

Take Action!

How can you take action? Scan the QR code or use the link to watch this video for inspiration on how you can become a changemaker.



Before you create your own plan of action, let's explore some of the various ways you can get involved and the resources to do so.

Influence History

Everyone has an opportunity to make a difference at local and national levels through actions such as voting, community service, or petitioning the federal government. As more people come together to work for a cause, they have an increasing amount of influence on the direction of that issue. If there is an issue you are passionate about, find a way to get involved and make a difference. You don't need to wait until you are older to change lives—teenagers and young adults have already influenced the course of history. The time is now for you to become a changemaker.

“Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”
– Malala Yousafzai



Check out envisionexperience.com/Inauguration for more resources

Make a Difference at the National Level

There are many issues that we face as a country. It's our government's responsibility to listen to the will of the people and resolve those issues. In any election year, certain issues receive significant attention from media and campaigns so that American citizens become aware of candidates' positions on areas of concern.

Important issues during the 2020 election and issues that will be a focus in 2021 include:

Climate change & the environment
COVID-19
Criminal justice reform
Economic inequity
The economic recession
Education
Election integrity
Foreign policy

Health care
Housing, poverty, and welfare
Immigration and border security
LGBTQIA+ rights
Racial and ethnic inequality and justice
Religious freedom
Supreme Court appointments
Women's rights

It may seem intimidating for you to enact change, but you can still take action and have an impact on the issues affecting our country. Below are various ways you can get involved.

Ways to Take Action

Contact Your Representative or Senators

Connect with them by phone, email, in person visit, or social media. Use the resources below to find out who your senators and representatives are, as well as access to their websites, and contact information.

[The Senate](#)

[The House of Representatives](#)

Show Your Support for a Political Party

Use the resources below to find ways to support the political party of your choosing.

[College Democrats of America](#)

[College Republican National Committee](#)

[Democratic National Committee](#)

[Green Party](#)

[Independent Voting](#)

[Libertarian Party](#)

[Republican National Committee](#)

[Young Democrats of America](#)

[Young Republican National Federation](#)

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Participate in Events</p> <p>Participate in political or social campaigns, rallies, marches, or demonstrations. Show your support on social media by sharing important information.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Use Your Platform</p> <p>Write a blog post, create an Instagram, TikTok, YouTube video, or other type of social media post expressing your views on an issue. Be sure to provide fact and reasoning to support your opinions to strengthen the validity of your arguments. Link your post to reliable resources for viewers to do additional learning or directly to a cause's website or social media page.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sign a Petition</p> <p>You can find petitions on all types of issues to sign online. Start with the resource below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Change.org</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">Join or Volunteer</p> <p>Join an organization, association, movement, or volunteer! Identify the issues that are important to you, and find groups to join or ways to support those issues. Here are a few ideas to get you started.</p> <p>Adopt A Highway AmeriCorps Big Brothers Big Sisters Feeding America Habitat for Humanity The Humane Society Idealist Live Out Loud St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Sunrise Movement UNICEF United Way</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE!</p> <p>Voting is a constitutional right at the heart of our democracy. It is a right that has been fought and died for throughout history. Exercising our right to vote informs our country's leaders on our wants and decisions. As representatives of the people, it's our elected officials' duty to abide by the will of the people. Equally important is our duty and precious right to inform them by voting. When you are of voting age, be sure to register to vote and practice this right. Use the resources below to learn more about the importance of voting and the voting process.</p> <p>Rock the Vote Vote Smart</p> |
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What Issues Are Important in Your Region?

In addition to the issues we face as a country, each state and region has issues that are of specific importance to them. Take a look at the map to see which issues state and other officials have identified as important in different parts of the country. Be sure to find your state and evaluate the issues important to your region.

West

Alaska, Colorado, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming; the U.S. Territories of Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa

Significant Issues¹

Supporting rural economic development and infrastructure; developing biosecurity for ecosystems, forests, rangelands, and watersheds; workforce development; natural resource management; renewable energy; tourism; air quality improvement; electric vehicle infrastructure; wildfire suppression and prevention.



