WHO SHOULD WRITE TO ABOUT 2

The contents of this booklet are meant to help you start thinking about what topics are important to you and who you might write to about your position. The contents represent only a small portion of ideas to consider and are not meant to limit your advocacy. We encourage you to write about any topic in which you want to see change enacted. If you are interested in researching more about these or other subjects, <u>usa.gov</u> and <u>public.findlaw.com</u> are among the many useful websites with relevant information.

Compiled by Sophie Heath '18

AGRICULTURE

IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Animal Welfare Act: regulates treatment of animals on farms, in factories, and in slaughterhouses
- Federal Crop Insurance Act: grants federal funds to farmers and agricultural entities whose crops suffer damage from natural disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, and droughts
- Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002: grants about \$16.5 billion annually in agricultural subsidies

- Rights regarding agricultural liens and regulation of commodity prices
- Funding for/ development of agritourism
- Rights/regulations regarding :
 - Pesticides, insecticides, and other chemicals
 - Animal confinement
 - Permits to sell produce at markets/stores
 - Building additional farm structures

FEDERAL

- President
- Vice President
- US Senator
- US Representative

STATE

- Governor
- District State Senator
- District State
 Assemblymember
- Attorney General

- Mayor
- District Attorney
- Sheriff
- County Clerk

CIVIL RIGHTS

IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Civil Rights Act of 1964 and amendments: protects voting rights for people of color and bans discrimination due to color, race, sex, national origin, religion, or pregnancy
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: prohibits discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, in education programs and activities
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Fair Housing Act

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- LGBTQ+ discrimination protections
- Transgender rights: rights regarding discrimination/ segregation based on gender identity
- Criminal justice reform for LGBTQ+ people
- Rights regarding
 identity discrimination such
 as threatening
 graffiti/posters in
 town and harmful
 messages left on
 private property

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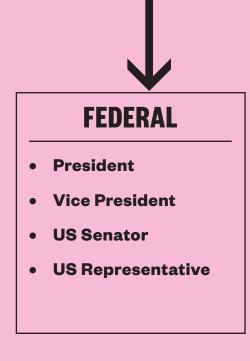
- Mayor
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EDUCATION

IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965: "no child left behind" policy, amended in 2015 as Every Student Succeeds Act
- Higher Education Opportunity Act: rights regarding affirmative action, financial aid, grants, loans and loan forgiveness, equal opportunity, freedom of speech and association, disabilities, and other concerns in colleges and universities
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: grants rights regarding free public education to eligible children with disabilities and related services for those children

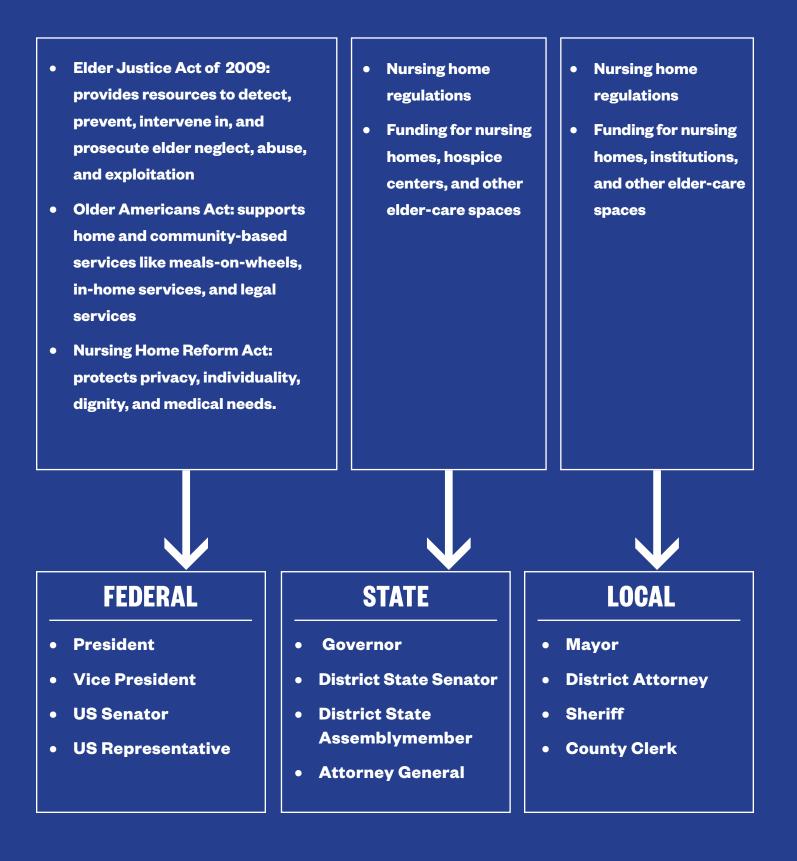
- Compulsory education laws: requires children ages 6–18 to attend a form of schooling
- School prayer laws: allows public schools to offer "meditative silence" sessions for religious students
- Corporeal punishment laws: protects students from physical punishment in schools



