

## Planning for the Polls

### VOTING RESOURCE FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS | BY ROBYN KELTON

Voting is one of our greatest powers, but sometimes life gets in the way of getting to the voting booth. Having a plan in place to make sure you and the families you serve are prepared and able to vote will help guarantee that everyone makes it to the polls so their “voice is heard.” Read through the items below, checking off what you plan to do to help ensure that you, your staff, and the families you serve vote.

#### Preparing to Vote

- Verify that I am registered to vote: <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/am-i-registered-to-vote/>.
- Make sure I know my polling location (occasionally voting locations change and sometimes early voting locations are different than election day locations).
- Check deadlines and processes if I prefer to vote by mail <https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot/>.
- Note on my calendar all federal, state, and local (e.g., alderman, city council, school district) election dates for the year.
  - November 3, 2020:** Presidential, Senate, House of Representatives, and general elections.
  - Other:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Investigate early voting options in my area and determine if that is a good voting strategy for me.
- Notify families and staff if I am planning to open the program late so that I can vote in the morning.
- Notify families and staff if I am planning to close the program early so that I can vote in the afternoon/evening.
- Ask my assistant or a substitute to cover specific hours if I plan to vote in-person.
- Read about early childhood policy priorities: <http://americaforearlyed.org/>.
- Determine who the candidates are in the current elections and read their statements related to early childhood education and any old voting records for laws and bills pertaining to the field.
- Attend an event (live or virtual) with a candidate(s) to learn about their position on early childhood issues.
- Decide which candidates I want to cast my votes for and make a list of them to bring with me to the polls.

#### Preparing Staff and Families to Vote

- Teach children in my program about voting.
- Remind families and staff to register to vote.
- Inform families and staff about how the elections relate to access to quality child care.
- Provide families and staff with polling locations and hours in their area.
- Extend my hours on election day so that families have time to vote.
- Adjust staffing schedules so staff have time to vote.
- Connect my families and staff with ride-share apps that provide free rides to the polls.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Making My Vote Count—Which Will You Do?

- Vote early.
- Vote by mail.
- Vote on Election Day.