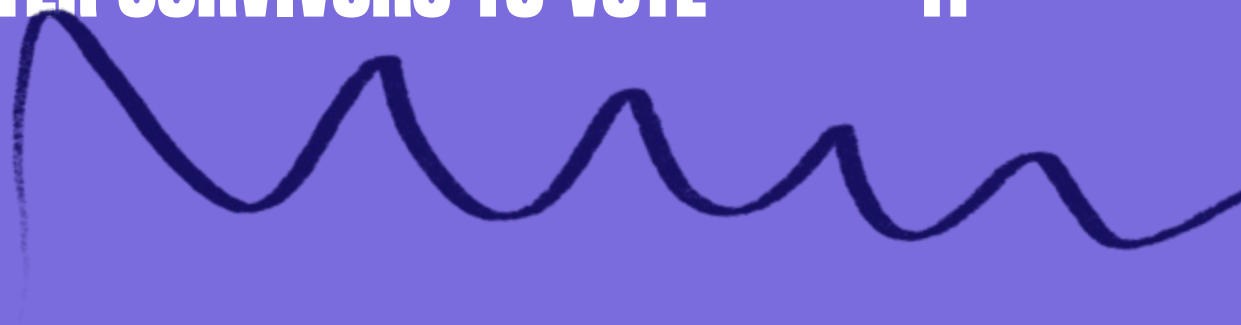


SURVIVORS VOTE VOTER REGISTRATION GUIDE

TABLE OF
CONTENTS

INTRO	3
REGISTER TO VOTE	4
HOW TO VOTE	9
REGISTER SURVIVORS TO VOTE	11





INTRO

Our voices matter. As survivor justice advocates and educators, we are a force to be reckoned with in our communities and at the polls. We are a voting bloc with the knowledge, awareness, and experience to help elected officials make decisions that promote safety and healing for survivors everywhere.

We know that survivors are more than our stories of trauma. Before we are expected to shoulder the burden of enacting change—community, political, or otherwise—our needs must be heard and met. This November, we will let elected officials know that the lived experiences of survivors are not to be exploited for political gain.

Sexual violence is a public health crisis and we demand a proportional response. A national survey¹ found that a majority of voters (73%) or someone in their family (65%) has experienced sexual harassment and assault.

More broadly, the majority of voters consider sexual harassment (82%) and sexual assault (79%) a common problem in our society.

As the election draws near, we stand ready to harness our collective strength. By mobilizing against sexual violence, we can help protect, uplift, and contribute to the healing of our communities.

Our voices will be heard, our stories will not be ignored, and our votes will be counted.

¹ Perry Udem. (2022). Voters' views toward addressing sexual violence. Retrieved November 6, 2023, from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tmfHb3Ku8lmw44233LVWvCDSxHeatFQq/view?usp=share_link.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Your registration is the first, critical step to make your voice heard this election.

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION

Before voting, you must verify that you're registered in your state of residence. Voter registration processes vary by state, so check with your state elections office for the most up-to-date information.

TO REGISTER, YOU MUST BE:

- + A United States citizen
- + 18 years or older

Each state may have additional registration requirements. Check your state's voter eligibility laws before registering to confirm you have everything you need to vote.

[CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS](#)





© EMILIA TUKHVATULLINA

REGISTER TO VOTE

Voter registration takes an average of two minutes to complete and ensures you're ready to take action this November!

Every state except North Dakota requires voters to register with a local, county, or state office before voting. If you aren't yet registered, register in your state of residence so you can make sure that your voice is heard.

