

Installation Guide

This guide will help you install and set up the **Vote Cast** project on your local machine.

Prerequisites

Before installation, make sure you have the following installed:

- ☐ Python 3.10+
- ☐ Git
- ☐ Virtual environment (`venv`)
- ☐ PostgreSQL (optional, for production setup)

Installation Steps

☐ Step 1: Clone the Repository

Run the following command to clone the project from GitHub:

```
git clone https://github.com/Wolodmr/vote_cast.git
cd vote_cast
```

☐ Step 2: Create a Virtual Environment

- ☐ Create a virtual environment to manage dependencies:

```
python -m venv venv
```

- ☐ **Activate the virtual environment:**

- **Windows:**

```
venv\Scripts\activate
```

- **Mac/Linux:**

```
source venv/bin/activate
```

- ☐ **Step 3: Install all required dependencies using `pip` :**

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

☐ This will install Django, required libraries, and other dependencies necessary for the project.


☐ **Step 4: Apply database migrations to set up the database schema:**

```
python manage.py migrate
```

☐ This step initializes all necessary database tables for user authentication, voting sessions, and results tracking.

☐ **Step 5: To access the admin panel, create a superuser by running:**

```
python manage.py createsuperuser
```

 ☐ Follow the prompts to set up an admin username, email, and password.

☐ **Step 6: Start the Django development server:**

```
python manage.py runserver
```

☐ Once the server starts, open your browser and visit:

☐ <http://127.0.0.1:8000> ☐

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