This year’s election is critically important as we will not only vote for President and Vice President, but Ohioans will also vote for candidates in Congress, state legislature, Ohio Supreme Court, county commissioners, county and city judges, city council, prosecutors, school boards, and more. Elected officials at every level of government will be responsible for making public policy decisions that will greatly impact the everyday lives of Ohio’s children and their future success. This year’s election is a perfect opportunity to elevate the importance of early childhood education and healthy development strategies as candidates are continuing to evolve their public policy agendas.

Ohio’s families and early childhood infrastructure have been in crisis for months with little light in sight due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With federal, state, and local operating budgets looming in the near future, families and the early childhood infrastructure are at risk of losing even more due to budget cuts resulting from decreased revenues. The stakes are high and this is why we are rallying together early childhood advocates to get out and vote for young children.

We must elect leaders who understand the crucial role our early childhood infrastructure plays in supporting the health, safety, and education of our most vulnerable. Recovery from the pandemic will not be easy, but we know that if we work together, we can build a brighter, more sustainable, and more equitable infrastructure. To help with getting out the vote this November, we have created this toolkit to provide you with tools and resources on how to vote and communicate with others to help spread awareness on just how important voting for children is in the upcoming election. In this toolkit, you will find information on how to vote, key election dates, communication templates, graphics, and more.

Together, we can build a brighter future for our children.

95% of Ohioans believe it’s important to make sure children get a strong start in life through quality early learning programs.

62% of Ohioans would be more likely to vote for a candidate that champions high-quality early learning policies.
Before jumping in to vote, you must first confirm:

1. **Are you registered to vote?**
   
   **Or do you need to confirm your registration?**
   
   • The deadline to register to vote is October 5, 2020.
   • You can register online here or confirm your registration here.
   • If you are registered, move to step 2.

2. **Does your registration need updated?**
   
   • If you recently changed your home address, you’ll need to update it here.
   • If you did not move and your registration is accurate, move to step 3.

3. **Determine how you prefer to vote.**
   
   You can choose one of the three options:
   
   • **Via Mail beginning October 6** – Request your absentee ballot here and mail in the absentee ballot request form. Absentee ballot requests must be received by your local county board of elections by noon on October 31st. Your absentee ballot must be postmarked no later than November 2nd and received by your county board of elections no later than 10 days after the election. Once you send in your absentee ballot (due by November 2nd), you can track your ballot here.
   • **Early Voting beginning on October 6** – Find your polling place and its early voting hours here and learn what to bring with you here.
   • **Day-of Voting on November 3** – Find your polling place here and learn what to bring day-of here.

4. **Get familiar with the ballot & candidates.**
   
   • Download your sample ballot here before heading to the polls.
   • Learn more about the candidates on your ballot:
     a. Google search the candidates to find their campaign website.
     b. Visit Ballotpedia.
     c. Local newspapers articles often run about the candidates.
     d. Visit campaign pages on social platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram

5. **VOTE!**

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**KEY 2020 ELECTION DATES:**

- **OCTOBER 5**: Deadline to register to vote.
- **OCTOBER 6**: Absentee voting by mail begins.
  In-person voting begins (check with your local Board of Elections for dates/times).
- **OCTOBER 31**: Absentee ballot requests must be received by your local county board of elections by noon on the third day before the election.
- **NOVEMBER 2**: Absentee ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day and received by your county board of elections no later than 10 days after the election.
- **NOVEMBER 3**: Election Day! 
Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can also drop off your absentee ballot at your board of elections office until 7:30 p.m.
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

You can make a big difference by encouraging others to vote. Help promote the importance of 2020’s election and its impact on Ohio’s Children—our state’s future!

Sample Blog Posts, Emails & Newsletters:

Feel free to copy and paste the text below and/or adjust for your own communications.

• Young children continue to be a top priority to [YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME]. This is why during the upcoming election, we are encouraging our staff and families like yours to consider voting for children. We all must work together to bring attention to the critical need to provide our youngest learners with access to high-quality early childhood experiences and health care. The candidates we choose will make policy decisions that will greatly impact the everyday lives of our most vulnerable—young children. By voting for children, you are not just voting for a better today, but also for a brighter future. To learn more about why your vote matters, how to vote, key dates, and sample communication templates, visit: www.groundworkohio.org/vote.

• Become an early childhood advocate today by simply registering to vote—for children. And encourage others around you to do the same. Check out this early childhood voter toolkit from Groundwork Ohio to learn more about how to vote, key dates, and access sample communication templates: www.groundworkohio.org/vote.

Sample Social Media Posts:

Visit www.GroundworkOhio.org/vote to easily click a button to share these sample media posts or to copy and paste them on to your page.

• Children are unable to vote, but their future greatly depends on you casting your vote. This election, speak up for children by going to the polls to vote for their future. Register to vote today at: www.groundworkohio.org/vote #OHVoteforChildren

• We have a lot at stake this election and Ohio’s youngest learners are depending on you to help get out the vote. With your help, we can build a brighter future for our children. #OHVoteforChildren www.groundworkohio.org/vote

• This election, we are asking you to make children a top priority when you go to the polls. Learn more about how you can make children a top priority when you vote by visiting: www.groundworkohio.org/vote. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for children! #OHVoteforChildren

• @GroundworkOhio created an early childhood voter toolkit for the upcoming election. In this toolkit you will find information on how to vote, key dates, sample blogs, sample social media messages, and graphics. Access the toolkit at: www.groundworkohio.org/vote #OHVoteforChildren

• Young children can’t vote, but you can! Important voting deadlines are quickly approaching. Have you registered to vote? Do you need to update your registration? How will you vote this year? Find the answers to your questions: www.groundworkohio.org/vote #OHVoteforChildren
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Social Media Graphics:

Download these images and find this toolkit online by visiting:

GroundworkOhio.org/vote

Support Ohio’s Future. Register to Vote Today!

Vote for Our Future. Vote for Children!

Infants & toddlers are counting on your vote.

I voted for a brighter future for children!

GroundworkOhio.org/vote

#OHVoteForChildren

GroundworkOhio.org

@GroundworkOhio

GroundworkOhio.org