



YOUR VOTE MATTERS: ELEPHANT'S 31-DAY VOTING GUIDE

01



THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 VOTING RIGHTS.

Exercising our voting rights in any election is important—but we also need to be aware that how we vote can influence [our voting rights](#). And 2020 is no exception. The United States has a way to go before becoming a truly democratic society. One of the barriers to that is voting laws. Vote in 2020, so that you and others can have fair, equal, and democratic voting rights in the future.

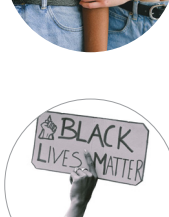
02



FRIDAY OCTOBER 2 REGISTER TO VOTE (IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY).

Everyone should double check to make sure they're registered in their state. If you're not, it's not too late! All states allow you to register as late as October, and some states allow registration all the way up until election day. Find out your state's deadline and [get registered ASAP](#).

03



SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 DECENCY & EMPATHY.

The POTUS acts as more than just a policy creator or decision maker. They also act as an example of how we as Americans treat each other and behave. They can serve as a moral compass. They show the rest of the world what our American values are. If you believe that the United States should represent decency, empathy, and kindness toward one another, elect someone who will uphold that.

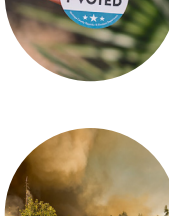
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SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 BLACK LIVES MATTER.

If we need to live in a country that acknowledges—and practices—the fact that [Black Lives Matter](#), we need a government and a leader who that is anti-racist, who that implements policy to combat systemic racism, and that is willing to reform the criminal justice system. Is voting the only thing we can or should do to build an anti-racist society? Nope. But it is a necessary step.

05



MONDAY OCTOBER 5 EARLY VOTING.

If your state offers early voting, take advantage of it. We love early voting, because it helps increase overall voter turnout and decrease poll congestion on Election Day. This is particularly essential this year, with the country in the middle of a pandemic and the chaos happening with the USPS. For more info on early voting, check out [this website](#).

06



TUESDAY OCTOBER 6 WILDFIRES.

The west coast had a [historically bad fire season](#) this year. Wildfires ravaged millions of acres, whole towns, and countless homes, and killed at least 14 people. This isn't a fluke or a one-time thing. It's our new normal. And it will only get worse—unless we take action and make sure that the people in power believe in climate change and genuinely give a damn about protecting the planet.

07



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7 EDUCATE YOURSELF (& OTHERS!)

Often times, those who are disinterested or hesitant to vote just don't know enough about what's at stake and why elections should matter to them. We can all benefit from educating ourselves and those around us about the issues that will be impacted by this election and how the different candidates will actually have an influence on our world. Knowledge really is power.

08



THURSDAY OCTOBER 8 RUTH BADER GINSBURG.

We need to do the notorious feminist icon's legacy proud by fighting for the things we care about. And, with her passing, her [vacant Supreme Court seat](#) is hugely consequential. If we care about Roe v. Wade, health care, climate change, or anything else the highest court influences, we need to fight for it—just like RBG would have.

09



FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 CLIMATE CHANGE.

The science is in—and has been in for quite some time. Climate change is happening, and we as humans are contributing to it. This will be one of the single most long-lasting consequences of the 2020 election. It will be one of the biggest parts of the legacy that we leave. Let's save our planet—and protect the futures of the generations to come. V-O-T-E.

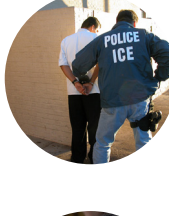
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 MAKE PHONE CALLS (OR SEND TEXTS!)

Aside from voting, making phone calls or sending texts to potential voters is a great way to contribute. You can reach out to ask people to vote at all, or you can encourage people to vote for your preferred candidate(s). Nonprofits like [Vote Save America](#) and [Indivisible](#) have enthusiastic volunteers making calls throughout the country. Make a virtual date with friends or family and get calling!

