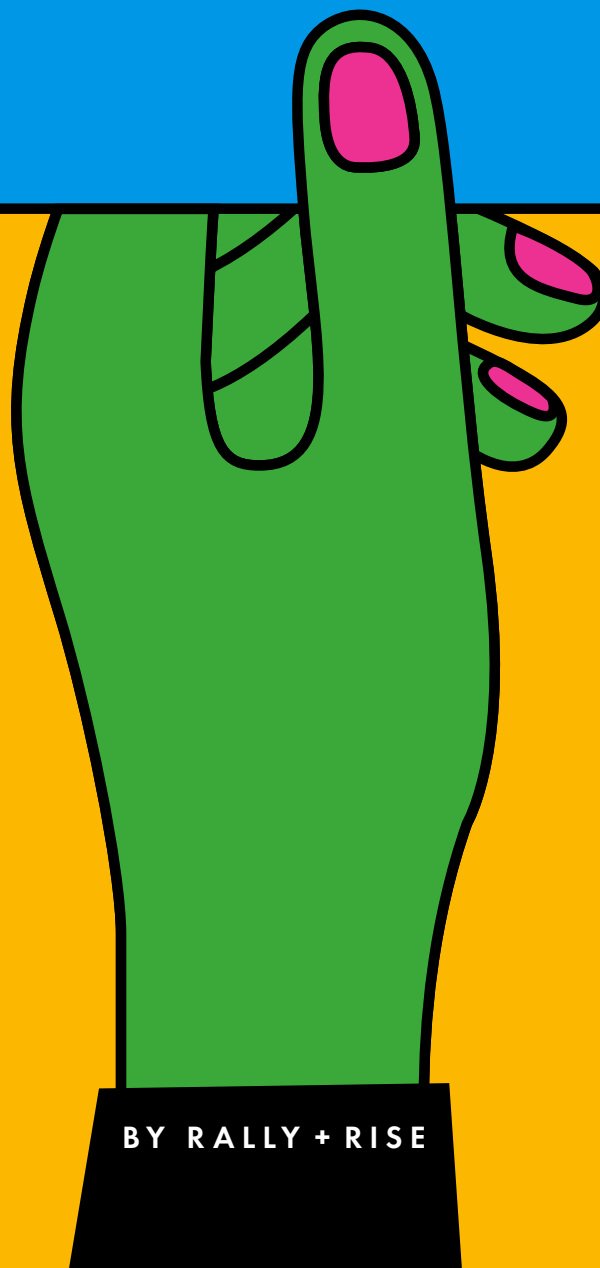


The #NoRegretsNovember Workbook

Part 2: Get Registered (and Make a Plan!)



BY RALLY + RISE

What is No Regrets November?

Remember how you felt the morning after the 2016 election? Like the worst hangover...ever.

We don't want you to feel that way again this year. We want to know that we did our part to stop Trump, flip the Senate, and elect as many progressive candidates up-and-down the ballot as possible. (Hangovers should be from celebratory champagne.)

With less than 65 days (and counting!) until the November 3 election, we're doing the work now to ensure we have a #noregretsnovember.

THE GAME PLAN: Every month—from now until November—we'll be focusing on a new action we can take to identify, support and elect progressive candidates who will actually help us make change. Some might push you out of your comfort zone. It can be intimidating, we know—that's why we're doing this together.

To help you get through it, we've launched a series of monthly workbooks. (you've got one in your virtual hands!) This will lay out the steps to take during the month—so you can track your progress (or hold yourself accountable). When in doubt, reference the workbook and take action in some way.

THE TIMELINE:

August: **Get accountable** ([download workbook](#))

September: **Get registered**

October: **Get talking**

November: **Get voting**

BTW: This workbook is created with election activism in mind, but many of the prompts can apply to whatever issue you're focused on. So hi! Welcome! We're super excited that you're here and looking to get involved in something that's important to you.

So, who's ready for a #noregretsnovember? Let's do this!

#NOREGRETNOVEMBER: GET REGISTERED

Where are we now?

We're almost 50 days out from Election Day—which, in normal times, would mean we'd have 50 days to make sure we're all set to vote. But these aren't normal times [gestures at...everything].

