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## Day Five - Why Vote

*“Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.”*

George Jean Nathan

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Much doubt has been cast on the most fundamental building block of our democracy—the vote. Despite what some may want you to believe, voting in our nation remains safe and secure, with instances of intentional fraud truly rare. Even today, voting is the most direct way we have to connect with the people who represent us. It is important to join together with neighbors and friends to push this great democratic experiment forward for one more year, especially when accessing the right to vote continues to be a challenge for many. On this final day, let’s take some time to reflect on the value of the hard-fought right to vote and how we can help improve the process so that more voices can be heard.

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## Choose One of Today's Challenges

**#1: Before we go any further. Are you registered to vote? Are you sure?**

- [Check your registration with just a few clicks](#) at this website built by a local high school student

**#2: Stacey Abrams was the first Black woman nominated for a governor's office in America. She lost her race by fewer than 50,000 votes in a highly contested recount. She has a [few thoughts](#) on why you should vote even if it feels inadequate.**

**#3: This year in Ohio we will vote for a number of judges including for the State Supreme Court. [In a recent study conducted by the Bliss Institute at University of Akron](#) only about half of respondents said that they always vote for judges.**

- Use these resources to research candidates so you can be ready to vote your whole ballot: [Judicial Votes Count](#), [Judge4Yourself](#), and [Vote Smart](#).

**#4: It's been a long road to get where we are regarding voter rights. While there is still work to be done to ensure access and equity, let's take a minute to get up to speed.**

- Take a journey through this [voting rights timeline from the ACLU](#).
- [Meet five African American suffragists you should know](#).
- [Read this article](#) explaining voter suppression or [this research](#) about racial inequity in Ohio's absentee voting system and reflect on the parts that surprise you.

### **Want to do more?**

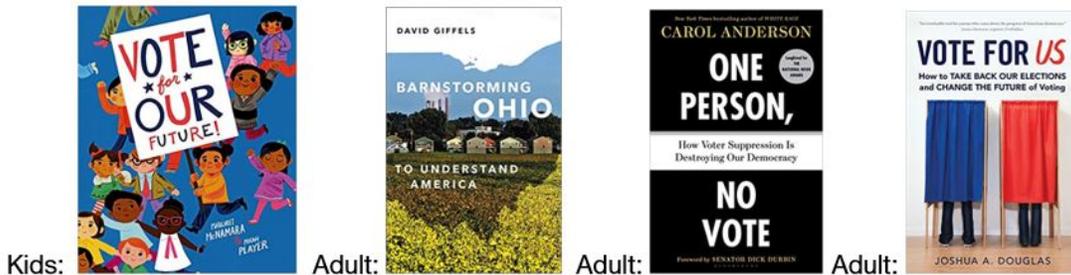
- Watch [Who is Permitted to Vote? a City Club forum](#) featuring this year's Anisfield-Wolf Book Award honoree for Lifetime Achievement, Eric Foner who will discuss how we construct a more truthful narrative of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the contemporary struggle for freedom and equality.
- [Volunteer to be a poll worker on Election Day](#). With the health and safety risks we've heard talked about for months, it will be important to have as many people as possible available to help give people access to the voting booth on Election Day.
- [Vote early](#). One thing it seems most of us can agree on is that voting early is a good idea this year. You can request your ballot and mail it in or drop it off in person at your board of elections. [Check here](#) to see if you can even stop in and vote early in-person.
- [Watch American Experience, The Vote](#) (2 hr) about the women's movement to secure the right to vote.
- Help kids understand the importance of voting by joining [storytime with Cleveland Cavaliers' Sir C.C.](#) as he reads *I Voted: Making a Choice*

Makes a Difference by Mark Shulman.

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## Recommended Reading

Here are few books you might like. For more, check out our 5 Days for Democracy [collection](#).



## Related City Club Forums

Below you'll find a curated list of past City Club forums that touch on today's theme. For more, check out a more [extensive selection from our archives](#).

[Virginia Kase](#): CEO of the League of Women Voters on voting rights and democracy reform

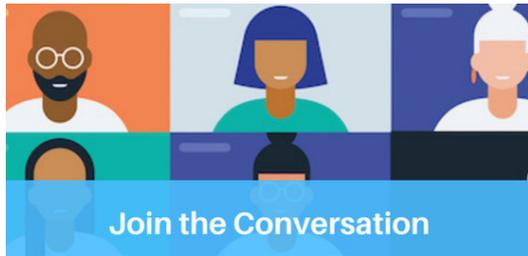
[Frank LaRose](#): Ohio Secretary of State, on restoring civility and bipartisanship  
[A City Club Youth Forum on voting, politics, and power](#)

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## We Want to Hear From You

**Share your reflections** about today's challenges on social media using **#5days4democracy**. **Send ideas** about what you would like to challenge people to learn about today's topic to [fivedays@cityclub.org](mailto:fivedays@cityclub.org). **Join the 5 Days for Democracy Common Ground conversation** on Saturday, October 3 to connect with participants and continue the discussion.

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*Five Days for Democracy is a collaboration between The City Club of Cleveland, [Cleveland Public Library](#), [Cuyahoga County Public Library](#), [East Cleveland Public Library](#), [Euclid Public Library](#), [Heights Libraries](#), [Lakewood Public Library](#), [Rocky River Public Library](#), [Shaker Heights Public Library](#) and [Westlake Porter Public Library](#).*

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