



# VOTE WITH CONFIDENCE: GETTING YOUR FACTS

Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow

## Goals

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- **Follow coverage from at least one news source every day**
  - ✓ Try to combine sources and expand your exposure
- **Go beyond the headlines for at least 1 post or article that interests you**
  - ✓ Fact check the info follow at least 1 link to verify the source and find out more
- **Find candidates who best align with your own interests**
  - ✓ Discover the current issues that affect you and your community
  - ✓ Figure out who supports your values and opinion on how the issues should be addressed

## Finding Credible News

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Go directly to the source or origin of a story. Use many sources for issues and current events that are important to you. Even consider reading opposing views to get a better understanding. Be careful if you always use 1 news source or use a summarizing technology that will filter out news for you. News sources have their own biases and may be partisan (strongly supports a certain party or person). Avoid conspiracy theories and always look for citations.

## How to Spot Fake News

- **More popular may mean more suspicious** – Viral articles should be double-checked
- **Check the date** – Is it old news? Is it still relevant?
- **Check the source** – Click away from the story to find out if the site and author are legitimate
- **Read beyond the headline** – They may use clickbait to get your attention, but the article does not support the headline.
- **Is it a joke?** – Satirical sites and blogs like *The Onion* write articles that are based on the truth but are created for entertainment.
- **Check the author** – Is it a real person? Are they a credible journalist? Check Google or LinkedIn for help.
- **Check supporting sources** – Click the links in the article or check the report referenced to see if it is real and agrees with the summary in the article
- **Check your biases** – Consider if your own beliefs are affecting your judgement
- **Has it been altered?** – Photos, videos and articles can be altered to look and sound real.

### Red flags of fake news

- Anonymous Author
- Author is famous
- Spelling and grammatical errors
- It makes you “do the math!” rather than sharing the result

## Learn About the Candidates

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Strive to be an informed voter. Do your research to learn everything you can, as early as you can when it comes to candidates, issues, and election implications. Here are some reliable resources to help:

- ✓ **WCA Candidate Survey:** [www.wca4kids.org/issues/vote-kids/](http://www.wca4kids.org/issues/vote-kids/) (Direct from candidates)
- ✓ Vote 411: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) (Election/Procedural information by state)
- ✓ Ballotpedia: [www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org) (Federal, state, & local election coverage)
- ✓ PolitiFact: [www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com) (Fact-checks all statements by political figures)
- ✓ FiveThirtyEight: [www.fivethirtyeight.com](http://www.fivethirtyeight.com) (News about politics/government)