DEPENDING ON YOUR STATE, YOU MAY HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- + Register online. To find out if you can register online, [click here.](#)
- + Register by mail. Every state except New Hampshire, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming allows registration using the [National Mail Voter Registration Form.](#)
- + Register in person at your state motor vehicles office or [state/local election office.](#)

THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALLOWS YOU TO REGISTER AND REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IF YOU ARE:

- + A U.S. citizen living outside the U.S.
- + A service member stationed abroad
- + A spouse or eligible family member of a service member stationed abroad

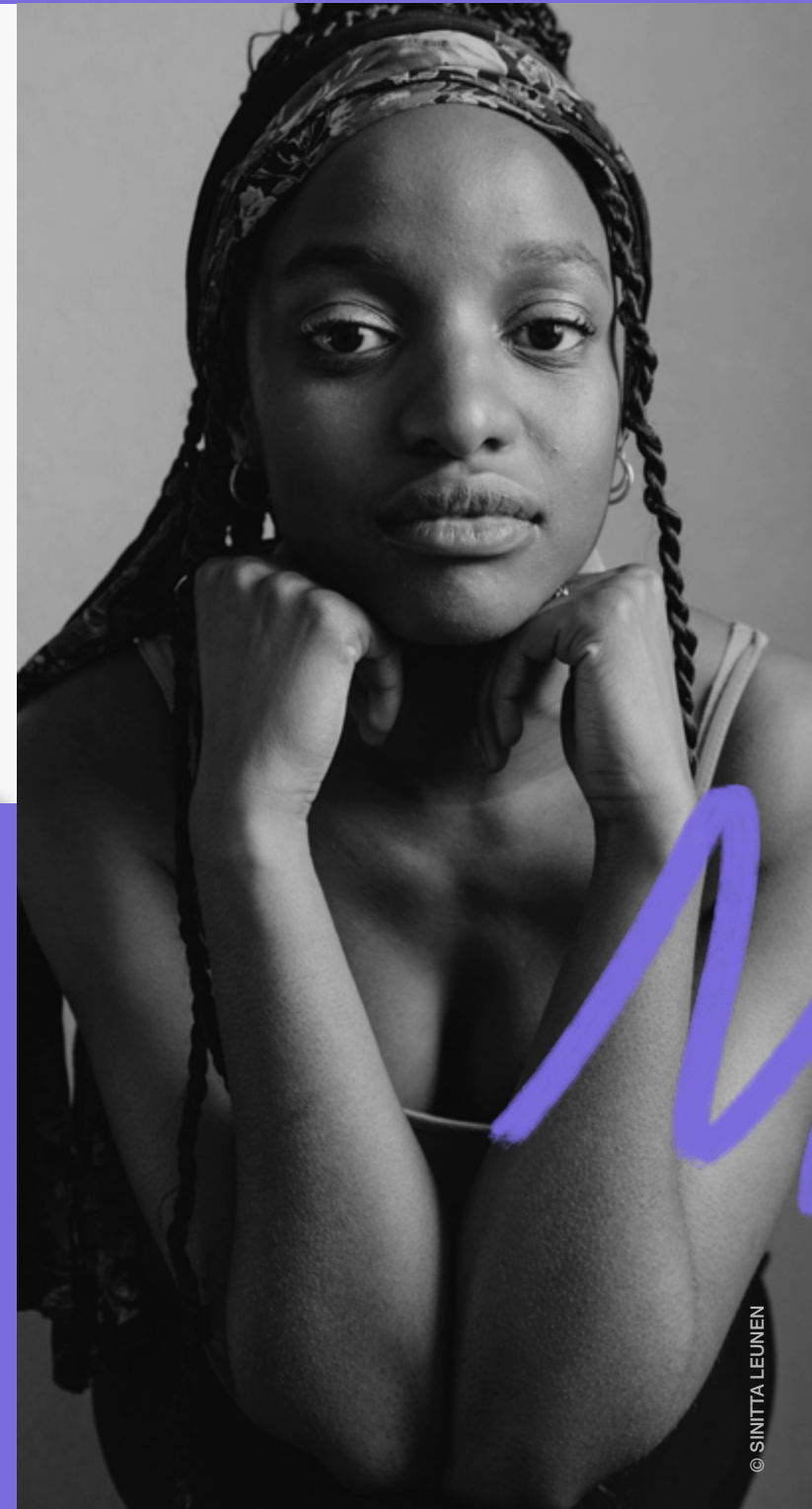
UPDATE EXISTING REGISTRATION:

- + You may already be registered to vote. To ensure your registration is updated in time to vote, **check your state's registration rules.**
- + You must update your registration if you a) moved residences or b) changed your name or gender. Some states allow registration updates during voting, but many require changes before the registration deadline.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

VOTING AS AN ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP) VOTER

The first Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) was proposed in 1991 by the Washington Secretary of State as a response to survivors' frustration with public voter registration records. While ACPs vary by state, most include protections for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking.



ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAMS (ACP)

ACPs are state programs that empower survivors to vote by giving them a substitute address to use on all public records. ACP participation enables survivors to vote without the fear of being located by an abuser. If you or someone you know has questions about ACP voting, contact your local elections office. To check if your state offers an ACP, [click here](#) for a list of currently available programs.

VOTING AS A

NEW U.S. CITIZEN

If you are a new U.S. citizen, you have the right to vote. Casting your vote is your constitutional right and an effective method to influence positive change where you live. To learn more about how to register to vote as a new U.S. citizen, [click here](#).

PREPARING TO VOTE:

AGE 19 AND UNDER

If you are not 18 but will be by election day, most states will allow you to pre-register before you turn 18. For information on your state's pre-registration process, [click here](#).

VOTING AFTER A FELONY CONVICTION

Your voting rights may be restored if you have a felony conviction, depending on your state/territory laws and sentencing details. For eligibility information, [click here](#).

VOTING WITH A DISABILITY

Accommodation options are available if you have a disability. Registration and voting options vary depending on your needs and your state's requirements. [Click here](#) to learn more about your options.

VOTING AS A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER

If you are a military service member, you can submit an absentee ballot to vote from anywhere in the world. For information on registering as a military service member, [click here](#).

VOTING AS A U.S. CITIZEN FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S.

If you are a U.S. citizen who resides overseas, you can submit an absentee ballot to vote from anywhere in the world. For information on registering to vote as an overseas citizen, [click here](#).

VOTING AS A COLLEGE STUDENT

As a college student, you can typically register to vote in your hometown OR where you attend college, depending on your state's residency requirements. For information on what to consider when deciding where to register, [click here](#).

VOTING WHILE UNHOUSED

While registering to vote requires an address, you can still register if you do not have a permanent address or are between residences. For information on registering to vote while unhoused, [click here](#).



HOW TO VOTE

Creating a plan for how you'll cast your vote is an essential step. Before deciding how you will vote, check **state guidelines** to ensure you're ready to make your voice heard come election day!

Federal elections in the U.S. don't allow online voting, so all votes must be cast in person by going to a polling place, or by mail.

GET ELECTION REMINDERS

IN-PERSON VOTING

If you'd like to vote in person during early voting or on election day, you'll need to go to a designated polling place with a valid form of ID.

Each state has different voter ID rules, so **review your state's ID laws** before going to the polls.

HOW TO VOTE IN PERSON

BY MAIL OR ABSENTEE VOTING

If you'd like to vote before election day, you can vote by absentee or "mail-in" voting.

Requesting an absentee ballot allows you to choose a more convenient time to vote. Instead of going to a polling place, you'll cast your ballot by mail, in person, or at a designated drop box. This flexible option is great for parents, caregivers, and students.

Some states require an excuse to vote absentee. If you're interested in absentee voting, check with your local elections office first.

[VIEW YOUR STATE'S ABSENTEE VOTING RULES](#)



© PRINCE AKACHI

REGISTER SURVIVORS TO VOTE

September 17th, National Voter Registration Day, is an important moment for civic engagement. **Survivors Vote** is seizing this opportunity to amplify the voices of survivors in our democratic process! We recognize voting as more than just a right. Voting is a powerful tool for healing and systemic change.

We also recognize the unique barriers that survivors may face when voting, including address confidentiality and safety issues. This toolkit includes resources and strategies to address those barriers by aligning the voter registration process with survivor support services.

If you work for a an organization working to end sexual violence or sexual violence prevention organization., state sexual assault coalition, or local rape crisis center, here are a few things to consider when registering survivors to vote.

Confidentiality. Survivors deserve protection when seeking information about services including safety planning, legal advocacy, and counseling.

Advocates must understand and comply with state confidentiality and privilege laws in order to protect survivors' right to confidentiality.