THE REALITY: We're in the midst of a global pandemic, states have been shutting down polling locations due to "budget cuts", and the United States Postal Service has been weaponized by the GOP to disenfranchise voters. (And who knows what else has happened this month, since we wrote this!)

In 2016, roughly 43% of eligible voters did not vote.¹ If we want to win, we need to change that.

That's why this month we're focusing on getting registered to vote—you, your friends, your neighbor with the loud dog, and total strangers who need help—and establishing a voting plan now.

WHY THE RUSH? In some key swing states, absentee ballots start getting sent out this month. So really, Election Day starts as soon as you can request your ballot.

UM, WHY ARE VOTING RULES SO CONFUSING?

That's what we started thinking as we wrote this month's workbook. Here's a big reason why: It's state governments—rather than the federal government—that run elections. That means every. single. state. has different rules, different deadlines, different forms, different processes. (It's also why your local elected officials are so important—they have more of an impact on voting than, say, your US Senator.) We're gonna give you generalized step-by-step instructions on a lot of things, but there will be some moments where we can't get super specific. When in doubt, google is your BFF—if you search "board of elections [your city/town/state]", you'll be able to find more detailed info. We also like the Plan Your Vote site for clear, regularly updated deets for every state: [NBCNews.com/PlanYourVote](https://www.nbcnews.com/PlanYourVote)

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com>

#NOREGRETNOVEMBER: GET REGISTERED

BEFORE WE DIVE IN, though, we want to acknowledge something: The choice to vote is a personal one. We understand why some people—after years of being failed to be protected by the government—have decided to not engage in the electoral process. We also need to point out that not everyone who wants to vote, can vote; throughout the country, states have taken steps to make it more difficult to cast a ballot—by closing polling locations, limiting hours, purging voter rolls, creating poll taxes, and more. There are also more than 6 million people who have been disenfranchised because of a felony conviction¹, and another 700,000 who will be held in jails on Election Day² (including people who are being detained pre-trial simply because they can't afford bail) and—although it is their legal right to vote—will not be allowed to go to the polls. We have a lot of work to do to ensure that we enfranchise all Americans, through November 3 and beyond.

Ultimately, there's a reason why the other side is working so hard to stop us from voting: When we all vote, we win. So let's up our numbers. You ready?



¹ <https://www.sentencingproject.org>

² <https://www.americanprogress.org>

Get Registered

We're **less than 65 days** out from the election. It's one thing to commit to taking action to elect more progressive candidates, but it's another to actually make it happen. We get it. That's why, this month, we're focusing on getting registered and making realistic plans to vote.

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 1: Get your plan in place			60 days to the election!		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 2: Support your friends & family					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 3: Spread the word in your community					45 days to get rid of 45!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 4: Join the voter week of action					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 5: Help out your candidate					

Get started 

Week 1: Get your plan in place

If there's an emergency on an airplane, the first person you help out is...you. Think about voting in the same way: Get your voting plan in place now, so that you can spend the rest of the time leading up to the election helping out others.

Confirm that you're registered to vote



DOUBLE CHECK: Even if you're certain that you're registered, double check it right now—some states routinely purge their voter rolls, which means that your name could disappear. (Wild, right?) To look up your voter registration status, hit up [vote.org](https://www.vote.org) or your state's Board of Elections website.

<https://www.vote.org>

"WAIT, I'M NOT REGISTERED!" Aren't you glad you checked? Drop everything and make sure you register right this second. While some states allow you to register online, not all do—which means you'll need to either print out a voter registration form or pick one up from your local Board of Elections (and from there either mail it back to them or drop it off in person).

To get more info on registering to vote, head to your state's Board of Elections website or [vote.org](https://www.vote.org).

BIG MOVES:

If you relocated during the pandemic, you'll want to decide whether you should change your voting location or vote absentee.

Our advice? Register where your vote will have the biggest impact. Not sure? Go back to August's workbook and check out the states that have super-important Senate, House, and State House elections. (Living in a key swing state for the Presidential election is also pretty important, TBH.)

Figure out: What's your voting plan?