Did You Know...

Four state capitals are named after presidents. Lincoln, NE; Jackson, MS; Madison, WI; Jefferson City, MO.⁷

17 presidents previously served as governors.⁸

17 presidents previously served as U.S. senators.⁹

19 presidents previously served as U.S. representatives.¹⁰

Southwest

Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Significant Issues²

Illegal immigration and worker visas; border security; agricultural and food network supply development; protection of water resources; renewable energy transportation; developing biosecurity for ecosystems, forests, rangelands, and watersheds; natural resource management; healthcare; tourism; supporting rural economic development and infrastructure.

South

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia; the U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Significant Issues⁶

Supporting rural economic development and infrastructure; agricultural development; distribution and protection of water and natural resources; support of farming and farm communities; healthcare and human services; transportation infrastructure; integration with the global economy; criminal justice and corrections reform; ensuring public safety; flood prevention and mitigation; expansion of wind energy production; manufacturing development; trade infrastructure; workforce development.

Midwest

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Significant Issues³

Preventing Agroterrorism; combating aquatic invasive species; promoting forestry and natural resources; maximizing bioenergy resources; new energy industry development; combating truck driver shortages; reducing poverty; workforce development; international relations; supporting rural economic development; increasing manufacturing.

Northeast

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

Significant Issues⁴

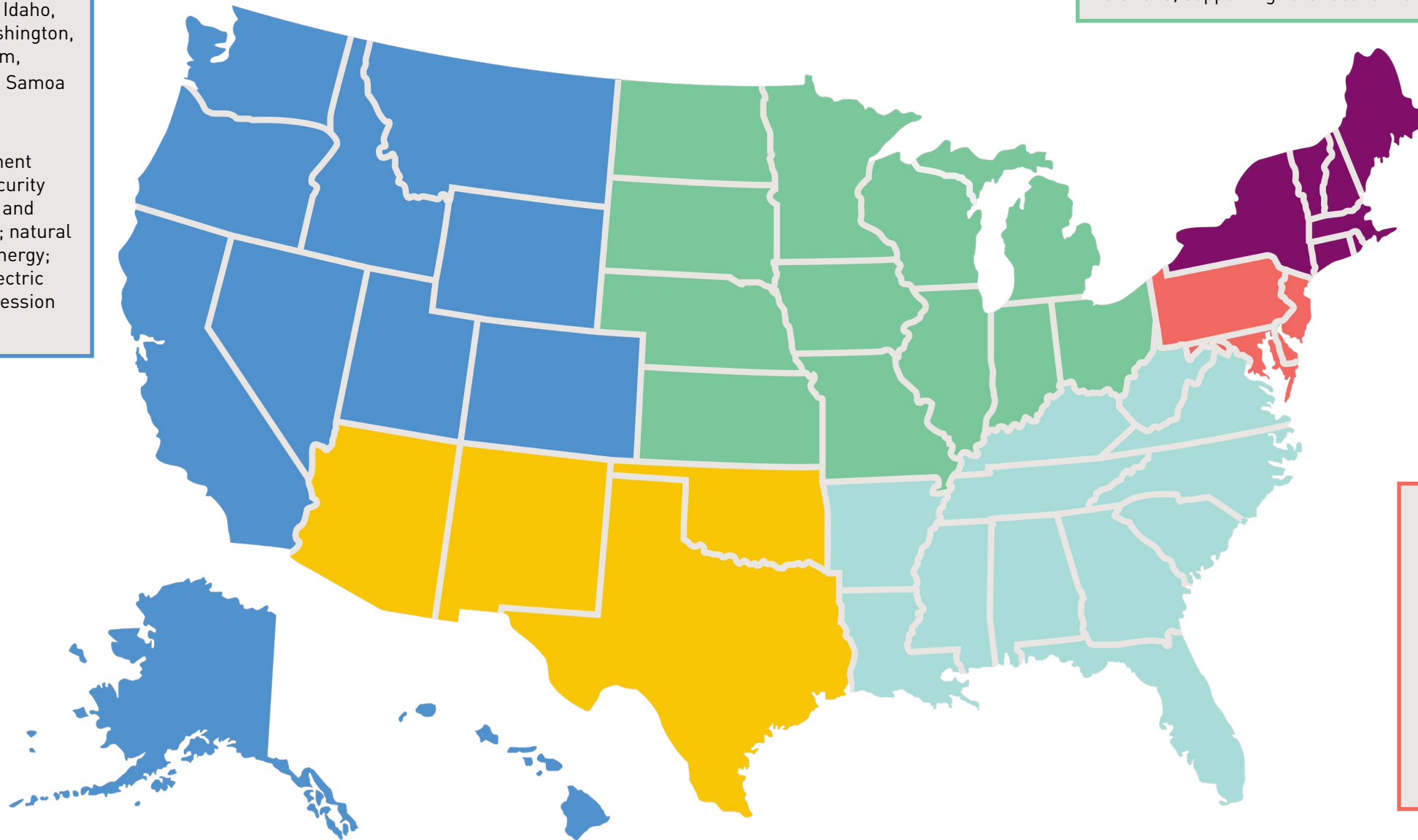
Clean energy; electric vehicles and infrastructure; improving air quality; improving energy security and affordability; climate change infrastructure; protecting natural resources; healthcare; promoting state export; biodiversity conservation; criminal justice reform; education; workforce development.