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ELDER CARE



EMPLOYMENT

- Family and Medical Leave Act: regulates minimum number of vacation days and maternity leave days offered by government jobs
- Occupational Safety and Health Act: rights regarding a safe work environment
- Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964 and amendments: bans discrimination due to color, race, sex, national origin, religion, or pregnancy
- Equal Pay Act

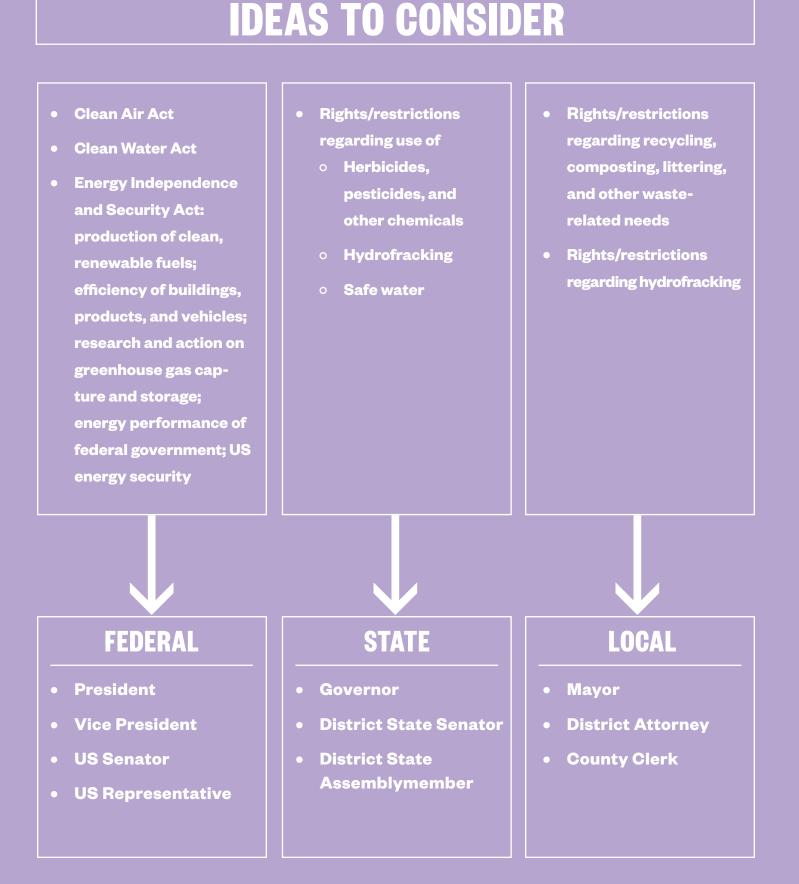
- Minimum-wage laws
- Rights regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation, economic status, and relationship status