WTF IS A "VOTING PLAN"? It's establishing how and where you'll vote. We know it's hard to think about voting in the beginning of September. But with so much uncertainty around the pandemic and the postal service, this isn't a normal voting year.

Whether you're voting by mail or in-person, get it done ASAP this year. Don't think of Election Day as November 3; instead, think of Election Day as the first possible day you can request an absentee ballot or vote early in-person.

EARLY IS BEST: We can't tell you whether voting by mail, voting in-person early, or voting in-person on Election Day makes the most sense for you. But we can recommend that you prioritize the earlier options, and suggest that you have a contingency plan in place, just in case your original plan falls through.

For example: In many states you can vote in-person even if you've requested an absentee ballot—so if you plan to vote-by-mail but your ballot takes a long time to arrive, you may decide to go vote during the early voting period instead. The more info you have about your state's election rules—and the dates and deadlines, too—the better prepared you'll be to make sure that your vote counts.

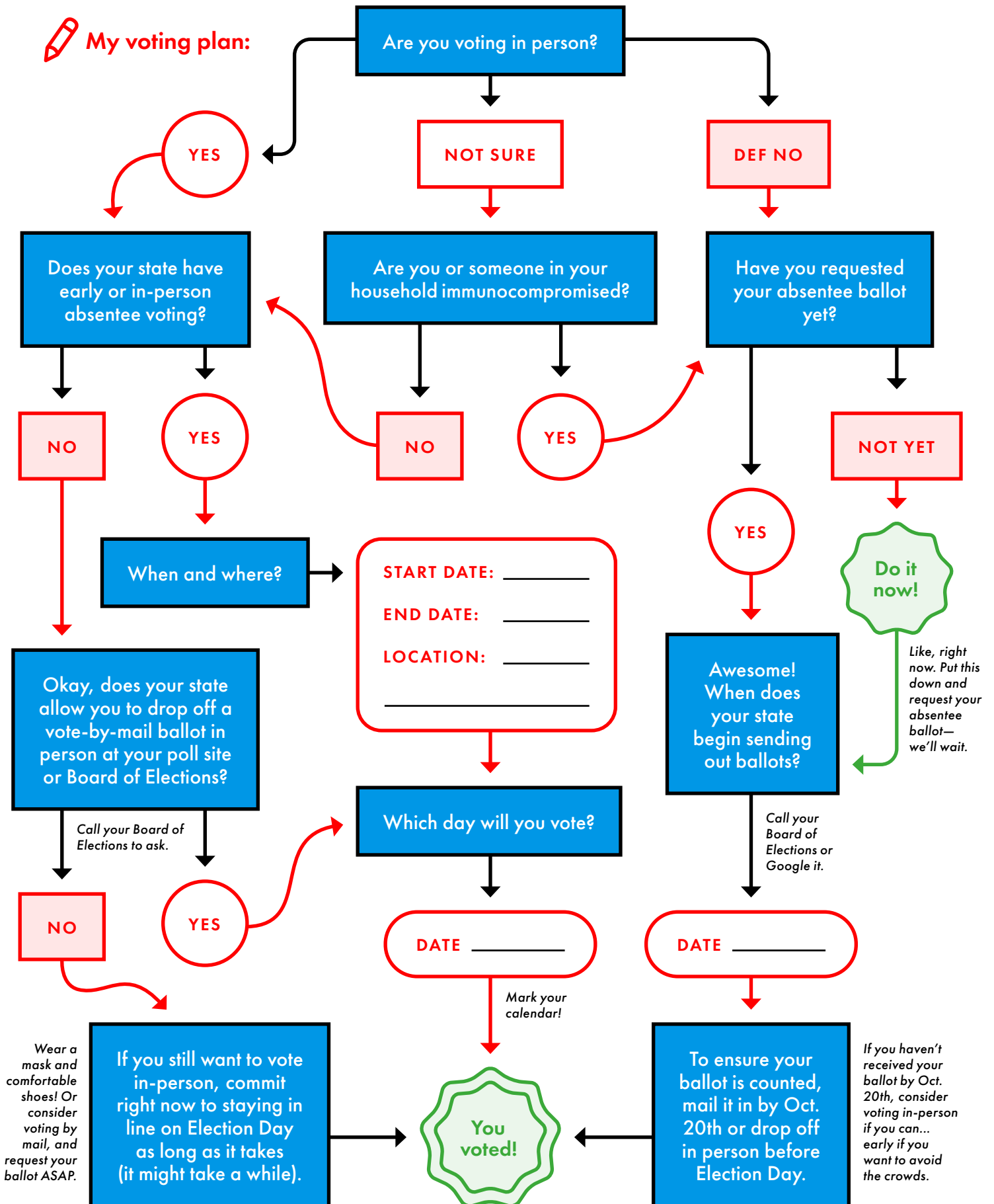
NEED HELP? Use the voting plan flowchart and checklist on the next two pages.