In this section, you'll find ideas for registering survivors to vote without compromising the confidential relationship between a community-based advocate and survivor.

CALLS TO ACTION

- + Inform advocates about the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)
- + Inform survivors about the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)
- + Register survivors to vote
- + Provide ACP participants with voter registration information



INFORM ADVOCATES ABOUT YOUR STATE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP)

Ensuring a survivor's voting plan is part of a comprehensive safety plan is essential. Address Confidentiality Programs (ACP) are state-by-state programs that empower survivors to vote safely and confidently. Before you speak with survivors about voting, gather information about your state's Address Confidentiality Program so that you can assist with ACP voter registration.

Whether responding to an emergency hotline call, during an advocacy appointment, or as part of hospital follow-up, you are uniquely positioned to provide survivors with information about the Address Confidentiality Program in your state.

Host a workshop to help sexual violence advocates understand and utilize your state's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP).

TAKE ACTION

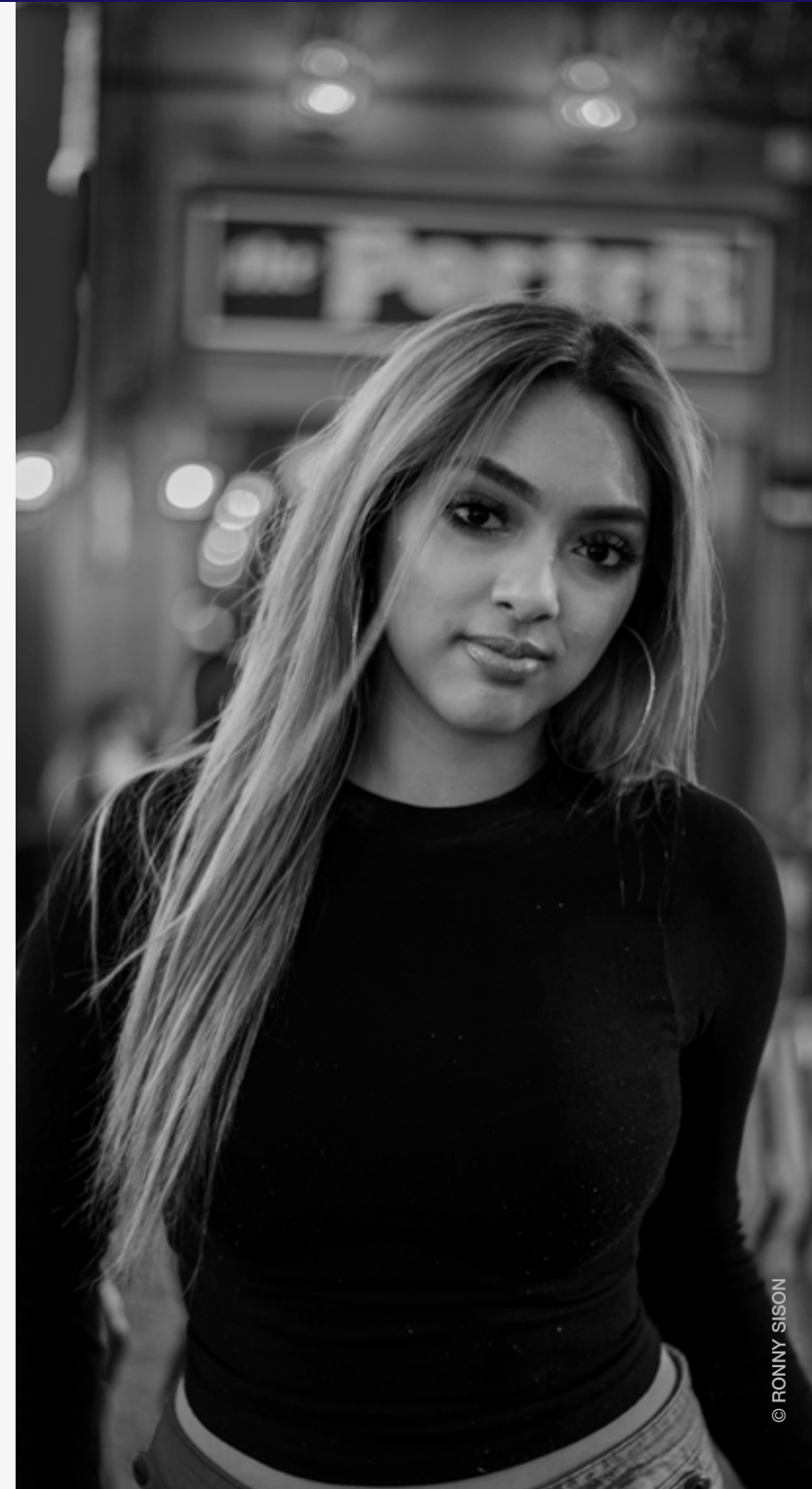
Host a workshop to help sexual violence advocates understand and utilize your state's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP).

