

Ohio: Now Hiring
with the League of Women Voters

PRESENTERS



Laura Mullen



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PROPOSES & PASSES FEDERAL LAWS

on Medicaid/Medicare, immigration, civil rights, education, policing, taxes, climate, food & drug regulation, & more.

SETS U.S. BUDGET

on immigration enforcement, the military, Social Security, Medicaid/Medicare, scientific & technology research, public services, education, & more.

SENATE: CONFIRMS U.S. SUPREME COURT & FEDERAL JUDGES

who decide on the constitutionality of federal law in cases regarding voting & civil rights, freedom of speech & religion, personal freedoms, public safety, government power, & more.

US SENATOR & REPRESENTATIVES

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

PROPOSED LEGISLATION PASSED IN ONE CHAMBER, STOPPED IN THE OTHER

- 2026: US House passed the SAVE America Act which, if put into law, millions of eligible American voters would be practically unable to register to vote or to vote
- 2026: THE SENATE HASN'T PASSED THE SAVE AMERICA ACT. Keep spreading the word about why it's so bad.

PASSED BUDGET

- 2025: Cut \$1T in Medicaid funding; passed in both chambers
- 2026: 43% Ohio counties lack a birthing facility
- 2026: 1/5 Ohio counties are considered maternity care desert
- 2027-28: Majority of Medicaid cuts take effect

CONFIRMED JUDGES THAT

- 2022: Ended *Roe vs. Wade*
- 2024: Ended voting restrictions to Ohioans with disabilities



INTERPRETS OHIO LAWS

- Reviews laws in compliance with the State Constitution
- Rules on the fairness of Statehouse & Congressional maps

DECIDES APPEALS

- Cases involving constitutional questions, death penalty sentences, and other cases of statewide importance

OVERSEES LOWER COURTS AND LAWYERS

- Sets policy and budgets
- Sets and oversees ethical guidelines for all Ohio lawyers

OHIO SUPREME COURT

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

AUTHORITY AND FINAL AUTHORITY TO CHALLENGES TO INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM PETITION PROCESS & REDISTRICTING PLANS

- 2023, 2023, 2024, 2026: Petitioners leading citizen initiatives challenged Ohio Ballot Board on ballot language, Ohio Attorney General on signature collection process
- 2021-22: Ohio Redistricting Commission votes for new Congressional & Statehouse maps, triggering litigation—Ohio Supreme Court rejects the maps 7 times but is ignored in violation of state constitution

APPEALS CASES

- 2023: Ruled the public has the right to know how foundation formed to distribute opioid settlement \$ was being spent
- 2024: Ruled cities can tax workers when working from home outside the city
- 2026: Ruled public school email lists are public records

HEAD OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Sets state policy on health care, housing, human service, public education transportation, and other issues
- Proposes and approves the State budget
- Can veto legislation if we break the super majority
- Serves on & convenes Ohio's Redistricting Commission

EXECUTES LAWS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE

- Coordinates all agencies in the Executive Branch
- Commands the Ohio National Guard

GOVERNOR & LT GOVERNOR



**Job
Description**

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

INTRODUCED AND SIGNED OHIO'S OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGETS

- 2025 Operating Budget included: Switch to flat tax of 2.75%
- 2025 Operating Budget: Governor issues 67 vetoes for provisions ranging from sales tax breaks for data centers to censorship in public libraries to property tax rules
- 2026 Capital Budget: \$3.7M to state parks, historical sites, public colleges, community projects, public safety + in all 88 counties

CHILDCARE INITIATIVES: POLICIES & POTENTIALS

- 2024: Childcare voucher program
- 2026: Tri-share Child Care Credit Program
- Raise Ohio's eligibility cap for publicly funded childcare
- Free universal pre-school Make school year-round
- Tax credits: children up to 18; earned income for lower-income households
- Incentivize employer partnership programs

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER:

- Oversees the elections to ensure compliance with state and federal laws
- Chairs the State Ballot Board- reviews & approves state initiatives & referendums, writes ballot language & explanation
- Chairs the Ohio Redistricting Commission- draws our state and congressional districts

LICENSING BUSINESSES AND STATE RECORD KEEPING

- Receives and approves articles of incorporation for Ohio businesses
- Provides public access to records

SECRETARY OF STATE



**Job
Description**

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- 2024: Issues attestation requirement for people dropping off someone else's ballot
- Consistently & publicly celebrates Ohio's safe & secure elections process