Mid-Atlantic

Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C.

Significant Issues⁵

Supporting rural economic development; supporting communities of color; criminal justice reform; education; addressing environmental and climate concerns; natural resource protection; healthcare; military and veteran affairs; promoting state export; developing transportation infrastructure; emergency management and preparedness.



Get Involved in Regional Issues

After reviewing the map of regional issues, take a moment using the questions below to reflect on the issues that are important to your region and state.

What region and state are you from? _____

What issues are important to your state?

What issues are important to your local community?

What do you think are the key issues impacting your state and region?

What can be done to enact change?

How do the issues in your region impact the rest of the country?

How do the issues in your region differ from those in other regions?

Are any of the issues unique to your region, or do they impact another region?

Social Media Challenge

Create a 60-second video answering the following questions, sharing how you will take action for your home region in 2021. Be sure to share it with us on social media by using the hashtag #LivingHistory.

Which issue from your region is most important to you? Why? How are you going to take action in 2021 to enact change supporting this issue?



Act Globally

You can also change our world. Stay informed about what's going on in the world to be able to take action. Visit the global news sites below to stay informed about current events. As a leader, you can influence the world, but you need to be knowledgeable first.

Foreign Policy

News, special reports, and links to useful resources from one of the most respected publications in the world of international affairs.

United Nations News Service

Thorough news source with links to U.N. publications and databases. Information is available by country and topic in a variety of multimedia formats.

Important Global Issues

These are some of the important issues in the world today—which are important to you? How can you take action and be a changemaker?

- Equity and inclusivity
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Humanitarian assistance
- Global cooperation

Ways to Take Action

These important global issues may seem intimidating for you to enact change, but you can still make an impact. If you're looking for opportunities to act globally, explore these websites:

- [United States Department of State, Student Resources](#): Information on opportunities to study abroad, apply for fellowships, and engage with international visitors.
- [U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Youth](#): Information on International Youth Day, U.N. Youth Delegates, U.N. Youth Associations, and other youth events.
- [U.N. Student Resources](#): Information on student resources including the UN iLibrary, Voices of Youth, and Focal Point on Youth.
- [Idealist.org](#): A useful International Volunteerism Resource Center, along with listings for domestic and international programs, internships, and networking opportunities.
- [World Endeavors](#): Provides international intern and volunteer programs for students.
- [Peace Corps](#): Provides international service opportunities to bring change to important global issues abroad.

Resource List

Looking for additional ways to get involved locally, nationally, and globally? Explore the websites below to discover more methods to take action and become a changemaker.