Set clear objectives. Educate, equip, clarify.

1. Educate advocates about the ACP, its purpose, and its benefits.
2. Equip advocates with practical knowledge to help survivors access and utilize the ACP.
3. Clarify how survivors who participate in the ACP register to vote and keep their addresses confidential.

Understand your audience. You may be speaking to community-based advocates, staff at local rape crisis centers, social workers, counselors, legal professionals, and others.

Before offering information, assess their existing ACP knowledge. Then, tailor content to fill gaps and build on their expertise.





Plan your workshop. Use these ideas as a starting point to plan content.

- + **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Explain the history of the ACP, including its purpose, how it works, and how ACP participants register to vote.
- + **APPLICATION PROCESS:** Give detailed instructions on how survivors apply for and use the ACP.
- + **ACP VOTING:** Give detailed instructions on how ACP participants register to vote.
- + **CASE STUDIES:** Provide real-life examples that illustrate the ACP's impact.
- + **INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES:** Role play as a group to practice handling ACP-related situations.
- + **Q&A:** Make time for participants to ask questions and discuss concerns.
- + **RESOURCE SHARING:** Provide handouts, ACP coordinator contact information, and other relevant resources.

INFORM ADVOCATES ABOUT YOUR STATE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP)

TAKE ACTION

This script is a starting point for speaking with a survivor for the first time.

Provide emotional support. Validate and normalize the experience(s) that was shared with you and make space for survivors to feel whatever emotions come naturally.

Avoid asking questions about what occurred, instead, let survivors tell you what they feel comfortable sharing. Your job is to listen, believe, and provide information.

CONVERSATION PROMPTS:

- + *"Thank you for sharing your story with me. I'm sorry that happened to you; it wasn't your fault."*
- + *"I'm here if you want to talk but I understand if you don't."*
- + *"It's normal to feel the way you're feeling."*
- + *"It's understandable to be concerned about your safety."*
- + *"I can share helpful resources. Would you like me to tell you about them?"*





Assess needs. After gathering an initial, non-judgmental overview of the survivor's needs, you may share information about your state's Address Confidentiality Program as a helpful resource.

CONVERSATION PROMPTS:

- + *"What I hear you saying is that you're concerned about your safety and worried that the perpetrator may know how to find out where you live. Is that right?"*
- + *"Would you like more information on how to protect your home address from being public information?"*

Problem solve. Offer concrete solutions. Explore all the options and give survivors the space to make their own decisions, even if you don't agree.

CONVERSATION PROMPT:

- + *"There are several steps we can take to keep your address confidential. Would you like me to explain how?"*

Educate. Explain how your state Address Confidentiality Program works.

If meeting in-person, review your state's ACP one-pager together. Allow time for the survivor to ask questions and for you to respond. If you don't know the answer to a question, connect the survivor to the office that administers the ACP in your state. If the survivor requests that you reach out to the office on their behalf, consider utilizing a consent-to release form.

If you're in a telehealth appointment or are speaking with a survivor on the 24-hour crisis hotline, share SurvivorsVote.org and explain how they can download your state's ACP one-pager directly off the website.

