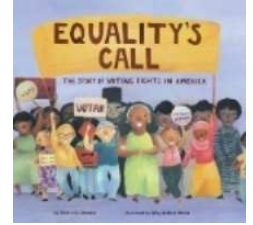


Compare Voting in Different States

This activity can be done by students working in groups, or the questions can be divided up among students. Select your state and two other states. Choose one state with a high ease of voting rating, and one with a low rating (see NIU ratings). Visit each state’s Secretary of State page (or Secretary of the Commonwealth page) and use the information there to complete this form. You may also use other informational sites to find this information (make note of which ones you use).

If you are not able to find all the answers, just fill in what you’re able to find. When finished, discuss these differences with your classmates and teacher. Why do the differences exist? Is it fair that there are differences? What would you suggest doing about the differences?



Your state: Comparison: Comparison:

Are all adults in the state automatically registered to vote?			
Can voter registration be done online? What identification is needed to register to vote?			
Can you pre-register to vote if you’re not yet 18?			
Can you register to vote on Election Day? If so, how? If not, how many days before the Election Day must you register?			
Are vote-by-mail ballots automatically mailed to all residents?			
Do you have to have a reason to request an absentee/vote-by-mail ballot? If so, what are the allowable reasons? What’s the deadline?			
Do you have to have someone witness your absentee/vote-by-mail ballot before you return it? Does it have to be notarized?			
Are drop boxes available for absentee/vote-by-mail ballots? If so, how many are available in each area?			
If you vote by absentee/vote-by-mail but you forget to sign your ballot, will you be informed and have a chance to fix?			
If you mail your ballot before Election Day, but your ballot doesn’t arrive until after Election Day, will it still be counted?			
Is in-person early voting available?			
Is photo ID required to vote in person? What happens if you don’t have one?			
How many polling locations are there in the state? How many people are served at each? Do some locations have long wait times?			
What hours are polling locations open on Election Day?			
Are employers required to give people time off to vote? If so, is it paid or unpaid time?			
Are hand-marked paper ballots used?			
For what reasons can you be removed from the voter registration list? Will you be informed if this happens?			
Can a formerly incarcerated person have their voting rights restored? If so, does this take place automatically?			