

RISE VOTE 2024

REGISTERING, INFORMING,
SUPPORTING, AND EMPOWERING
YOUTH VOICES



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Registering, Informing, Supporting, and Empowering Youth Voices

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Table of Contents

01 ABOUT US	06 STATE VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION
02 RISE VOTE 2024	California
03 THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING	Kentucky
04 VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES	New York
05 MAKE A VOTING PLAN	Massachusetts
	Pennsylvania
	Rhode Island
	Oklahoma
	Texas
	Washington
	07 VOTER PROTECTION AND RIGHTS
	08 VOTER REGISTRATION MINI-LESSON PLAN

01

ABOUT US



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About Generation Citizen

MISSION:

Generation Citizen (GC) delivers high-quality, community-based civics education to students in grades 6-12 across the country to build a world in which young people are at the forefront of creating a more just, participatory and inclusive democracy with greater equity in representation and outcomes.

VISION:

A world in which young people are at the forefront of creating a more just, participatory, and inclusive country.

<https://www.generationcitizen.org>



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RISE VOTE 2024



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RISE Vote 2024

RISE VOTE 2024, an acronym which stands for Register, Informing, Supporting, and Empowering Voters is a nonpartisan voter activation campaign that centers young people’s lived experiences and voices during the 2024 election cycle and beyond. Recent studies on youth civic engagement indicate that young people feel disenchanting about national politics. According to research on the civic outlook of young adults conducted by Harvard’s Institute of Politics and the Institute of Citizens and Scholars, 18-30 year-olds exhibit profound concern about the state of our democracy, marginal attachment to either of America’s two major political parties, and decreased confidence in their capacity to shape their civic futures. CIRCLE’s most recent research indicates that “students who had not received encouragement to vote from teachers in high school were more than twice as likely to agree with the statement “Voting is a waste of time” as those who had been encouraged: 26% vs. 12%.

As a democracy, we need to work together on tapping into the potential of high school students. High school students constitute a powerful, yet often overlooked demographic of voters. With the right set of nonpartisan pre-registration and registration supports, combined with voter education, high school students could exercise a powerful impact in the 2024 election cycle and beyond. The National Conference on State Legislatures notes that “a third of states allow those who are 17, but will be 18 by the general election, to vote in the primaries”. The Civics Center reports that there are 23 states where 16- and 17-year olds can pre-register to vote. According to research from CIRCLE, 57% of youth, ages 18-34, say



they’re “extremely likely” to vote in 2024. What the research tells us, in essence, is this: voting is one tool in a civic toolbox that rising leaders can use to build the public life that they want to see.

The RISE Vote 2024 toolkit includes information and ready to use resources on voter pre-registration, voter registration, as well as an online training and mini-lesson on voter registration for teachers to incorporate into their class work and instruction. This toolkit also includes QR codes to facilitate voter registration, and pre-registration, reminders about key election deadlines, how to create a voting plan, how to understand ballot initiatives, and key information on voter protection. As roughly 41 million members of Generation Z prepare to cast their first ballot this fall, our hope is that this toolkit will equip those students, as well as their teachers, administrators and parents to fully participate in democracy as informed citizens.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING



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Why Voting Is Important

The role of the voter is essential in paving the future of democracy in the United States—whether an individual votes in a local, state or federal election, the make-up and priorities of each body of government becomes a reflection of the people who took the initiative to vote. The right to vote not only exists as a civic duty and as a way for the general public to participate in their democracy, but voting has the ability to influence the laws and practices of your government for the next few years. This influence can take shape in policy areas including funding to school districts, the availability of healthcare and affordable housing, whether one enjoys and can assert their civil rights, and the full range of issues that young people identify as being of interest to them. By exercising the right to vote, citizens can participate in democracy in mid-term, presidential and local elections to help decide the future of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Despite people's hesitations in voting due to concern over the fate of our democracy and disappointment with party options, the reality is that elections influence a wide variety of factors whether that be voting for your representatives or local officials. Our votes do not just count for a specific person but for the overall impact that public policy and political appointments exercise in our lived experiences in the near term and in the years to come.

