It is not too late to help people experiencing homelessness in your community exercise their right to vote!

Below are common phrases we hear when helping people experiencing homelessness register to vote and understand their voting rights. We have included responses and resources that you can use to educate folks on their rights and empower them to exercise their right to vote.

I can’t vote because I don’t have an address.

You don’t need a home to vote! On the voter registration form under “Residential address”, simply put down the place you most often are or where you spend most of your time. This could be a shelter address, an intersection (such as “12th Street and Ravenna Boulevard” or “3rd Avenue and James Street”), a park, or any other specific marker that is identifiable on a map. This address will determine which voting precinct you will be part of, which means that you will be able to vote for representatives and measures for that area. Use as complete of an address as possible; include city, state, and zip code of the location you provide.

Under “mailing address,” put down where you receive your mail. If you do not have a mailing address, there are a number of mailing services in King County that you can use. The mailing address is where you will be sent a voter registration card and a ballot for later elections.

I can’t vote because I have a prior felony conviction.

Having a felony on your record does not bar you from voting in Washington! If you have been convicted of a felony federally or in another state, your voting rights in Washington were never taken away. Please remember that although your voting rights are automatically restored, you are not automatically registered and must do so at an in-person Vote Center to vote in this election.

I need assistance and there’s no where to go in-person.

King County Elections has created in-person vote centers all around King County where people can register to vote, get their ballots, and more. A list of vote centers will be available about 30 days prior to each election. It’s too much of a hassle to go to register to vote and vote in-person. Here’s some information to help you prepare for visiting a Vote Center. You will simply arrive and stand in a line for all services—including registration, getting your ballot, and voting. Of course, masks are required, but will be provided to you if you do not have one. Make sure to six feet of distance from others to prevent COVID-19 spread. We recommend going early to prevent crowds and reduce the time spent waiting in line. If you’d like, I can help you fill out a voter registration form now to help speed the process along.

For phone assistance, call King County elections at 206-296-8683.
I don’t have a valid ID or License to register, or I have an out-of-state ID.

You don’t need a valid Washington state ID to register to vote by mail or in person! You can use the last 4 digits of your social security number.

I’m already registered.

Great! You should receive a ballot and voting pamphlet a few weeks before Election Day. If you haven’t received it, please call King County Elections at 206-296-8683 or visit https://info.kingcounty.gov/kcelections/vote/myvoterinfo.aspx to double-check your registration status.

I’ve lost my ballot/can’t get to my ballot/have never received my ballot.

If you have completed and turned in a registration form and have not yet received your ballot, call King County Elections at 206-296-8683, who can give you instructions on how to print out your ballot (requires printer access).

“I don’t understand what’s on the ballot or I don’t have time to research all the candidates/measures.”

The Voter’s Pamphlet can help you make an informed decision about candidates and ballot measures. There are two versions: a state/federal pamphlet, and a local pamphlet.

You can complete as much or as little of the ballot as you want. For example, if you only want to vote for president, or only for certain measures, that’s ok—you can leave the rest of the ballot blank. Make sure to get your ballot in by Election Day.

Make sure to follow the instructions to place it back in the envelope. Don’t forget to sign and date the back of the envelope. You can put it in the mail (no stamp required) or place it into a ballot drop box.

“Tell me who to vote for.”

As a 501(c)3, our voter registration and education work is nonpartisan. We are helping you to make sure your vote is counted, not tell you who to vote for. I am happy to find you more information in a Voter’s Pamphlet to help you make an informed decision.