

Turn Outrage into Action. Exercise your right to vote.

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.”

- President Lyndon B. Johnson upon signing the [Voting Rights Act](#) of 1965

The wrongful deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless other victims of police brutality have exposed the extent of racial injustice in America. We stand against the senseless murders of black people at the hands of police officers.

The killing of George Floyd has sparked a significant reaction in Philadelphia as thousands of protestors take to the streets to protest police brutality. Protests continue despite road and bridge closures, enforced curfews, and SEPTA service disruptions. It is clear that residents of this city have suffered from systemic racism for far too long to be silenced. As Penn students, we have a duty to stand with our Philly neighbors against inequality so violent that it costs us human lives.

In this time, it is critical that our voices are not silenced and that our fight for justice results in lasting change. **We urge you to turn your outrage into action by voting in the Pennsylvania Primary Election tomorrow, June 2nd.** In a last-minute development, **voters now have a [one week extension](#) to turn in their mail-in ballots.** Philadelphia has [mail-in ballot drop off locations throughout the city](#). However, **PLTV strongly encourages students to turn in their mail-in ballots tomorrow if at all possible.**

If you vote in-person in Philadelphia tomorrow, please be safe. We cannot predict whether protests will continue tomorrow throughout the day - but anticipate that the National Guard may be called to protect polling locations and polling locations may close as early as 5pm, rather than their usual 8pm, due to the mandatory city curfew. When voting at [your polling location](#), expect longer than usual wait times to cast your vote due to public health measures intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 - please wear a mask, practice social distancing, and bring your own ink pen to complete forms. This guidance may hold true for other cities and states as well - please check your local election office websites and local news for more information.

Voting is a simple way to hold elected officials accountable and honor the efforts of civil rights leaders to make voting accessible to all. Although many barriers to voting unfortunately persist to this day, Penn Leads the Vote collaborates with state officials to encourage the removal of these barriers, such as stamp requirements for voting-related documents.

We understand that many of you may feel like your voice and your vote do not matter. This could not be further from the truth; in addition to [Pennsylvania ranking 2nd for youth voter](#)

[impact in the 2020 Presidential Election](#), your votes decide who our local officials are, and the decisions they make on issues like police department and criminal justice reform. Now is the time to make your voice heard.

As always, feel free to reach out to us with any questions about voting or our organization. Continue to stay informed and engaged.