MAINTAINS & PROTECTS OHIO VOTER INFORMATION

- 2026: Private data of 8M Ohio voters provided to DOJ without subpoena

VOTE MAY APPROVE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES

- 2023: Cast vote in favor of changing language of the abortion protection Issue 1 from "fetus" to "unborn child", and including medical disinformation
- 2024: Cast vote in favor of changing language of anti-gerrymandering Issue 1 to read "required to gerrymander", titling it, "To create an appointed redistricting commission not elected by or subject to removal by the voters of the state"

VOTE MAY APPROVE NEW DISTRICTS IN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

- 2021-22, 2023, 2025: Cast votes in favor of gerrymandered maps; Commission ignored Ohio Supreme Court rulings



CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER:

- Represents Ohio in all court cases
- Provides legal counsel to all elected state officials, state departments, commissions and the GA.
- Coordinates with Law Enforcement
- Approves the summary language of Ballot Initiatives

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY:

- Enforces Ohio Law in Consumer protection, anti-trust actions, human trafficking, organized crime and nursing home patient abuse and neglect.
- Decides case priority

ATTORNEY GENERAL

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

DECIDES WHAT CASES TO PRIORITIZE

- 2025: Argues on behalf of Ohio's school voucher program, EdChoice: After Appeals Franklin County Appeals Court rules program unconstitutional, AG appeals to 10th District Court of Appeals
- 2024: Argues on behalf of abortion restrictions: After 2023 vote providing constitutional protection for abortion, AG pursues laws mandating 24-hour waiting period

PROSECUTES PUBLIC CORRUPTION

- 2024: FirstEnergy settlement—payout in exchange for \$20M, cooperation
- 2026: FirstEnergy executives' trial ends in mistrial

ASSESSES SUMMARY OF CITIZEN-INITIATED BALLOT INITIATIVES

- 2024: Proposed constitutional initiative rejected based on title; Ohio Supreme Court overrules AG decision
- 2025: Rejects proposed constitutional initiative 8 times; SCOTUS affirms federal and 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling finding AG violated petitioners' First Amendment rights



CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER:

- Responsible for collecting, investing and protecting state funds, including most state taxes and fees .
- Tracks and maintains Ohio's unclaimed property database

STATE BANKER:

- Issues bonds for voter authorized infrastructure improvement programs and school facilities construction

STATE TREASURER

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

MANAGES PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS

- 2026: 5 biggest made \$26B
- 2023: 5 biggest lost \$32B

MANAGEMENT OVER OHIO'S UNCLAIMED FUNDS

- Currently managed by Ohio Department of Commerce
- But post-plan for \$600M of fund to go to Cleveland Browns stadium, new questions

CRYPTOCURRENCY NOW ACCEPTED FOR STATE FEES

- Makes Ohio a leader here: we're the first state to do this
- May be risky: cryptocurrency pricing can be volatile

CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER:

- Responsible for fiscal & performance auditing of all public offices on Ohio, including local governments, schools, libraries & State universities.
- Sits on the Ohio Redistricting Commission- draws our state and congressional districts

WATCHDOG FOR PUBLIC FRAUD

- Promote transparency in government
- Decides where to direct investigations

STATE AUDITOR



IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

PUBLIC AUDITS

- School districts: help decide when levies are needed
- Community/charter schools: when receiving public \$, eg ECOT
- 2026: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) audit shows 34%  since 2022

PROMOTES TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC GOVERNMENT

- Annually: Publishes the Yellow Book, guide to Ohio's public records & meetings

POTENTIAL

- Support communities in trouble: identify trouble before it's a crisis
- JobsOhio: Currently has no meaningful oversight
- Connect the dots: Help municipalities, legislators understand how/why government spends money & whether they have resources needed
- Empower voters & communities: where \$ comes from, where it goes, why they struggle, what they can do to improve, and what to do if they're out of options

PROPOSES & PASSES OHIO LAWS

- on education funding & curriculum, voting access, housing costs, healthcare, corporate taxation & oversight, redistricting, environmental regulation, rules for public utilities, healthcare, & more.