FUN FACT:
Some states begin mailing ballots out as early as September 4!

CHECK IN:

Ask your accountability buddy what their voting plan is—and make a note of their voting date (whether it's early in-person or when they plan to drop their absentee ballot in the mailbox), so you can send them a reminder :)

 **My voting plan:**



Voting checklist

If you don't already have a reliable voting plan, use the flowchart on the previous page to help you figure out a voting plan that works for you.



TO DO:

- I've confirmed my voter registration.
- I've decided I'm going to vote: by mail in-person early in-person on Election Day
- If I'm voting by mail, I've requested my vote-by-mail ballot.
- If I'm voting by mail, I've committed to returning my vote-by-mail ballot by _____ .
DATE
- If I'm voting in-person early, I've committed to voting on _____ .
DATE
- If I'm voting in-person early, I've confirmed my poll site's address is:

ADDRESS
- If I'm voting in-person on Election Day, I've committed to voting at _____ .
TIME
- If I'm voting in-person on Election Day, I've confirmed my poll site's address is:

ADDRESS
- I've set up calendar reminders for myself on the days I've committed to voting (whether it's by mail or in-person).
- I've voted!

BONUS POINTS: Share your voting plan on Instagram, and tag your friends and @rallyandrise

SAVE THE DATE:

If you are voting by mail, the USPS recommends mailing your ballot by **OCTOBER 20TH** to ensure your ballot arrives in time to be counted.

Week 2: Support your friends & family

Last week, you confirmed that you were registered to vote and came up with a voting plan. That makes you an expert on voting. (Look it up, it's in the rulebook.) So, for the rest of the month, you'll be using this pro knowledge to help others do the same.

Getting friends & family registered



WHO in your circle most likely needs to double check or update their voter registration? This could be someone who recently moved, turned 18, is at school, or just never got around to it.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

REACH OUT: Send them a text or email asking if they've confirmed their voter registration—and offering to help them if they haven't yet.

Sample message for someone who may not be registered: *Hey! I know the election seems far away but voter registration deadlines are coming up. Have you registered yet?*

Sample message for someone who may have moved recently: *Hey! I know the election seems far away but voter registration deadlines are coming up. Thought of you and your recent move—have you updated your voter registration or requested an absentee ballot?*

CHECK IN:

What does your "script" look like? Share it with your accountability buddy, or ask them what message has been working best for them!

Helping friends & family make a plan



WHO in your circle would benefit from a voting plan? (Think about your friends or family who are super busy, a bit flaky, or passionate about making the world better but who don't always prioritize electoral actions.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

IT'S SCIENCE:

Studies have found that establishing a voting plan increases the chance that an inconsistent voter will actually cast a ballot.

REACH OUT: Send them an encouraging text or email.

Sample message for someone who's super busy: *Hey! I just came up with a voting plan for myself, to make sure I'm able to vote this year, and thought of you (since I know how hectic things are for you rn). Are you going to vote by mail or vote early? I've been doing research and can help you figure out your plan!*

Sample message for someone who's a bit flaky or doesn't always prioritize electoral actions: *Hey! With everything that's going on this fall, I'm trying to help people come up with a voting plan so they don't miss out. Are you going to vote by mail or vote early?*

Who can help pay it forward?



You've pinged your friends and family to help them get ready to vote. A few might have ignored you...but hopefully you got a bunch of positive responses. Is there anyone you've been messaging **who would be willing to send a similar message to people in their circle?** It's like a chain letter, only the payoff is waaaay better.

