Are you registered to #Vote4MentalHealth?

*note: an earlier version of this newsletter listed an incorrect start date for early voting. It is corrected below. Early voting in Texas runs from October 13th to the 30th.

Today, September 22, 2020, is National Voter Registration Day. Join us in celebrating this nonpartisan holiday by learning how to register to vote or updating your voter registration!

No one should miss the opportunity to #Vote4MentalHealth due to a registration problem. Need to register to vote? Here's the place to do that. Can't remember if you're already registered? Check your status. Did you move recently and forget to update your address? Don’t worry, we have you covered.

And don't forget to pledge to #Vote4MentalHealth! When you take the pledge to #Vote4MentalHealth, you commit to understanding how your vote impacts people with mental health conditions and how you can act. If you take the pledge, we will send you key reminders before important voting dates.

Experienced any of the life changes below? Make sure that your voter registration status reflects that.
Why #Vote4MentalHealth? Yesterday, Congress passed S. 2661, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, creating a nationwide 3-digit number (9-8-8) for suicide prevention & mental health crisis. This bill now goes to the President’s desk. Thank you to all advocates who said #988cantwait! #Vote4MentalHealth to make sure that our elected officials continue to pass good policies like 9-8-8.

Note: 9-8-8 is not yet active, but help is available now if you or somebody you know is in mental health crisis. Text “NAMI” to 741741 or call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Want to learn advocacy skills so that you can #Act4MentalHealth? Join our upcoming online NAMI SMARTS for Advocacy "Telling Your Story" (Module 1) class on Saturday, September 26th, at 1pm CT. In the class, you will learn how to tell a compelling story that is inspiring and makes an “ask” in 90 seconds. Register here!

Key Dates

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>US First Presidential Debate</td>
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<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>TX Voter Registration Deadline</td>
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<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>TX Early Voting Begins</td>
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<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>TX Early Voting Ends</td>
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<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>TX Absentee Ballot Return Deadline</td>
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Register To Vote

To vote in Texas, you must be registered. Simply visit this website, fill the form out, and mail it at least 30 days before the election date.

You are eligible to register to vote if:
- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of the county where you submit the application;
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old, and you are 18 years old on Election Day;
- You are not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole); and
- You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either "totally mentally incapacitated" or "partially mentally incapacitated" without the right to vote.

Voting by Absentee Ballot

To be eligible to vote early by mail in Texas, you must:
- be 65 years or older;
- be disabled;
- be out of the county on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance; or
- be confined in jail, but otherwise eligible.

You may open this form (PDF, 202kb), print the application, fill in the information, sign and date it. You will then put it in an envelope, add postage, and mail to the Early Voting Clerk in your county.

Increase your impact by forwarding this email to three friends!