SETS OHIO BUDGET

- on public education, public health, transit, drinking water, prisons, libraries, higher education, childcare programs, state employee wages & benefits, natural resources, & more.
- Allocates federal & state tax funds & local revenue

OH SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES



**Job
Description**

IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

PASSED LEGISLATION THAT

- 2025: SB1 bans DEI initiatives, suppresses free speech, restricts collective bargaining for public employees+ for in public colleges
- 2026: SB293 eliminated the post-election acceptance window for absentee ballots postmarked before the election, is likely to increase ballot rejections for eligible voters, and will make election officials' jobs much harder with no funding
- 2026: SB56 weakens 2023's Issue 2, legalizing cannabis, limiting what is allowed under Ohio law

PASSED OHIO'S BUDGETS

- 2025 Operating Budget included: Underfunding Ohio's *Fair School Funding* plan, took \$600M from Unclaimed Funds for the Browns stadium, abolished Ohio Election Commission, replaced 8 democratically elected State Board of Education members with 5-member Board appointed by Governor
- 2026 Capital Budget passed 92-3 in the House/unanimously in the Senate: Funds the acquisition, construction, equipment, or renovation of buildings and other facilities.

PRIMARY COUNTY TAXING, BUDGETING, AND PURCHASING AUTHORITY

- Allocates federal & state tax funds & local revenue
- Review and approve tax abatements for projects located in unincorporated areas

LEADS COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES

- Appoints leaders, sets policies & priorities, manages contracts

ZONING POWER OVER UNINCORPORATED AREAS

- Regulates the size, location, and use of buildings and land

FUN FACT: CUYAHOGA & SUMMIT COUNTIES DON'T HAVE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS!

- Voters of both counties voted for a charter form of government
- They each have a County Executive & an 11-member County Council

COUNTY COMMISSIONER



IMPACT ON YOU: REAL LIFE

APPROVES TAX ABATEMENTS FOR DATA CENTERS

- Stark County: Approved 30 year/75% tax abatement in exchange for \$2.75M for Perry Township in June
- Scioto County: Approved 15 year/75% tax abatement in exchange for \$500K for Franklin Furnace in January.

ALLOCATES FUNDING FOR BOARDS OF ELECTIONS

- Clark County: Commissioners currently being sued by county BOE for underfunding them \$61K of their requested budget
- Generally: Responds BOE needs created by frequent changes made by legislature & SOS

APPROVES ZONING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Franklin County: Allows capital projects and infrastructure development in unincorporated townships in partnership with city planning

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

- Make time to vote
- Create habits about voting
- Address barriers
- Reduce risk
- Vote Early (In person)
- Help friends & family vote



OHIO'S MIDTERM ELECTION 2026

NOV 3, 2026

RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS

In 2026, Ohio ballots will include

- Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Attorney General
- U.S. Senate & House Candidates
- 99 Ohio House Candidates & 17 Ohio Senate Candidates
- 2 Ohio Supreme Court Candidates
- County Positions - Commissioners, Auditors, Treasurers, etc.
- Local Levies - Schools, Police, Fire, etc.

Key Midterm Election Dates

- **Oct 5:** Deadline to register to vote
- **Oct 6 - Nov 1:** Early in-person voting at Board of Elections (see hours below)
- **NOW through Oct 27:** request an absentee ballot. Requests must be returned to your Board of Elections by 8:30 pm on 10/27.
- **Nov 3 is Election Day:** Vote from 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 7:30 pm.

Early In-Person Voting Hours

Oct 6-9	Tues-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 12-16	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 19-23	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 24	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
Oct 26	Mon	7:30am - 7:30pm
Oct 27	Tues	7:30am - 8:30pm
Oct 28-30	Wed- Fri	7:30am - 7:30pm
Oct 31	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
Nov 1	Sun	1:00 pm - 4:00pm

Request Absentee Ballot

Voter Registration & Polling Locations

Contact us at: ohio@redwine.blue

Election Protection Information

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens—but it's never been a right enjoyed equally by all Americans. Marginalized communities—people of color, people with disabilities, students, the elderly—all face obstacles when trying to access the ballot box. These are obstacles that are designed to suppress their vote.

We must be prepared to protect our neighbors and help them find a way to vote that would make them feel more secure—like mail-in or early voting—if they don't feel safe going in person. Going to the polls in larger groups adds another layer of security.

Fighting voter suppression doesn't happen only on Election Day. This is a year round fight—but one we can win!

If you need help related to voting, including on Election Day, contact the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Want to learn more?

- Join an upcoming RWB Ohio event.
- Fill out our volunteer interest form and we'll be in touch!
- Check out the Red Wine & Blue App and our easy-to-use Rally tool. You'll get everything you need in one place!
- Join our FB group to find like-minded Ohioans near you!