Though America's political system has been around for almost 250 years, the right to vote for all men of the United States was not formally guaranteed until congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment in

1870 and the Voting Right Act in 1965. Initially, white, male property owners were the only demographic of the nation that could vote, and it wasn't until the establishment of the 15th amendment during the Reconstruction Era that African American men could vote, but the establishment of literacy tests, poll taxes and other barriers, particularly in southern states, prevented many Black men from voting. The establishment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 included provisions that would require states with a reputation of voter suppression to change legislation that created such barriers for Black men and women. Women gained the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, and many women of color benefited from the passage of the Voting Rights Act. As this right was not always guaranteed to every citizen of the United States as it is now, actively using your voice to influence our leadership and representation becomes a testament to the work and passion of the people who fought to expand voting rights and give you the voice you have today.

Different demographics within the United States aren't guaranteed the same right to rally at the polls. In most states and territories—with the exception of Maine, Vermont and the District of Columbia—individuals that have a felony on their record lose their voting rights during the time in which they are incarcerated, during parole, or even indefinitely in other states. Foreign-born populations in the United States continue to rise with immigrants accounting for 13.7% of the nation's population. While a portion of this population may have

been granted the right to vote through acquiring citizenship, other portions of the immigrant population, including permanent legal residents, cannot vote in state, federal and most local elections. Additionally, United States citizens residing in U.S. territories are also not allowed to vote in federal elections.

Politically-minded youth younger than the voting age of 18 have led successful efforts, along with some members of Congress, to lower the voting age to 16. While those challenges have encountered some challenges, youth activism has successfully

extended the franchise to sixteen and seventeen year-olds in twelve jurisdictions across the country, in states as varied as Vermont, New Jersey, Maryland, and California.

In essence, it is essential to use your right to vote for the communities that cannot yet take up a great amount of our population. Voting can aid in ensuring more equitable outcomes for local communities and the more people vote, the higher the likelihood that the election outcome represents the preference of the majority of the population.



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VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



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How Do We Register To Vote

Before making your way to the polls on Election Day, it is necessary to register, or to confirm, your capacity to vote. If you are an individual younger than the 18 years of age to register you can still pre-register in a number of cases. As of the time of publication for this toolkit, 18 states and the District of Columbia allow 16-year-olds to pre-register, three states allow 17-year-olds to pre-register, and other states allowing individuals to pre-register at varied ages. To pre-register to vote, you should:

Check if your state offers pre-registration for those younger than 18 (use the QR code on the right)

Fill out a pre-registration application



Scan QR Code to check if your state offers pre-registration

Once you turn 18 years old, your name will be moved from “pending” and “pre-registration” status and automatically switched to “registered” voter.

The registration process is similar, but requires the one:

1
Be at least 18 years old

2
Register through an application on vote.org or download the National Voter Registration Form and register by mail

3
Some local government offices will let you register in person like in state and county public assistance offices⁶

4
An ID number is required to complete the registration form regardless if completed online or in person

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MAKE A VOTING PLAN



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Make A Voting Plan

Before officially voting, it is important that you make a plan that can make your journey to the polls (or obtaining an absentee ballot). For context, an absentee ballot refers to an individual casting “a ballot in an election without voting in-person at a polling place or vote center”. In order to determine if you can vote absentee, the U.S. Vote Foundation outlines four steps that can be taken, which are to:

check your state’s absentee voting options;

confirm your voter registration status;

register to vote, and

request your ballot.



Scan QR code to check your registration status

01

Make sure you are registered to vote! If not, follow our steps above, or follow our guidelines for individual states. Vote.org and the U.S. Vote Foundation are great places to check and confirm your voter registration status.

02

Determine if you will need to apply for an absentee ballot, and if so, make sure to fill out the application before the deadline depending on your state.



03

Familiarize yourself with the candidates and issues involved in the election, including ballot initiatives. Whether it’s a local, state or federal election, knowing the candidates and the values and goals they hope to instill while in office ensures you vote for a candidate more reflective of what you want to see in your community.