11



SUNDAY OCTOBER 11 IMMIGRATION.

Our ideas of ideal immigration policy may be diverse, but we can (or should) all agree that caging children at our southern borders is just not okay. We should never tolerate xenophobia, racism, or discrimination against immigrants. And we should never elect leaders who do.

12



MONDAY OCTOBER 12 HEALTH CARE.

The [Affordable Care Act](#) is on the line in 2020. That means tens of millions of Americans' health coverage is on the line. The implications of a potential overturn of the ACA would be enormous. If we didn't already know it, this pandemic has taught us that health care and coverage for pre-existing conditions are vitally important. Luckily, we can do something about it in November.

13



TUESDAY OCTOBER 13 POST, TWEET, COMMENT, SHARE.

Social media has a complicated reputation these days, but we can always choose to use it for good and to amplify causes we care about. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other platforms are great ways to engage with other voters, promote the candidates you love, and speak up about the issues you care about.

14



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 MARIJUANA.

The legalization of weed is in no way all about folks wanting to get high—nor is it even just about people using THC and CBD to help with sleep, mental health issues, and chronic pain. The criminalization of marijuana has played an enormous role in criminal justice and systemic racism for decades. Black people are disproportionately affected by these laws, and it's time we change that.

15



THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS.

If you can spare the funds, donate money to the causes and candidates you support. Every dollar counts, so no donation is too small. Other than the act of voting itself, donating money is one of the most consequential ways we can participate in elections.

16



FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 PRESIDENTIAL POWER.

One of the marks of a good leader is that they never [abuse](#) or [overstretch their power](#). They don't use it for ill or for self-benefit. Let's elect leaders who know that with power comes responsibility. Who take their power seriously. Who use it for the good of the people, not the profit of themselves.

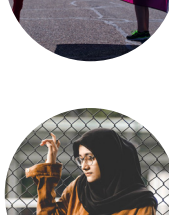
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 TRANSGENDER RIGHTS.

If you care about trans rights (and I sure as heck hope you do), this election matters. If we want equality for all people, no matter their gender identity or the body they were born into, this election matters. If we'd like trans people to have [equal access to health care](#), this election matters. If you say you stand with trans folks, it's time to put your vote where your mouth is.

18



SUNDAY OCTOBER 18 ISLAMOPHOBIA.

There is no place for islamophobia in this country. We cannot pretend to promote acceptance of all races and religions while throwing insults at Muslims and allowing policies that actively discriminate against them. If we want leaders who will wholeheartedly accept all people, no matter their beliefs, background, or color, it is our responsibility to put them in office.

19



MONDAY OCTOBER 19 MAKE SURE YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT IS COUNTED.

1. Don't forget to sign your ballot—and make sure it matches your other signatures! 2. Mail your ballot in on time—or, better yet, drop it off at a drop box (find out the deadline of your state here). 3. Follow up on your ballot. If your state has a "ballot status" website, check that to make sure yours was counted. If it doesn't, you can call your county elections board to find out.

20



TUESDAY OCTOBER 20 GUN POLICY.

No matter where your beliefs land on the spectrum of gun rights and restrictions, there is no doubt that it will be an important issue in the next decade. With more than 200 school shootings in just the past 20 years, we cannot afford to ignore the issue of gun policy. Find out where each of the candidates stand on gun rights, and then act accordingly (i.e. vote!).

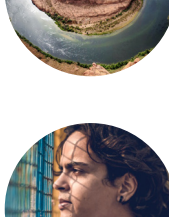
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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21 NATURAL LAND PROTECTION.

The last four years have seen [two of the biggest reductions of protected lands](#) in United States history. Land protection is an important part of both preserving the beauty of natural landscapes throughout the country and preventing further environmental and ecosystem destruction. If you'd like leaders in office who give a care about our national natural treasures, vote.

22



THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 DACA & THE "DREAMERS".