CONVERSATION PROMPTS:

- + *"Address Confidentiality Programs typically provide a substitute mailing address and mail forwarding service to help survivors protect their privacy and lower the risk of being found by individuals who wish them harm."*
- + *"Each state has different laws, requirements, services, and procedures related to its Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)."*
- + *"This document also provides information on registering to vote as an ACP voter. Are you registered to vote?"*
- + *"If you like, we can complete the ACP application together. Once we hear back from the ACP Administrator's Office, we can find a time to meet again and get you registered to vote as an ACP voter. How does that sound?"*



INFORM ADVOCATES ABOUT YOUR STATE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP)

TAKE ACTION

This script is a starting point for speaking with a survivor you've previously worked with who is already enrolled in the ACP.

Educate. Explain how ACP participants register to vote. Provide survivors with Survivor Vote ACP one-pagers.

CONVERSATION PROMPTS:

- + *"I believe you are enrolled in the Address Confidentiality Program, is that right? This month, we're making sure survivors have everything they need to vote, including information for ACP participants who want to register. Here's a one-pager about the process — if you're interested in registering as an ACP voter, I can help you. What do you think?"*
- + *"Your participation in the ACP does not prevent you from registering to vote. ACP voters are entitled to register without sacrificing safety. Would you like more information?"*
- + *"Did you know that as an ACP participant, you can keep your address confidential and register to vote? Here's some information that explains how you can register to vote as an ACP voter."*
- + *"Our center is participating in a campaign this month to help survivors register to vote. Are you registered to vote? Would you like more information on how to register as an ACP voter? The process is slightly different but I can definitely help you if that's something you want to do."*
- + *"Would you like information about how to register to vote as an ACP voter?"*



REGISTER SURVIVORS TO VOTE

TAKE ACTION

Empower survivors to make their voices heard and votes counted.

Survivors Vote posters, stickers, and buttons provide an easy, effective way to display QR codes that go to SurvivorsVote.org.

SurvivorsVote.org offers quick access to Vote.org – a nonprofit, nonpartisan platform that streamlines the voter registration process. Survivors can use Vote.org to check their registration, register to vote, vote by mail, and more.

SURVIVORSVOTE.ORG

SurvivorsVote.org also provides helpful resources for anyone registering as an ACP voter.

DISPLAY SURVIVORS VOTE QR CODES WHERE SURVIVORS ARE LIKELY TO SEE THEM:

- + At the reception desk / front lobby of your office
- + In your office
- + On bathroom stalls

DISPLAY DIGITAL SURVIVORS VOTE QR CODES:

- + On your organization's website
- + On your organization's social media



© SABRINA MAY

PROVIDE ACP PARTICIPANTS WITH VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TAKE ACTION

Partner with your state's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) Administrator to provide ACP participants with information on registering to vote.

The Secretary of State administers most ACPs, but others are maintained through the state Attorney General or government entities. For more information on who your state's ACP Administrator is and how to reach them, visit SurvivorsVote.org and search for resources in your state.

BUILD ON THEIR EXPERTISE TO:

- + Co-author a document for the Administrator to share with ACP participants. Include information about your organization, ACP voter registration, and other relevant resources.
- + Co-host a webinar with the Administrator for ACP participants. Provide detailed instructions on registering to vote.
- + Share resources with the Administrator, including SurvivorsVote.org. Ask them to share those resources with ACP participants.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Now that you're ready to vote, you may have questions about the voting process. Use these FAQs as a quick reference for any questions you may have.

HERE, YOU'LL FIND ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT:

- + Voter registration
- + Updating your registration
- + Early voting
- + Absentee voting
- + Voting on election day

[VISIT FAQs](#)

WHEN SURVIVORS VOTE, CHANGE HAPPENS.

We know that our vote is critical to shaping the national conversation around sexual violence. This election, we are united to protect survivors through federally backed safety, healing, and prevention strategies.

Our communities are powerful, our stories are important, and our voices are needed.

SURVIVORS VOTE VOTER REGISTRATION GUIDE

PUBLISHED BY

Survivor Justice Network

CONTRIBUTORS

'me too.' staff

Raana Simmons

Ariam Tesfaye