Join us on our RWB App

RWB Ohio FB group

Volunteer with RWB

Find RWB Events Here

Voting Rights Website

Contact us at: ohio@redwine.blue

RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS

MY 2026 VOTING PLAN

Local elections are taking place nationwide this year. Are you ready? Look up who will be on your ballot at vote.org or on your [state's board of elections website](#). Fill out this form to take to the ballot box with you!

HOW I'M VOTING

- ☐ Early Voting In-Person
- ☐ Mail-in or Absentee Ballot
- ☐ Election Day In-Person

WHEN I'M VOTING

Date: _____
Time: _____

WHERE I'M VOTING

Location Name: _____
Address: _____

OTHER DETAILS

- ☐ My voter registration is active
- ☐ I have an approved voter ID (if required in your state)
- ☐ I've scheduled a ride (details: _____)
- ☐ I've scheduled childcare (details: _____)
- ☐ I'm bringing these friends with me to vote: _____
- ☐ I've packed water and snacks

WHO I'M VOTING FOR

Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____

LOCAL LEVIES/BONDS/MILLAGES/BALLOT INITIATIVES

- ☐ I support / ☐ I don't support _____
- ☐ I support / ☐ I don't support _____

If you are in line when the polls close, be sure you stay in line and vote!



Learn more about the importance of local elections at redwine.blue





HOW TO FIGHT BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens—but it's never been a right enjoyed equally by all Americans. Marginalized communities—people of color, people with disabilities, students, the elderly—all face obstacles when trying to access the ballot box. Obstacles that are designed to suppress their vote.

In light of Supreme Court decisions, including *Louisiana v. Callais*, and extremist politicians attacking the right to vote more than we've seen since Jim Crow, ensuring we do everything we can to help ALL members of our communities vote is more important than ever. This worksheet will help you identify roadblocks and help voters overcome unjust barriers.

VOTING CHECKLIST: START WITH THE BASICS ALL VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

- ☐ Deadline to register: _____
- ☐ Are there voter ID requirements in your state? _____
- ☐ Polling location and hours – both on Election Day
and early voting period: _____
- ☐ Deadline to request a mail or absentee ballot: _____
- ☐ Date mail and absentee ballots are sent to voters: _____
- ☐ Deadline to return a mail or absentee ballot: _____
- ☐ Address to return a mail/absentee ballot or drop off a ballot : _____

Now let's work through several of the barriers different voters face—the extra steps they have to go through that many voters might take for granted. Putting yourself in their shoes can help us make sure everyone has equal access to the ballot.

VOTING WITH A DISABILITY OR ILLNESS

- Is your polling place accessible or are there obstacles (steep ramps, gravel parking lots)?
- Are there voting machines at your precinct that are accessible?
- What are your state's absentee ballot rules?
- If you have to present information or ID in person to be able to vote absentee, do you have a friend, neighbor, or relative who can help?

Voter Suppression Tactics: Many states have limited access to mail and absentee voting and now the federal government is attacking mail voting with an illegal executive order. Some states have even tried to **criminalize** having a person assist a disabled voter at the polls.

VOTING WITHOUT RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

- What are the local services that provide rides to the polls?
- Do public transportation services or local ride-share companies provide fare-free days on election day? If so, which ones?
- For states with drop-off ballot boxes, are you allowed to have someone drop off your ballot for you?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION



go.rally.win

RALLY TOGETHER

Rally Together - Ohio

Elections are decided by the people who show up, and many are decided by just a handful of votes. Before you help your friends and family make a plan to vote, make sure your own registration is up to date. Check your voter registration below to get started.

Legal First Name *

Last Name *

[I go by a different name](#)

Address *

Email *

Enter your email to receive updates and information about upcoming elections.

Phone number *

Address *

Email *

Enter your email to receive updates and information about upcoming elections.

Phone number *

☒ I have read and agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

[Check registration](#)

Been here before?
Verify your email [here](#) to pick up where you left off.

CIRCLE OF Influence



You influence more people than you think! Who can you talk to about issues, candidates and voting?
Keep building your list to increase your impact!