Week 3: Spread the word in your community

Flyering

In Normal Times™, September is the month an army of volunteers hit the streets, knock on doors, and get as many voters registered as possible. That is clearly not possible (social distancing FTW), so we need to get creative about how we get the word out about election deadlines. And we're taking "get creative" quite literally: This week's action is all about flyering.



Bands do it. Brands do it. Even kinda-sketchy psychics do it. Printing out a ton of posters and putting them up (legally or otherwise, wink wink) is one of the easiest ways to spread the word about...anything.

DOWNLOAD: For this election, we've created a [voting awareness poster template](#)—all you need to do is fill in the details for your city or town, print, and then put them up.

WANT TO DESIGN YOUR OWN? That's cool too. (Like, incredibly cool.) Sharing is caring, so [send us your poster design](#) and we'll post it so that others can download it and print.

The information to include:

When is the last day to register to vote?
When is the last day to request an absentee ballot?
When is the last day to mail in an absentee ballot?
If there's early voting, what are the dates?
What is the Board of Elections website to register, request an absentee ballot, or get more info? (If it's one of those really long, ugly URLs, you can just include vote.org)

BE ACCURATE:

If you don't already have this info, head to your Board of Elections' website or check out: [NBCNews.com/PlanYourVote](https://www.nbcnews.com/PlanYourVote)

The best places to post:

Anywhere that's high trafficked, natch. Busy streets and subway platforms are a good place to start. Also think about where people might be standing around for long enough to see the sign. Maybe there's a bar or grocery store that's particularly popular near you and always has a (socially distanced) line out front—consider asking them if they'd be willing to put up the poster in a window, to help get out the vote.

WARNING: Rules about flyering differ from city to city, so check before you start putting up posters. (In other words: Be discreet....and we're not liable for any trouble you get into...sorry!)

POST A FLYER? TAKE A PIC! Tag us in your photo so we can inspire others to follow your lead.

Week 4: Join the voter week of action

Join us

From September 20-27, When We All Vote (a non-profit org focused on increasing voter participation and co-chaired by Michelle Obama, NBD) is organizing a week of action. With time ticking to get as many people registered before deadlines, this week of action will be suuuper important.



SIGN UP. SHOW UP. Can you commit to joining at least one action they have planned?

You can sign up here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/hay0gyFATOKlpK6CURDAuw2>

Or look up events directly here: <https://www.whenweallvote.org/events>

CHECK IN:

How's your accountability buddy doing? Remind them to drink some water, unclench their jaw, eat a nourishing meal, and skip the doomscrolling today.

Week 4: Help out your candidate

Return to your motivation

Remember the candidate(s) you got really excited about last month? It's time to help them out (if you haven't already).



HIGH PRIORITY: For these last few days of the month, make it a priority to check in with the campaign to see what volunteer opportunities they have—to register voters or otherwise. We're heading into the home stretch before the election (that would be October) and want to get ready to hit the ground running.

While it's possible that there may be a socially distanced (and fully masked) in-person voter registration drive, what's way more likely is that they'll have you phonebanking or textbanking. If it's your first time doing either, don't worry—it can be intimidating, but you'll be trained and talked through the process. (And spoiler alert: Our October workbook will break them all down.)

In addition to checking in directly with your candidate's campaign, we also recommend looking up volunteer events listed on [mobilize.us](https://www.mobilize.us) (where you can filter by things like "voter registration" to see what's scheduled).

<https://www.mobilize.us>

REST: And then don't forget to take a deep breath and maybe take a night off—because once we hit the 30-day countdown to Election Day, things will get a bit more intense. If you're feeling overwhelmed, flip back to the very first week of the August workbook and remind yourself why you committed to having a **#NoRegretsNovember**. This work might not be easy, but it's important—and we'll need to finish strong if we want to feel good on November 4. You've got this.

RALLY + RISE #NOREGRETNOVEMBER WORKBOOK

Next: Get Talking

Next workbook launches October 1, 2020

More info: rallyandrise.org Follow: [@rallyandrise](https://twitter.com/rallyandrise)