college, or graduate school graduation, your bridal shower, your wedding, your baby shower, your child’s baptism, your child’s milestone birthday, your parent’s homegoing celebration, or your family reunion. You did not leave these moments to chance, you selected a date and time in advance for them to happen, and then you made a plan to bring your vision for those momentous occasion into existence. **Voting for the 2024 election should be treated with the same care and planning.**

First, the 2024 election is a historic election. Regardless of who you choose to vote for – for the first time in our country’s history – every American will have the option of voting for a woman of African-American and Asian descent to serve as president of the United States. That alone will bring many more people to the polls than usual. In this historic moment – regardless of who you plan to vote for – you should prepare for long lines if you plan to vote on Election Day. In addition, if you wait until Election Day to vote, you run the risk that your vote will **not** count if you vote at the wrong place or if you discover only on that day that your voter registration is not active. That is why the Ben Hill United Methodist Church Legal Ministry encourages you to make a plan to **vote early**, or to make a concrete plan to vote on November 5th if you do intentionally decide to vote on Election Day.

Second, making a plan to vote gives adults an opportunity to pass on family and community history and values to future generations. If you make a plan to vote, you can also make your voting experience a family affair by voting with your spouse, parent, adult children or grandchildren and/or other family members – if you live in the same county. If you have family members under 18 years of age, it is a wonderful occasion to “train up a child in the way he should go” and take that young child with you to the polls and to pass on historical information about the struggle to obtain voting rights and the importance of exercising the privilege to vote as you wait in line to vote.

Our Bible tells us: *“Write the vision; make it plain. . . .”* Pray and ask for God’s guidance and ask him to guide you as you use this

document to consider your plan to vote in the November 5, 2024, election. May God continue to bless you and your family, the Ben Hill United Methodist Church, the universal church and our country.

I plan to register to vote by Oct. 7 and/or check my voter registration status every 1 – 2 weeks until I vote at

My Voter Page: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>

I plan to vote (Choose the option that works best for you and follow the guide below to help you with that choice):

- 1) By Mail
- 2) Unsure if By Mail or In Person (use options 1 and 3 or 4)
- 3) In Person (Early) – STRONGLY ENCOURAGED; or
- 4) In Person on Election Day – Make this your plan of last resort and try to Vote Early

Mail and In person – REVIEW YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT

I will obtain and review my **SAMPLE BALLOT** beginning September 23 and no later than _____ (the day I select to Vote).

1) Mail

- I will complete my absentee ballot application on _____ [insert date] (suggest no later than Sept. 30).
- I will submit my absentee ballot application by: email, fax, online at My Voter Page and keep confirmation of the sent email, sent fax, or take photos of my online

application on _____ [insert date] (suggest no later than Sept. 30)

___ I will begin checking **My Voter Page** for my absentee ballot on **October 7** until I vote on or before October 27, 2024.

___ I will VOTE, complete, and sign my absentee ballot on or before **October 27, 2024**. I will include the proper **free Voter ID in the outer envelope** if instructed to do so in the package.

___ **I will return my absentee ballot between October 15, 2024 – October 27, 2024:**

___ Via a Drop Box Location on _____ [insert date] (and take a photo of my doing so on my telephone). **If I have someone else return my ballot for me**, I will confirm the person is eligible to do so and that the person returning the absentee ballot has completed the proper certification; or

___ Via U.S. Mail on _____ [insert date] (preferably via **U.S. Certified Mail** so you can track your ballot's progress through the U.S. Mail and receipt by your county election officials)

___ I will visit **My Voter Page** EVERY DAY until I see that my ballot has been received by election officials.

3) In Person – Early Voting

___ I plan to vote **EARLY IN PERSON** between **October 15, 2024, - October 27, 2024** on _____ (date) at _____ a.m./p.m. (time).

(Treat your privilege to vote with the same care and planning as you would treat your wedding day, your bridal shower, your baby shower, your HS, College or Graduate School Graduation, your child's birthday, your parent's homegoing celebration. You select A DATE AND A TIME and then you plan for this special event. **Voting for the 2024 election should be treated with the same care and planning.**)

___ **When I go to vote, I plan to take with me:** My child(ren), my grandchild(ren), my parent(s), my spouse, my church member, my girlfriends or my fellas, or my other loved ones or friends: _____ (Just as we celebrate special occasions by inviting others, let's invite others to join with us in voting).

___ I applied for and received an absentee ballot by mail, so I will take it to the polls with me and have the election officials to cancel it because I now want to vote in person; **OR**

___ I applied for an absentee ballot, but I have not yet received my absentee ballot, so I will complete an affidavit to ask election officials to cancel it my absentee ballot because I now want to vote in person.

___ I did not submit an absentee ballot application by mail, so I will complete it at an Advanced Voting Polling Location.

___ I plan to vote at:

Visit My Voter Page to locate the Advanced Voting Location in your county here or visit here and look for information for the Nov. 5th election when it becomes available:

<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/advanced-voting-location-information>

___ I plan to take the proper **Voter ID** with me to the polls.

See <https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-voter-identification-requirements>

___ If I do not currently have the proper **Voter ID** in my possession, I will make arrangements to obtain my **free Voter ID** on or before October 15, 2024. See <https://tinyurl.com/3zhtjbf2> (scroll down)

___ I plan to put **My Sample Ballot** with my keys so I don't forget my Sample Ballot and so I can ensure I receive the correct ballot at my polling location.

___ I will take any food or snacks, water, **medications**, folding chair, reading materials, games or anything else I may need in case there are long lines at my polling place.

___ BEFORE I leave the polling location parking lot, I will visit **My Voter Page** to confirm my ballot was received.

___ After I vote, I will Post or Wear My Peach to encourage others to Vote.

4) In Person Voting On Election Day (Make this your plan of last resort).

___ On or before October 21, 2024, I plan to make arrangements with my employer for 2 hours off to vote. I understand my employer must give me time off to vote, but may require that my leave be unpaid or that I use my paid time off. My employer can select the times I may be absent. See, e. g. <https://www.franklincountyga.gov/elections-registration/fag/my-employer-required-grant-me-time-vote>. See also

___ I plan to vote on November 5, 2024 at _____ a.m./p.m. (time)

___ I plan to visit My Voter Page to **confirm my polling location** on November 4, 2024, before I go to sleep for the evening. I plan to vote at:

_____. I understand I MUST vote at my polling location on November 5, 2024, for my vote to count.

___ I plan to take the proper Voter ID with me to the polls. See <https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-voter-identification-requirements>

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This NON-PARTISAN voting information was obtained from the Georgia Secretary of State's website, unless otherwise noted.

For Information About Obtaining a Free Georgia Voter ID, if needed or to confirm the ID you need to vote in Georgia, visit Georgia's

<https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-voter-identification-requirements>

For more detailed information about voting in person or by mail, visit Georgia's:

My Voter Page: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>

Do you have a voting plan?

Do you have questions about absentee voting?

Have you checked your My Voter Page lately?

Thursday, Oct. 10 | 6-9pm In-person
 Ben Hill UMC | 2099 Fairburn Rd, ATL-GA 30331

NONPARTISAN
VOTER EDUCATION
101 FORUM

BEN HILL
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

f LIVE benhillumc.org



SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, Oct. 27, "Ben Hill to the Polls Day"

We will gather our family and friends after service and vote IN-PERSON as a church family for counties that offer Sunday voting (see report above.) Our goal is to have 100% of our church community to vote on or before 10-27-24.

QUESTIONS: Contact wherevertheyare@benhillumc.org



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 Legal Ministry
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