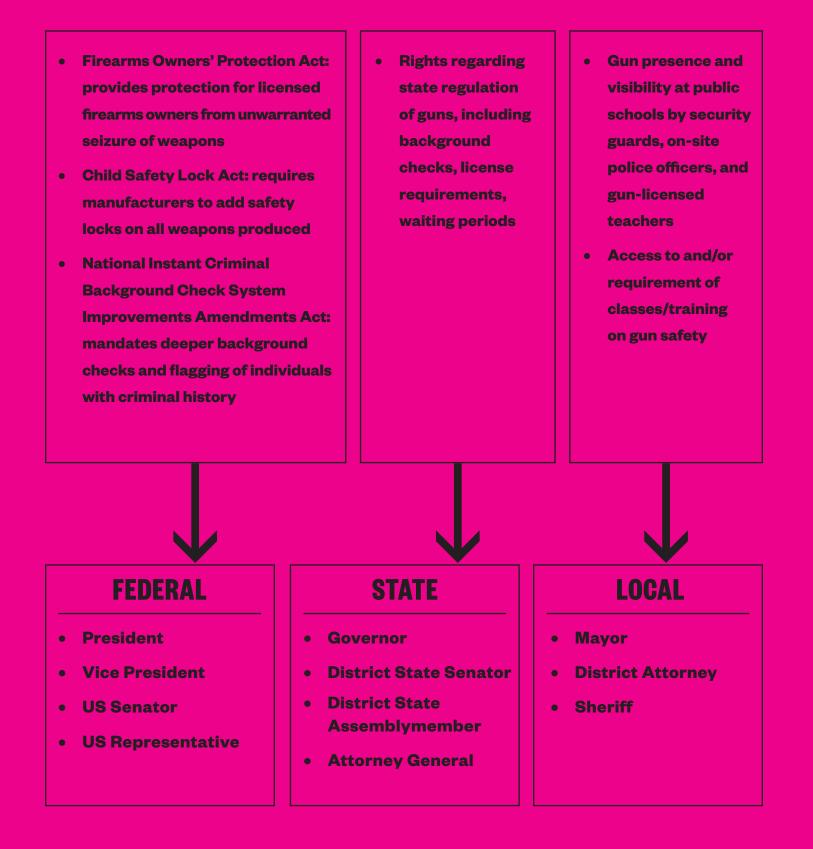


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ENVIRONMENT



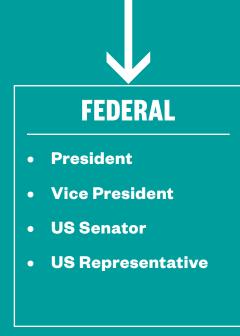
GUNS

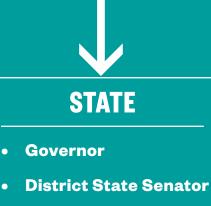


HEALTH CARE

- Affordable Care Act
- Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act: medical providers must help a patient who is unable to pay when there is a medical emergency, including giving birth, until patient is stabilized
- Mental Health Block Grants: funding for states to expand their community mental health services

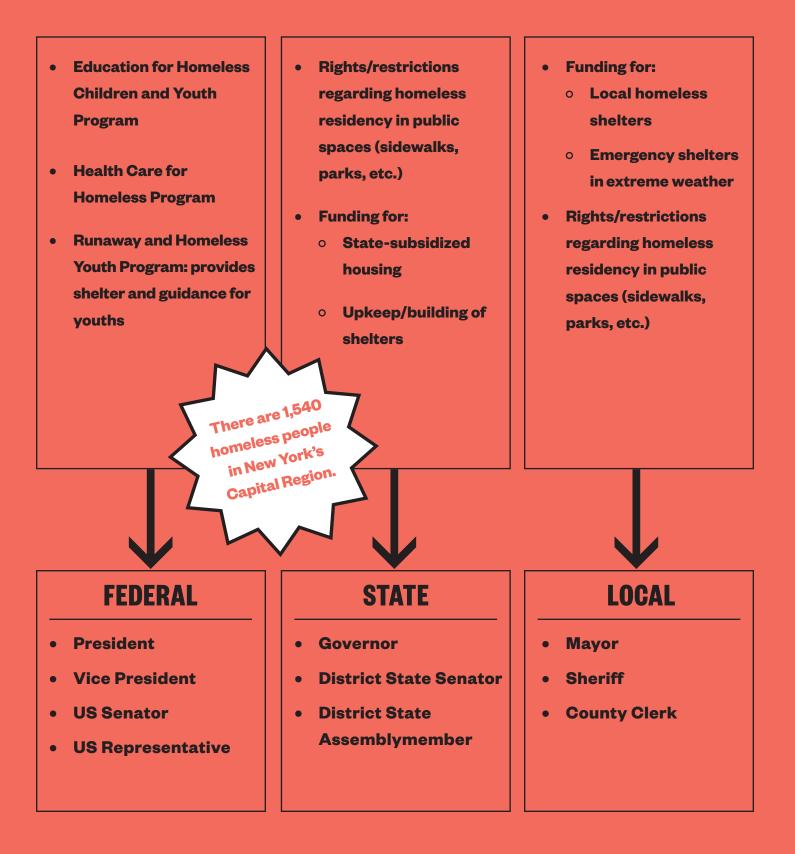
- Medicaid: state funded by taxes, covers basic healthcare costs and nursing home care for low-income families
- Rights regarding privacy, abuse, and discrimination at medical facilities
- Funding for mental health systems, which funnel down to county and local levels