[DoSomething.org](#)

DoSomething.org offers you the chance to survey different causes and find important information to help you take action. Once you have selected a cause, DoSomething.org provides helpful tips, the top ten most effective ways to support a certain cause, and even a grant program for those who apply with a project proposal. If you want to involve groups of people, you can also learn how to start your own Do Something club at school or in your community.

[Mobilize.org](#)

Mobilize.org has the mission is to empower and invest in millennials who create and implement solutions to social issues. Mobilize.org believes the millennial generation must create long-term, sustainable, and community-based solutions to the challenges that face their generation. Since its founding, Mobilize.org has connected with 22,000 people in 11 summits both online and in-person. These summits have focused on issues including the lack of financial literacy, education, and job growth. To date, Mobilize.org has invested over \$200,000 in 57 millennial-led projects.

[Points of Light](#)

The Points of Light is dedicated to inspiring a sense of civic duty in people of all ages and backgrounds. They believe that as more people realize their ability to make a difference, healthy and vibrant communities will cover the globe. Check out their website to locate a Volunteer Center near you or visit their networks link to learn about local, national, and international volunteer opportunities.

[Volunteer Match](#)

In 1994, Volunteer Match was founded as an online nonprofit to encourage community service and involvement around the world. Today, Volunteer Match is a leader in supporting nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and business leaders that are dedicated to community service. Use their site to get inspired and learn about a variety of volunteer opportunities in your area. You can also read about other people's success with volunteering and share your own success story.

[Youth Service America](#)

Youth Service America (YSA) is a nonprofit organization that aims to inspire young people across the globe to get involved with their communities and make a difference. YSA aids young people's community service efforts by providing information, tools, training, support, and recognition. If you are interested in improving your community, check out YSA's website and learn about their Global Youth Service Day, Semester of Service, as well as awards and grants programs.

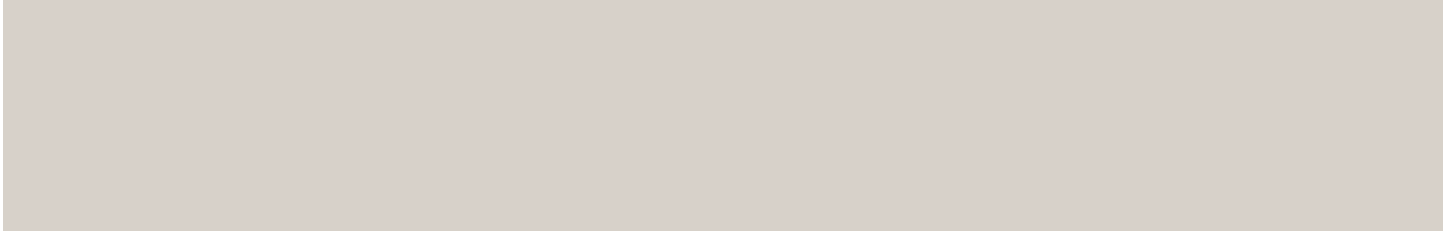
[The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#)

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) in 1995. This program's goal is to recognize and honor young people for extraordinary volunteer services in their communities. Visit their website to learn more about the latest honorees, look into the application process, or peruse community service tips to try in your hometown.

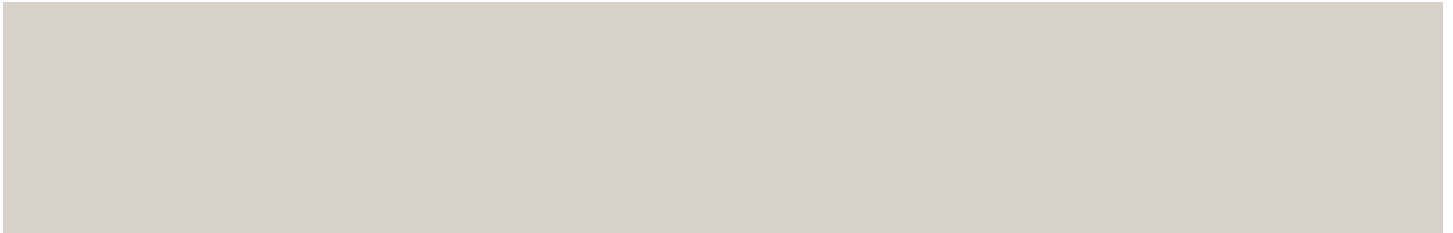
Action Plan

Use this action plan to help you organize your goals and immediate next steps to take action to be a changemaker.

