NIU is engaged in the All IN Democracy Challenge, program that seeks to enhance student involvement in voter education, registration and mobilization. This is a non-partisan effort and all discussion with students should be framed in terms of civic responsibility. Students should not be encouraged to vote for any particular candidate nor join any party.

Here are some suggestions for promoting civil discourse on these emotionally laden issues— most of which, unsurprisingly, echo good general classroom practice:

- Don’t feel you need to be a political expert, knowing all the answers with perfect responses.
- Remember that your role is to get students talking and thinking, not to lead them toward a particular political viewpoint or electoral outcome.
- Consider having a couple of students facilitate the conversation with you.
- You may supply information, context, and sources for further inquiry, but you are mainly providing an environment where all in the classroom are respected. Let the students take the lead as much as possible. Encourage them to listen, hear each other’s perspectives and work to understand the experience that generates these perspectives. Following resources might be helpful with incorporating these conversations in your classes: CEEP Faculty Guide, Living Room Conversations, Allsides.
- When discussing where candidates stand on key issues of interest to students, be accurate and fair, whatever your personal views. Feel free to use the following nonpartisan candidate and issues guides.

If students wish to register to vote, they may contact:
- Deputy Registrars at NIU listed on go.niu.edu/Huskies-Vote
- DeKalb County Registrar: 815-895-7147 or email elections@dekalbcounty.org

If they have a valid Illinois DL or State ID, they can visit the state’s website and register to vote online https://ova.elections.il.gov/

The registration period for the online voter registration system will close at 11:59 PM on 03/01/2020 and will reopen on 03/19/2020

To vote in Illinois:
- You must be a United States Citizen.
- You must be 17 years old on or before the date of the Primary Election and turn 18 on or before the date of the General or Consolidated Election.
- You must live in your election precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.
- You must not be serving a sentence of confinement in any penal institution as a result of a conviction.
- You may not claim the right to vote anywhere else.