

WIZARD ROCK THE VOTE – GET INVOLVED!

As we get closer to the elections, there are tons of ways you can get involved with Wizard Rock the Vote! Whether you are an individual member or a chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance, the following actions can have an impact on your community and the election itself. Although this information is specific to the United States, many of these suggestions can be used for elections worldwide. We have also included a supplement for Canadian voters and chapters.

There are a lot of ideas on this sheet. Please know that you don't have to do everything to be involved! Every person and every community is different, and different actions work for different people. Do what you feel passionate about. Hold events that get you excited! The energy that comes out of those programs will help make a difference in the world.

1) Keep on Registering Voters!

Find out the registration laws in your area:

Different states have different rules in terms of how far in advance you have to register for any given election. Know the rules for your area! The more informed you are about the way elections run in your local community, the more you can help others learn how to vote – and help them get to the polls.

- ⚡ **Daily Kos** has a comprehensive list of the registration and election rules for each state:
<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/9/17/94016/0264/300/591612>
- ⚡ You can also search for your state at **Vote 411**:
<http://www.vote411.org/bytopic.php?topicID=21>

Both of these sites also reference a lot of information talked about later in this guide.

Keep registering people as long as you can!



You can register people to vote one of two ways:

- 1) **Go Online** – Use the link on the Harry Potter Alliance main page and register voters right from your computer!
- 2) **Paper forms** – check your local library for blank voter registration forms.

No matter what type of registration you use, don't be afraid to approach people and ask them directly if they're registered to vote. Set up in a cafeteria, classroom, workplace, living room, local park, chapter meeting, etc. – and encourage people to register! If you can, shout out loud – do whatever you can do to get people's attention and let them know what you're doing.

Even if you don't register that many voters, you've still done a very important thing – you reminded people that there is an election coming up, and they should care about it. They will remember that recognition, and it will help impact their future actions.

Some Tips on Filling Out Paper Registration Forms

The voter registration form is split into 2 sections. The only part we are worried about is the top part with boxes 1-9, not a-d. At the very top left of the form there are two boxes that will need to be check marked for the forms to be valid. These boxes basically say that the person is a citizen of the US and will be 18 by the time of the election.

Box 1: Name - no nicknames or initials

Box 2: Home address - no P.O. Box and not a mailing address that is different from where they live. They must be a resident at this address for at least 30 days before the election.

Box 3: Mailing address - if it is different than their home address they can put it here.

Box 4: Date of birth - Month, Day, Year

Box 5: Phone number - does not have to be filled out

Box 6: ID Number- full MA drivers license number OR the last four digits of their social if they don't have a drivers license

Box 7: Choice of Party - does not have to be filled out

Box 8: Race or Ethnic Group - leave blank

Box 9: Signature - by signing this form they are stating that they are a citizen of the US and a legal resident of whatever state they put on this form; that they will be 18 by the election; that they are not serving a sentence for a felony; and that they have not been determined to be mentally incompetent.

2) Remind People to Vote!

Once people are registered, it's important that they remember when and how to vote.

Where and when can you vote? Check the local polls and see when they will be open on Election Day. Set off time in your schedule to go vote. This way, you're less likely to forget or run out of time.

Then, pass this information along to your friends, family, classmates, coworkers, etc. Let them know that you have already made time in your schedule to vote and they should do so, too!

What about early voting? If you live in one of the following states, you may be able to vote before Election Day. Find out the local information and let people know that they have a larger window of time to vote.

Where Can I Vote Early?				
Alaska	Florida	Kansas	North Carolina	Utah
Arizona	Georgia	Maine	North Dakota	Vermont
Arkansas	Hawaii	Nebraska	Oklahoma	West Virginia
California	Indiana	Nevada	Tennessee	
Colorado	Iowa	New Mexico	Texas	

What to bring – Remind people about what they should bring to the polls. Some states require a photo ID, and if there are any problems with your name on the voter registration list, having proof of age and residence will help smooth things out. Voter registration cards are also important.

Absentee Voting – Encourage voters registered in other areas to get their absentee ballots early! This is especially important on college campuses, since many voters are registered in outside districts. You can also encourage people to re-register in the district they’re currently living in – which also makes voting day easier, since the polls are in more convenient locations.

Plan a Wizard Rock the Vote concert OR incorporate Wizard Rock the Vote into a concert coming up in your area – These concerts don’t have to be all about registering voters. You can also use them as a way to publicize the election itself! Concerts are a great place to share the information you know about local elections. Also, since most of the people will either be local or from around the same state, you have a chance to give individuals information that’s specialized just for them.

Contact the band or the location directly and find out what you can do during your concert. Be creative!

Write newsletters, make fliers, create videos, and use your amazing publicity skills to remind your community to vote – Treat this concert like a chapter program or event. The more people know about it, the more likely they are to attend – so make it a goal to publicize this election as much as you can! Check out the [Chapter Charm Publicity Guide](#) for more ideas.

3) Getting Involved – Without Voting!

There are numerous ways to have a voice in this election, even if you are too young to vote in this election. Here are just a few ideas:

Get Educated!

- ✂ **Hold a party to watch the debates** - Find out where the candidates stand on different issues by watching the Presidential debates on September 26th, October 2nd (vice presidential debate), October 7th, and October 15th. Have food, play games, and encourage people to watch the candidates and try and figure out where they stand on different issues. If you are unable to watch them when they are broadcast, feel free to look them up on YouTube or news sites in the days following the debates.
- ✂ **Don't limit yourself to the national elections!** State and local elections will also be going on – and these politicians often have a more direct impact on our lives than national leaders. Read local newspapers and watch local news, check out the candidates' websites and platforms and see how what they are saying could affect your future.
- ✂ **Incorporate Chapter Goals** – Does your chapter care about the environment? Education and Literacy? Darfur? Find out where the candidates stand on each of these issues.

Take Action!

- ✂ **Use my2centsforchange.org to send messages to the presidential candidates** – Just because you're not old enough to vote doesn't mean you don't have a voice. This site is directed at 13-17 year olds who have opinions about the world and want to share them.
- ✂ **Hold your own debate about the media** – Start a conversation about whether or not you think the media is accurately portraying individuals. It can be with a group of people or just between you and a friend.
- ✂ **Take Action for Darfur** – Find out how your local representatives measure up by visiting <http://www.darfurscores.org/>.

Write letters to the Presidential Debate moderators and encourage them to ask the candidates questions about Darfur! Get more information on how to do this over at the [STAND Blog](#).

REMEMBER :

The Harry Potter Alliance is nonpartisan, which means we do not support individual candidates. However, we invite you to learn as much about every candidate as you can.

Canadian Supplement

<http://www.elections.ca/home.asp>

Debates: French – October 1st; English – October 2nd

Election day: October 14th (the day after Thanksgiving)

Early voting: October 3, 4, & 6

Mail-in ballots (“special ballots”):

<http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=ins&dir=svr&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false>

Voter ID is required! Read more here:

<http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=ele&dir=ids&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false>

Special information for students:

http://www.elections.ca/content_youth.asp?section=yth&dir=bas/faq&document=faq40ge&lang=e#5

Elections Canada answers many common questions:

http://www.elections.ca/content_youth.asp?section=yth&dir=bas/faq&document=faq40ge&lang=e

Registration information: If you aren't already registered, you can register at the polling station on Election Day or in advance. Check your local returning office to see if you are on the list or not if you aren't sure. If you have moved recently, they will need your updated address.