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HOMELESSNESS

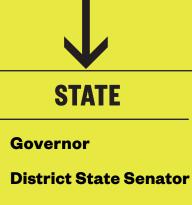


IMMIGRATION

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: offers two-year renewable deportation deferral for undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, allowing time for work permit eligibility
- Immigration and Nationality Act: allows for deportation of immigrants, restrictions on immigration from "terror-prone" countries, and restrictions on asylum
- Immigration Reform and Control Act: restricts welfare benefits for undocumented immigrants and sanctions against employers who hire them

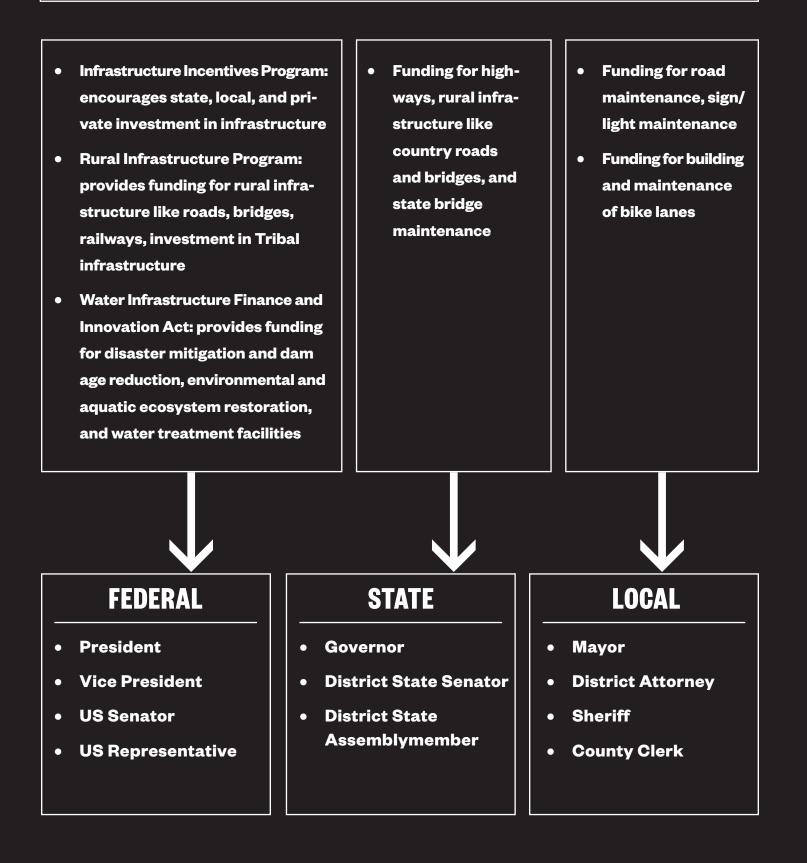
- Rights regarding E-Verify requirements
 - E-verify, or employment eligibility, requires a potential employee to be either a US citizen, a Legal Permanent Resident, or to hold a valid work visa
 - Rights/restrictions regarding police ability to search houses and workplaces for undocumented immigrants without a warrant due to "probable cause"





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INFRASTRUCTURE IDEAS TO CONSIDER