Family and close friends to contact

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Who is on your holiday party list/Who would you invite to a milestone celebration?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

People who likely agree with you but don't talk politics or are tuned out

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Other friends (besties, neighbors, your group chat and work buddies)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Community Groups (mom groups, book clubs, faith institutions, kids' activities, PTA/PTO)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Who are the people you recently texted/called? Who are the people you engaged with lately on social media?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

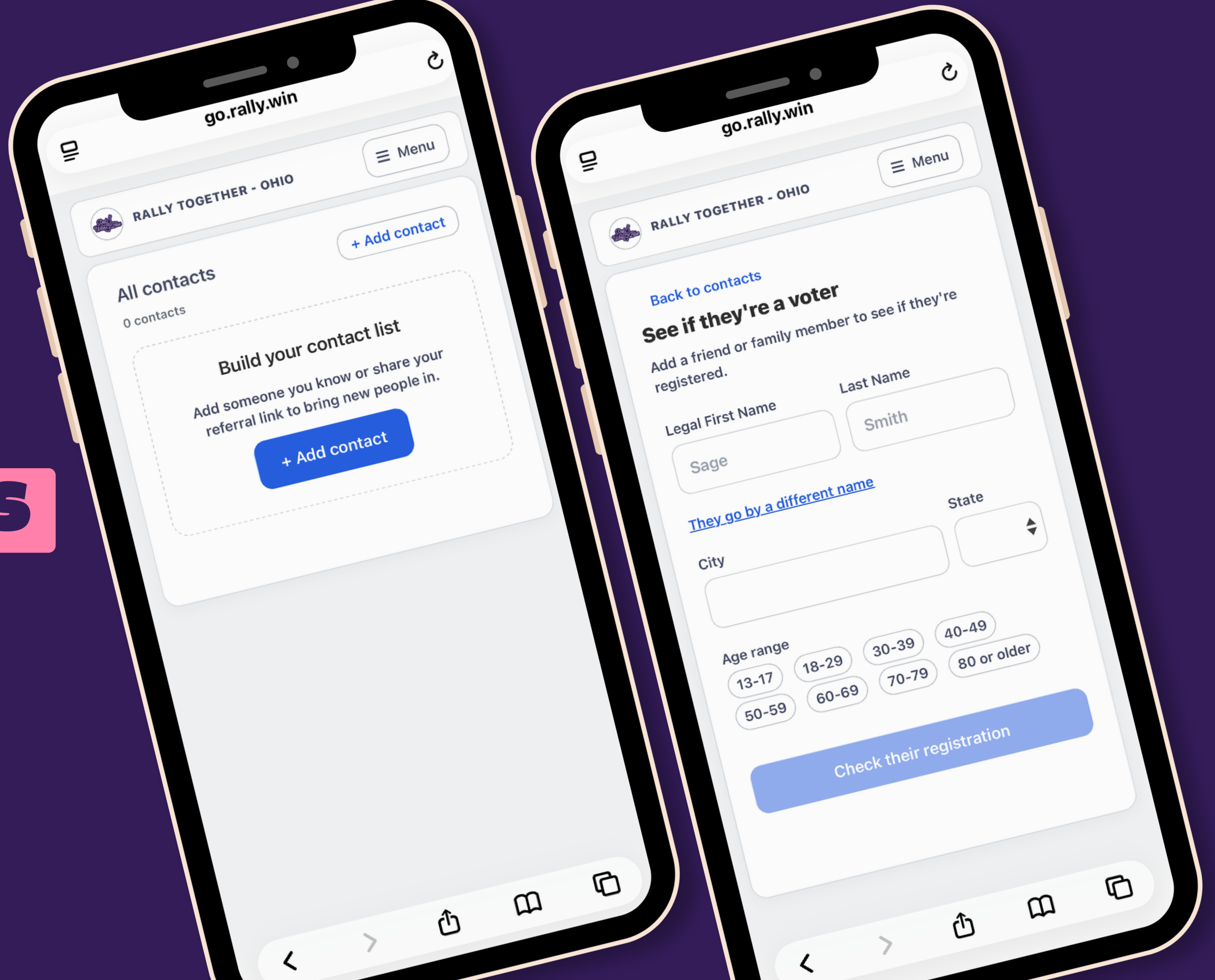
Think About Where You Go Often:

- ☒ Any recurring appointment
- ☒ Hair or nail salon
- ☒ Grocery store
- ☒ Gym
- ☒ Preschool or school

**SCAN HERE TO
USE RALLY TO
GET OUT THE VOTE**



ADD CONTACTS



**ELECTION
PROTECTION**



866-OUR-VOTE



411

VOTE411.org

THANK YOU

Get the latest information and updates about our programs

REDWINE.BLUE

WWW.LWV OHIO.ORG