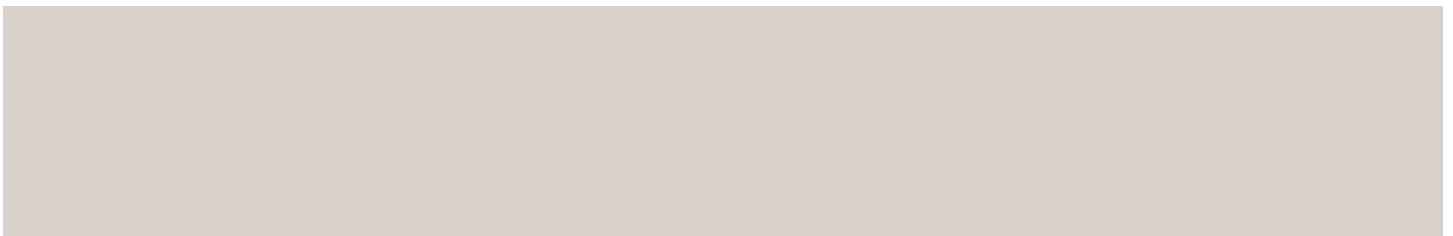
What is an issue I care about?



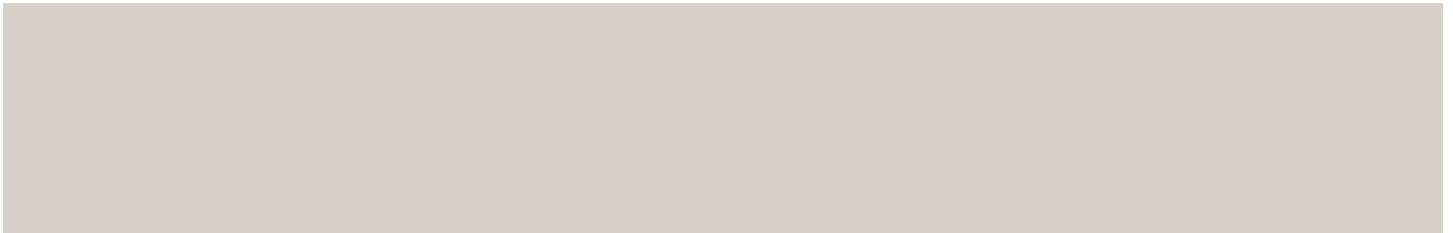
What can I do?



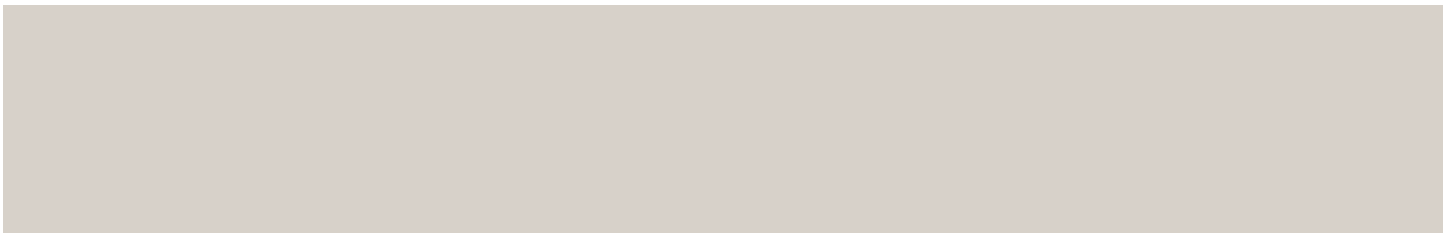
What steps do I need to take?



Who can help me?



What is my action plan timeline?



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