The [Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) program](#) protects young undocumented immigrants—who came to the United States for reasons outside of their control—from deportation. They are the "Dreamers," who have lived in the United States for most of their lives, and who deserve to chase the ideal of the American dream, just like the rest of us. If you care about DACA, [vote](#).

23



FRIDAY OCTOBER 23 SHARE YOUR STORY, SHARE YOUR VOICE.

If you've got opinions, stories, ideas, tips, or thoughts about the 2020 election and the issues at stake, write about it. Educating others and sharing ideas is a form of political activism. Creativity is a tool for social change. (If you'd like to, [post your writing on Elephant Journal!](#))

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 HONESTY & TRANSPARENCY.

We deserve leaders who are honest with us. Who tell the truth. Who are transparent about their past, their actions, their beliefs, and their administration. We deserve to not be lied to. Let's hold leaders accountable and elect only those who value—and practice—honesty and transparency.

25



SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 ROE V. WADE.

You may be pro-choice. You may be anti-abortion. But wherever you stand, there is no question that the [future of abortion rights in our country](#) could rest on the outcome of this election. So, regardless of your beliefs, make your opinion known and your influence made by...you guessed it: [voting](#).

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MONDAY OCTOBER 26 VOLUNTEER TO BE A POLL WORKER.

If you and the members of your household are young and healthy, consider volunteering to be an election worker. Poll workers are essential to the effective, democratic functioning of elections, and volunteering is particularly important this year with all the complications of 2020. You can [sign up with your local election official](#).

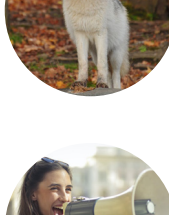
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TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

The EPA is a vitally important piece of our government, which was created with a fairly self-explanatory purpose: to protect the environment. We need leaders who take this mission and responsibility seriously, and who will pick EPA staffers who are committed to environmental justice and protection. Anything less than that, and [we're failing our planet](#).

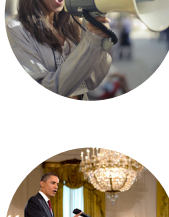
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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28 (POLITELY) HARASS YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

Have an opinion about what the Senate should do about the Supreme Court? Tell your senators. Care about voting policy and rights? Call your elected representatives. If you have a way to get there. Don't forget your mask and any other pandemic-time precautions you'd like to bring (hand sanitizer, face shield, protective bubble, hazmat suit—you get the idea).

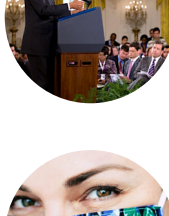
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THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

Journalism is an essential part of any democracy. It's what keeps power and government in check; it's what holds our leaders accountable. We need leaders who respect the vital role the press plays, and who will not shut out or mock them in response to criticism. Let's all make sure we maintain this pillar of a democratic society.

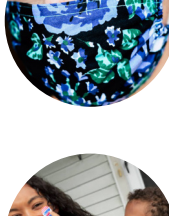
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FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 CORONAVIRUS.

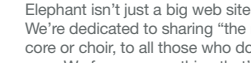
As of September, we passed the 200,000 mark of American lives lost to COVID-19. But they aren't just a statistic or a number—they were people, with moms and dads, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives. We need leadership who can guide us with care, empathy, and responsibility through these challenging and frightening times. Let's elect leaders who will unite us—and protect us—through this crisis.

31



SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 GET PREPPED FOR ELECTION DAY.

If you aren't voting by mail, find out all the wheres, whens, and hows of election day in your area. Make sure you know where to go, when to be there, what you'll need, and that you have a way to get there. Don't forget your mask and any other pandemic-time precautions you'd like to bring (hand sanitizer, face shield, protective bubble, hazmat suit—you get the idea).



Elephant isn't just a big web site. We're community-driven. We're dedicated to sharing "the mindful life" beyond the core or choir, to all those who don't yet know they give a care. We focus on anything that's good for you, good for others, and good for our planet.

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