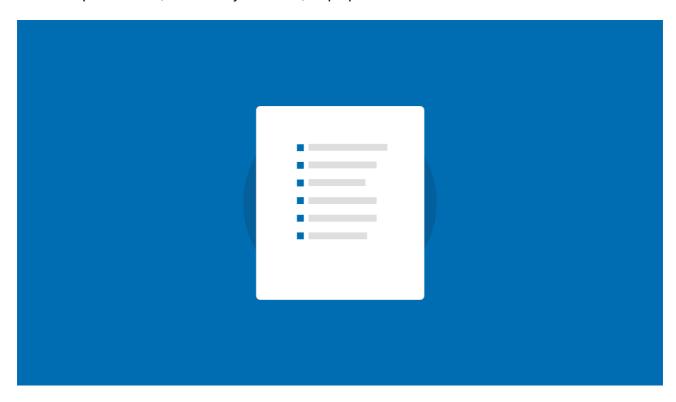
POLITICS FOR DUMMIES CHEAT SHEET

If the thought of politics makes you cringe, don't worry, you can get involved as little or as much as you like in politics. If you want to voice your concerns, use these handy resources to contact your representative, and when you do call, be prepared to offer some information to them.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS

Register to vote.
Vote in every election.
Join a political party.
Vote in primaries.
Read and listen to the information about the candidates — cast an informed vote.
Ask questions of candidates and elected officials.
Don't hesitate to tell officials when they've done something you don't like.
Thank officials when they do something you do like.
Use your phone, the mail, your fax, your computer e-mail — let your representatives hear from you often.
Circulate petitions and join with others who think as you do.
Become a delegate to a national convention
HOW TO CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS
County board of elections or voter registration
State election board

Local office of the League of Women Voters
Public library
State or county headquarters of the Republican or Democratic party Ask the person to give you the following information (make sure you have your address book with you):
Your congressional district, congressperson, and the office phone number
Your legislative district, state legislator, and the main number at the statehouse
Your state senate district, state senator, and a phone number at the statehouse
INFORMATION TO HAVE WHEN CALLING ELECTED OFFICIALS
Be prepared to give your name and address.
Tell the person precisely why you are calling.
If you are calling about a particular piece of legislation, give the number of the bill, if possible.
Tell the individual whether you are for or against the legislation and why.
Be patient; other voters may be calling to express their views, too.
CANDIDATE SELECTION CHECKLIST
Because you've only one vote to cast, your candidate choice is crucial. How do you know what to look for in a political candidate? Do a little research to help you get to know something about each candidate and use these useful tips:
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Candidates who identify problems — but don't propose realistic solutions
Candidates who offer simple, no-sacrifice solutions to complex problems
Candidates who talk exclusively about hot-button issues such as race, immigration, the flag, English as the official language, and class warfare, but not about such issues as taxes, health care, and the budget
Candidates with shady dealings in their backgrounds
Candidates who tell you what they think you want to hear
Candidates who use negative campaign tactics to give you a false impression of the competition
How to Supporting Your Candidate
Volunteer your time — contact voters, organize events, distribute literature.
Contribute money or help the candidate raise money.
Remember to vote for your candidate on election day. Make and Share Free Checklists checkli.com