NATIVE RIGHTS

IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Indian Reorganization Act: reverses traditional model of assimilation and encourages protecting and strengthening traditions and culture
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: requires the return of Native American "cultural items" to culturally affiliated tribes by federally funded institutions
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act: protects and preserves Native people's right of freedom to believe, express, exercise their traditional religious/cultural rights and practices
- Rights/restrictions regarding Native nations' ability to prosecute non-Natives who com mitted crimes on reservations
- Rights regarding
 land/environ mental concerns
- Gaming laws: rights/ restrictions regarding casinos on Native American land
- Rights regarding protection
 from discrimi nation by local
 police force
 and other
 organizations
- Rights regarding hunting and trespassing on reservations

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PARKS



PRISONS IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Eighth Amendment: grants freedom from "cruel and unusual" punishment, and access to "adequate" medical and mental health care for inmates
- Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act: freedom from discrimination, harassment, abuse, and exploitation
- Rights regarding non-violent imprisonment: reevaluation of sentencing, definition of felonies, etc.
- Affordability/necessity of bail for non-violent, low-risk people

- Funding for reentry nonprofit organizations and "home plans" or "reentry plans"
- Death penalty
 - Rights regarding
 penal labor, including
 wage increases/
 decreases, work
 safety, ability of state
 to use penal laborers
 for emergencies like
 hurricane cleanup
 and snow removal

• Funding for prison maintenance

Funding for inprison education, reentry programs, job training

In New York State, regular prison job assignments pay 10–26 cents per hour, and imprisoned persons work 6 hours per day.

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REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IDEAS TO CONSIDER

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- *Roe vs. Wade*: granted right to access legal and safe abortion services
- *Griswold vs. Connecticut*: determined that state bans on contraceptives violate the right to marital privacy
- Affordable Care Act: grants coverage of contraceptives, prescriptions, and hormones by employer-provided health insurance policies.
- Rights regarding
 employer-provided
 insurance coverage
 of necessary
 prescriptions,
 including birth
 control and
 hormones
- Funding for Planned
 Parenthood

- Funding for local Planned Parenthood offices
- Rights regarding minors' access to birth control, abortion, and hormones

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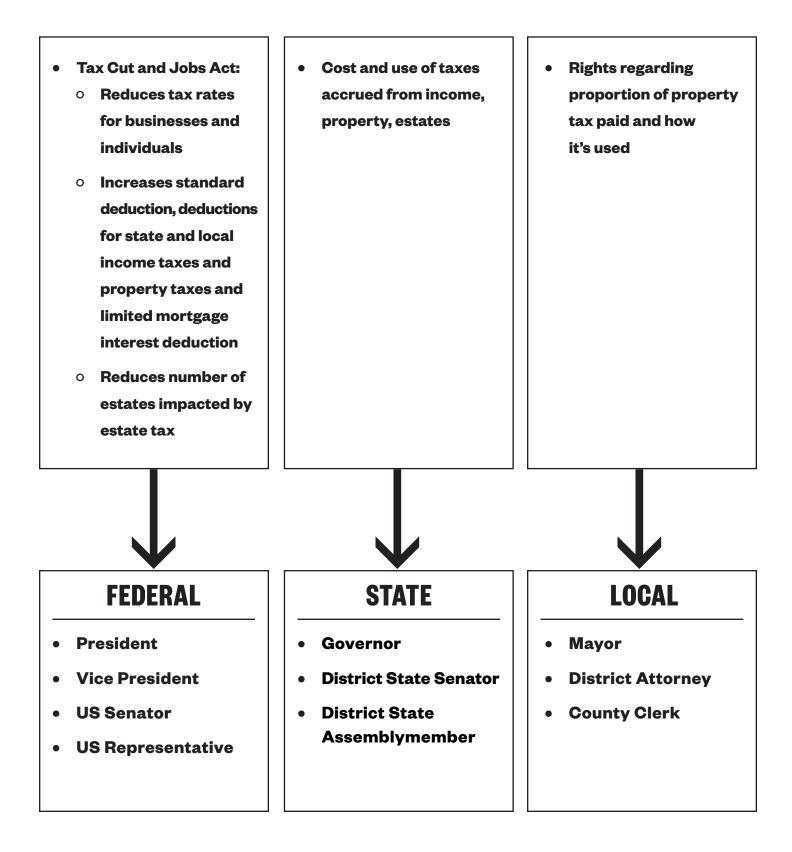
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TAXES



Give a damn.

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