

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 11:20 AM Pacific Standard Time

Subject: **Preparing for the election – and what comes after**  
From: Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Watkins  
To: all-students@listserv.ucsf.edu

Dear Students,

With the November 3 election less than three weeks away now, I write to remind you of two things.

First, if you haven't registered to vote yet, your time is running out! [Register online now](#). The deadline to register to vote in California is Monday, October 19. (The deadline varies in other states.)

Second, we have your back. No one can know now what the outcome of the election will be, but please be assured that people across UCSF are actively making preparations to provide learners with the support you may need in any likely post-election scenario. Leadership and staff in the professional schools, the Graduate Division, and in a range of departments are carefully considering your needs and incorporating your suggestions into their coordinated pre and post-election plans.

Not everyone will be impacted equally or in the same way by the policies or changes in society that may lie ahead. With this in mind, we are looking for ways to strengthen our campus community and eradicate racism and all other forms of discrimination at UCSF for good.

Our individual capacities for dealing with stress and trauma also vary greatly, and we're determined to bolster your mental and emotional health. Student support units are working with the academic programs to develop opportunities for people throughout the University to share their thoughts and look after one another during and after the election.

This year's election is a momentous one, and it's happening against a backdrop of a global pandemic, the threat of more wildfires here in California, and heightened social and economic tensions nationwide. If you're feeling anxious about what the country may look like on November 4, you're not alone; but there's lots we can do – if we work together – to make sure that UCSF is a place and a community that you can count on and turn to for support, and to which we can all bring our whole selves.

I'll be in touch again before the election! Watch too for news from your schools and programs about upcoming election-related events and enhanced services in the coming days.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Watkins

---

**Elizabeth Watkins, PhD** (she/her/hers)  
Dean, Graduate Division  
Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Affairs  
Professor, History of Health Sciences

**University of California, San Francisco**  
1675 Owens St, CC310 | San Francisco, CA 94143-0523