



Join United Way of Dane County in Celebrating #VoteEarlyDay! Saturday, October 23

Last month, we celebrated National Voter Registration Day by partnering with the City of Madison Clerk's Office as a voter registration site. The City Clerk's Office and their community partners' efforts helped to register 175 people that day but the work doesn't end there. We are excited to continue our support of civic engagement efforts and honor national #VoteEarlyDay!

For nearly 100 years, United Way of Dane County has been working to bring together people from all different backgrounds to solve our community's toughest issues. From affordable housing to health care coverage to early childhood development, we advocate for and raise awareness of many different issues that make positive community change. We know that solving the education, economic, health and social issues in the communities that we live, work, grow and age starts with ensuring our communities can exercise their right to vote. **That is why civic engagement is at the heart of what we do.**

#VoteEarlyDay is a nationwide movement to help all eligible voters learn about and understand all their options for voting early in the next election (*especially when all the voting early rules for casting a ballot by mail or absentee can cause confusion*). Voting is one of the most critical tools and important civic rights we have to make a direct impact in our communities. **At United Way of Dane County, we believe that every person in our community has the right to vote and should be able to do so easily.** Our community becomes stronger and

more resilient when more of our community members are participating in elections (*at every level of government*) and voting on issues and policy decisions that they care about and that affect their daily lives. Your vote and your voice matters!

Yet, access to voting and voter education has become increasingly difficult and has heightened low trust in our government. This can result in low voting participation, especially for local elections. In Wisconsin, more than 27% of the eligible voting-age population did not vote in the 2020 Presidential Election.



Furthermore, our democracy has historically disenfranchised Black, Indigenous, Latinex, Southeast Asian and other community members of color. When people most directly impacted are not engaged in or represented at political decision-making tables, policies are less likely to reflect the needs of their lived experiences. We must therefore work to build the political power and representation of marginalized individuals and communities that have been significantly underrepresented in our political systems.

We are further committed to working in collaboration with our community and local government partners to encourage active and informed civic participation by promoting voter education and sharing voting information, engaging and generating conversations about the importance of voting and supporting civic engagement efforts across our community.



On this #VoteEarly day, make sure you and your friends and family network are #VoteReady and prepared to cast a ballot in the next election by:

- ✓ Registering to vote or checking your voter registration
- ✓ Checking your polling location and election voting deadlines
- ✓ Understanding what will be on your ballot
- ✓ Knowing all the different ways to cast your vote (*and by when*)
- ✓ Making your plan to vote!

Today is a great opportunity to make sure you are vote ready come the next election cycle! A terrific place to start is by visiting <https://myvote.wi.gov>.

When we vote, we are taking an active role in deciding how issues affecting our everyday lives will be addressed. Plus, when you vote early, you make sure your vote is counted and you help shorten voter lines at polling places for other voters on election day! **#VoteEarlyDay is an excellent reminder of our collective opportunity to shape the future of our communities for ourselves, our families and future generations.**