What is a ballot initiative? A ballot initiative (otherwise known as a citizen initiatives or popular initiatives) is a citizen-initiated process that seeks to alter or add to statutes or amend foundational documents like city charters and state constitutions. This can also include a voter referendum that asks citizens whether a state should uphold or do away with a specific law. Not all states use ballot initiatives, and some only use a specific type of initiative. More information regarding your state will be found below, or [visit https://ballotpedia.org/Ballot_measure](https://ballotpedia.org/Ballot_measure) to find out if your state allows initiatives.

04 |

Identify and confirm your polling location. To find your polling location and its hours, you can call your state and territorial election office, or you can visit <https://www.rockthevote.org/how-to-vote/> to find your polling location directly.

05 |

Depending on your state's laws, different forms of identification may be required when voting. Most state's will require you to show an ID, or even a photo ID if it is your first time voting and you didn't show ID when registering to vote. Yet, to best be prepared for election day, it is important to know the voting ID laws of your state, which you can check below or online.

A provisional ballot may be allowed if you do not have an acceptable form of ID, which will ask you questions about your voting eligibility

06 |

Set a time for you to vote—make sure to check your polling location hours to ensure you make it before the polls close and vote at a time that is most convenient for you. Most states and territories—with the exception of New Hampshire, Delaware, Alabama and Mississippi—allow for in-person early voting. Therefore, if something conflicts with your ability to vote on Election Day, early voting may serve as a possibility to best accommodate your schedule.



If voting by mail, send your ballot to the instructed location as early as possible to ensure it will get there on time to be counted.



07 |

If you need any type of assistance when voting, you can have an individual—whether that be a friend, family or the poll worker—give you the resources needed to help you vote. Accessible Voting Units (AVU) is usually available at the county election office or at another location in your county. This location makes it possible for an individual with auditory or visual impairments as well as those with physical disabilities to vote independently. Material in braille, audio CD's and in large print may be provided if needed.

Election material can also be provided in another language, as counties with a large population of individuals who speak another language are required to supply election materials in said language.

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Time to vote! After all of your hard work in registering and planning your voting journey according to your needs, you now have the chance to make your voice heard at the polls. Double check that polling location address and hours.

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STATE VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION



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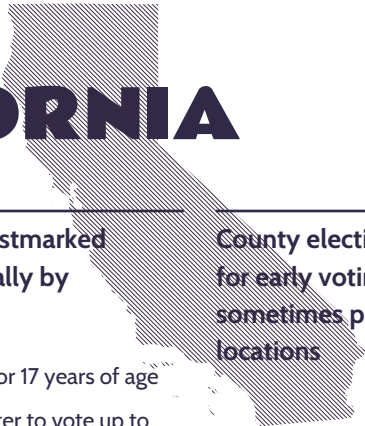


State Information

For State by State Voter Info scan the QR Code



CALIFORNIA



Registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically by October 21, 2024

Allows pre-registration at 16 or 17 years of age
You can “conditionally” register to vote up to and on Election Day on November 5

County elections officials allow for early voting at their offices and sometimes provide additional voting locations

Ten ballot propositions have been certified to appear on the ballot for the November 2024 general election

The Public Education Facilities Bond Measure would provide \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction projects and renovations regarding public education infrastructures

The California \$18 Minimum Wage Initiative would increase the minimum wage to \$18

The Prohibit State Limitations on Local Rent Control Initiative would repeal an act that prohibits rent control on single-family homes built after 1985

The Creation of New Healthcare Fund Initiative “would establish the tax on managed care organizations”

The Increase Drug and Theft Penalties and Reduce Homelessness Initiative would “increase the penalties of certain drug crimes by increasing sentencing and level of said crime” and would add fentanyl on the list of drugs that warrants a felony charge

The Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment would repeal proposition 8 that states that a marriage is between a man and a woman

The Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure would give \$10 billion in bonds towards projections that include flood prevention, energy efficiency, etc.

The Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment would lower the voter requirement to 55% (it is currently a majority) for local jurisdictions to issue bonds for housing and infrastructure projects

Vote-by-Mail Ballot request is due by October 29, 2024 and must be postmarked on or before November 5, 2024

Should be received no later than November 12, 2024

Polling locations do not require to show proof of ID before you vote, but if it is your first time voting after registering to vote-by- mail ballot and didn’t initially provide your driver’s license to state ID number, you will be asked to present a form of ID

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>

KENTUCKY



Online, in person and mail in registration must be completed 29 days before election day

The ballot must be received by November 5, 2024 at 6 p.m.

The ballot must be received by November 5, 2024 at 6 p.m.

You are required to bring proof of ID when voting in person which includes driver’s license, state ID, ID provided by an educational institution, etc.

Provisional ballots are allowed depending on reason for not presenting ID

Must be 18 years old on or before the general election

In person absentee voting (if you provide an excuse for doing so) will take place from October 23, 2024 to October 30, 2024

In person absentee voting without an excuse will take place from October 31, 2024 to November 3, 2024

Visit your Secretary of State for more information: <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/vic/>

Absentee Ballot request deadline is October 22, 2024

NEW YORK



Allows pre-registration beginning at 16 years old

Acceptable form of IDs include: driver’s license number, non driver ID number, or last 4 digits of your social security number

Does not allow initiatives or referendums

Mail registration and in-person registration form must be received by no later than October 26, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 General Election

Vote by Early Mail Ballot must be received by the County Board of Elections no later than November 12 or could be brought in to the County Board of Elections no later than November 5 at 9 p.m.

Visit your Secretary of State for more information: <https://elections.ny.gov/register-vote>

Registered voters do not need to show a form of ID to vote unless ID was not presented when they registered. If ID is not presented by Election ID, you can still vote by affidavit ballot but not through the poll scanner

Ballot can be brought in for early voting between October 26 to November 3 or to poll site in your county by November 5

MASSACHUSETTS



Allows pre-registration beginning at 16 years old

Early voting will take place from October 29, 2024 to November 1, 2024

Although Massachusetts allows for initiatives and referendums, as of now, none have been certified to be on the ballot for the November 2024 general election

Online voter registration deadline for the General Election is October 26, 2024, in-person voter registration request deadline is October 26, 2024 by 5 p.m., and the mailed registration should be postmarked by October 26, 2024

To register, you will be required to either give the last four digits of your social security, your Massachusetts Driver's License ID number, or your state ID number

It is important to keep up with any initiatives that may become certified later on or may be present in future elections

Absentee Ballot request deadline is October 29, 2024—the ballot should be postmarked by Election Day on November 5, 2024 and received by November 8, 2024

You may be asked to present ID at the polls if its your first time voting, you are on the inactive voter list, casting a provisional or challenged ballot or if the poll worker is within reason to ask for ID

An appropriate form of ID could be a driver's license, state ID or any printed document that contains name or address

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

PENNSYLVANIA



Must be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next primary or election to register to vote

The online registration, in person registration, and registration by mail deadline are all 15 days before the election—or October 21, 2024

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot is October 29, 2024

Mail-in and civilian absentee ballots must be received by the County Board of Elections no later than November 5, 2024 at 8 p.m.

Last day for the County Board of Elections to receive military or overseas absentee ballots is November 12, 2024 (meaning the ballot can be sent out no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 4

When voting for the first time, you are required to show ID (photo or non-photo ID) at the polls

This includes Pennsylvania driver’s license or PennDOT ID card, ID issued by any Commonwealth agency, state ID

When voting for the first time, you are required to show ID (photo or non-photo ID) at the polls

This includes Pennsylvania driver’s license or PennDOT ID card, ID issued by any Commonwealth agency, state ID

Other voters should not be required to show photo ID when in person voting

Does not allow initiatives or referendums

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:
<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dos/resources/voting-and-elections-resources.html>

RHODE ISLAND



Allows pre-registration beginning at 16 years old

The deadline to register to vote is October 6, 2024, and early voting begins October 16, 2024

For the state-wide general election, you will need to apply for an absentee ballot by October 15, 2024

To register to vote, you will need a Rhode Island-issued driver’s license number or your state ID number and your date of birth

Poll workers will also ask that you present a form of photo ID that has not expired for more than 6 months prior to voting

This form ID can include a state issued driver’s license, state issued ID, or an ID given from an educational institution among other forms

Does not allow initiatives or referendums

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:
<https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Home/RegisterToVote>

OKLAHOMA

Permits registration of those 17 ½ years old if you turn 18 before the next election

Must be registered to vote by October 11, 2024

An Oklahoma driver's license or state ID is required to register

The absentee ballot request deadline is October 21, 2024

The absentee ballot must be received by November 5, 2024 by 7 p.m.

Early voting will take place from October 30, 2024 - November 1, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and again on November 2, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Oklahoma proof of identity law requires every voter to present photo ID issued by the United States or local Oklahoma government at the polling location and during early voting

If the form of ID is incorrect, has expired or the person does not present a form of ID, a provisional ballot could be provided

Two ballot measures were certified to be in the 2024 general election in the state of Oklahoma

The first measure calls for a change in the state constitution to say that “only citizens” instead of “every citizen” in the United States can vote—this would prohibit local governments from allowing noncitizens to vote

The second measure calls for the addition of the Oklahoma Public Infrastructure Amendment which creates new districts within municipalities called public infrastructure districts that would allow for bonds to be issued for the sake of public improvements if all property-owners sign a petition to do so

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:

<https://oklahoma.gov/elections/voter-registration.html>

TEXAS

An application to register to vote must be completed in person, online or postmarked at least 30 days before election day; for the general election that day is October 7, 2024

Must be at least 17 years old and 10 months when completing your voter registration application

First day to apply for a Ballot-by-Mail is January 1, 2024 and the last day to apply is October 25, 2024 (it must be received by then, not postmarked)

First day to apply for a Ballot-by-Mail is January 1, 2024 and the last day to apply is October 25, 2024 (it must be received by then, not postmarked)

Early voting by personal appearance begins on October 21, 2024 and ends November 1, 2024

Deadline to receive marked Ballot-by-Mail is November 5, 2024 at 7 p.m. or by the 5th day after Election Day if you submitted the ballot while outside of the United States

Voters that have one of the seven acceptable forms of photo ID must present it at the polls, but of for some reason you cannot obtain one of these IDs, you may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present a utility bill or bank statement

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/>

WASHINGTON



Future Voter program allows 16-17 year-olds to pre register to vote

If you do not have a driver's license yet, you can pre register by using the last four digits of your social security on a paper form

No need to request an absentee ballot—ballot is automatically mailed to the address where you are registered to vote (all counties conduct vote-by-mail elections)

Ballot must be returned or postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day

Three initiatives have been approved to appear on the ballot in the November 2024 general election

The Repeal Capital Gains Tax Initiative will “repeal the 7% capital gains excise tax imposed on sales and exchanges of long-term capital assets by individuals with capital gains over \$250,000”¹³

The Prohibit Carbon Tax Credit Trading Initiative would repeal the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which was meant to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 95% by 2050

The Opt-Out of Long-Term Services Insurance Program Initiative would allow those that are self-employed as well as employees to opt out of the WA Cares health care program

Online and mail registration must be received 8 days before Election day

In person registration available anytime before 8 p.m. on Election Day

If voting in person, county auditor requires you to either sign a ballot declaration or a form of ID

October 18 is the start of the 18-day voting period (ballots are mailed out during this time period and Accessible Voting Units are made available at voting centers)

If voting in person, county auditor requires you to either sign a ballot declaration or a form of ID

Visit your Secretary of State for more information:

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/>

07

VOTER PROTECTION AND RIGHTS



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Voter Protection And Rights

Federal law protects each and every voter from potential discrimination and ensures everyone has the equal opportunity to make their voice heard at the polls. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, building upon the Civil Rights Act of 1866, solidified the foundation of federal anti-discrimination voting laws by outlawing the use of intimidation practices against Black Americans. However, it was the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that prohibited denying individuals the right to vote based on their race, gender, or membership in a minority language group.¹⁴ This act also required specific places to provide the material needed to vote in other languages for those who do not have a high English proficiency.

Other laws have clarified and strengthened the Voting Rights Act and have protected other groups from potential voter discrimination. For example, the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and the Handicapped Act of 1984 requires polling places to be physically accessible to any individual with a disability, or if the polling place is not accessible, election officials are required to provide other means for individuals to vote.¹⁵ Polling places are also required to have registration and polling aides to assist with the voting process. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 outlines a similar protection, and requires all aspects of the voting process—from registering to in-person or absentee voting—to be accessible for every individual and not allow people with physical or mental disabilities to be disqualified from partaking in the democratic process.¹⁶

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act allows for U.S. citizens residing abroad and stationed U.S. armed forces to register to vote and vote via absentee ballot while abroad.¹⁷ This act also establishes the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot that can be cast if a voter filled out an absentee ballot application in a timely manner, but they have yet to receive their ballot. The Military and Overseas Voting Empowerment Act of 2009 further pushed for greater access to voting for military and citizens that are abroad.

For college students moving away from their home state, it's important to identify and review your home state's voter registration laws to determine if you can vote via absentee ballot in your home state, or if you should register in the state in which you will be attending college.

Other federal laws have been created to make the voting process generally more accessible across the country and educate citizens on their right to vote, and what that process entails. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 increased voter education across the nation, and authorized federal funding of elections.¹⁸

While these protections are federal laws and protect individuals regardless of the state they live in, taking note of your own state's voter laws can make the process more transparent and your voting journey less complicated.



You have the right to vote. If anyone tries to stop you, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-687-8683. If you've already voted, remember that democracy takes time. Vote.org explains the process around verifying election results and how your vote is counted.

Learn more about our work at Generation Citizen:

www.generationcitizen.org

08

VOTER REGISTRATION MINI-LESSON PLAN



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Activity	Resources and Directions
<p>Opener (10 minutes)</p>	<p>(If your students are in a Generation Citizen classroom):</p> <p>As you complete your Generation Citizen project, you will practice different ways to get and stay civically engaged in your school, community, and even your city and state! After participating in Generation Citizen’s end-of-semester Civics Day celebration, you and your peers will reflect on the roles you can take to participate in and maintain a healthy, inclusive democracy for all.</p> <p>Let’s watch this video about civil rights and voting rights champion Senator John Lewis, then discuss why voting and active civic participation matter.</p> <p>Morgan Freeman Reads Rep. John Lewis’ Last Words The Last Word MSNBC¹⁹</p> <p><i>Optional: Display the following statements for students to consider: Voting in an election now will shape policies and laws for years to come. It is important for young people to vote and have a say in those decisions. Ask students to move to one of four corners of the room to represent their opinion (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree.) Give each group time to discuss and then share their thoughts.</i></p>
<p>Time to Register (15 minutes)</p>	<p>Using the QR codes provided, provide students at least 15 minutes to register to vote.</p> <p>If students are already registered or cannot register, encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help others register to vote—consider a student-led voter registration drive • Research issues they care about and educate their friends and family • Support their friends by keeping them accountable to their voting plans • Optional: Ask students to reflect on the voter registration process.

Activity	Resources and Directions
<p>Time to Register Register (15 minutes)</p>	<p>Using the QR codes provided, provide students at least 15 minutes to register to vote.</p> <p>If students are already registered or cannot register, encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help others register to vote—consider a student-led voter registration drive • Research issues they care about and educate their friends and family • Support their friends by keeping them accountable to their voting plans <p><i>Optional: Ask students to reflect on the voter registration process.</i></p>
<p>Students’ Next Steps (3 minutes)</p>	<p>If time permits and you would like to extend the lesson, ask students to start one of the following next steps to be prepared to vote in November and elections beyond!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a voting plan and set reminders to help you follow through and vote • Research candidates and ballot initiatives to be an informed voter • Create your own call to action to help get friends and family to the polls



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