



Virtual Youth Voter Registration Presentation Guide

Spring 2020

SLIDE 1

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages active participation in our democracy and youth play a critical role in this. The League has registered hundreds of thousands of young people over 100 years, and is currently focusing our efforts on registering youth in high schools and community colleges, and others that do not attend college or do not have the same access to voter registration opportunities.

In this time of Coronavirus, schools are closing around the nation. We can still make an impact by adapting how we participate in the democratic process. Virtual learning is critical to the needs of our society at this time and we hope that this will serve as a way to inform and register the youth that you are working with, as well as provide concrete steps and resources for how to participate in the next election and elections to come. This presentation will cover how to register online, make a plan, and vote in the next election.

SLIDE 2

Teachers: Use this presentation to talk about voting with your high school classes.

- See the last slide for additional classroom resources from other organizations!

SLIDE 3

Start the conversation about interests and voting. You can use these questions to get students engaged or create some of your own! The next slide will ask about experience voting.

Conversation Starters:

- **Talk it out:** How are students feeling about the country? How do we think the people in power are handling things?
- **Identify the key issues:** What injustices do you see in our community?

SLIDE 4



Ask students if they have any experience going to the polls with their family or working at the polls. This will encourage peer to peer learning.

Prompt: Has anyone in the room registered or voted before? What was that experience like?

SLIDE 5

Discuss the issues they care about and how it relates to voting. Explain the importance of voting in every election, not just in presidential elections.

Tie in some of their responses about their interests in slide 3 to the level of election that it corresponds to. If you are having trouble engaging students, use the prompts below from the LWV of Austin Area:

(Take time to engage with students about issues that they care about. If they are not responsive, try, "I remember complaining a lot about things when I was in high school. What do you all complain about? Something about the city, the state, nationally, even in your school?")

Only use the prompts to encourage conversations. The slide breaks down issues on national, state, and local levels, but many of these issues transcend these levels. It may be helpful to ask students questions related to the topics on each level. E.g. "Who is planning on going to college?... Great! Are you worried about college debt?... When I went to college, I was looking at \$\$\$ in college debt. Isn't that crazy?/ I have \$\$\$ in college debt, and at its current rate, you all are just going to have to carry more debt. Do you think that's okay?"

For every response a student gives, connect the issue that they care about to how it relates in the voting process. E.g. College debt is related to inflation rates and public education subsidies, and legislators make decisions about what public goods their budget funds and how much. Roads and sidewalks are funded at the state and city level, and sometimes citizens can have a direct say if they want certain infrastructure changes made. School dress codes can be a matter for school boards and superintendents! Citizens elect school board members, and superintendents are appointed by elected officials, so who you vote for matters even at a super local level.

SLIDE 6

Make it interactive! Show students what impact it has when people who are eligible to vote do not vote and what effect it has on how people represented and the laws that are passed.



Okay, traditionally, everyone who can vote doesn't vote, and it has a profound effect on how people are represented and the laws that are passed. Let's illustrate how a 30% turnout might affect policies and programs you care about.

Everyone! Raise Your Hands!

*Take a look around the [virtual] room. You all represent the 18- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. who **are eligible** to vote. You are the Gen Z voters!*

Now, One Third of You! Put your hand down! *Those who just sat down represent the roughly 1/3 of young people who **do not register to vote.***

1/3 of you with your hands raised, put your hand down! *Those who just sat down are the people ages 18-24 who registered to vote, but when the time came for the election, they **didn't vote, for whatever reason.***

So now, the few people who have their raised, you are the roughly 30% of young people between the ages of 18 and 24, who **DO GO VOTE.** *You are the people making the decisions for everyone else in the room.*

*To the people with their hands down, **look around the [virtual] room.** Are these the people that you want to make decisions for you?*

SLIDE 7

Discuss the power that young people have as part of the electorate. Use LWV of Austin Area's guide:

(Take the transitions slow for this slide! There's a lot of information on the slide, so you do not want to overwhelm students. Stop after the first few clicks when "Gen Z" and "Millenials" pop up.)

According to the Pew Research Center, Generation Z is projected to make up 10% of the entire eligible voting population by the November 2020 presidential election. Every 1 in 10 eligible voters will be a Generation Z voter deciding who will be president in 2020.

(Click through the other generation cohorts, quickly explaining the slide as you go. Stress the fact that these are older people who care about different things, like medicare and social security.)

Combined with Millennials, Generation Z and Millennials will make up 37% of the voting population,



becoming the largest voting age cohort with the biggest voting power in 2020. This voting cohort will be able to represent youth issues--issues you care about!

What's even more significant is that the voting population for Gen Z will only increase in the coming years as the voting population of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation decrease.

Your generation will have even more voting power as people younger than you turn 18 in the coming years.

Lead in to next slide: Now, the key to unlock that power is by voting, and young people are really starting to harness that power!

[\[www.pewsocialtrends.org/essay/an-early-look-at-the-2020-electorate/\]](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/essay/an-early-look-at-the-2020-electorate/)

SLIDE 8

Show that youth care about the future of our democracy.

Explain: *Voter Engagement has increased for youth ages 18-24 since 2016 and was among the highest we've ever seen in 2018.*

SLIDE 9

Show students that it can be easy to participate and make your voice heard.

Explain: *Here are the steps we're going to walk you through today so that you can be sure to vote in November.*

SLIDE 10

Walk students through how to find out if they are eligible to register.

Explain: *If you can check all these off, you can register today. If not, note when they will be eligible to register.*

SLIDE 11

Explain that you will go through how to register online.



SLIDE 12

Show students how to access illinoisvoterguide.org.

The League of Women Voters Illinois' nonpartisan website, illinoisvoterguide.org, has served thousands of voters in recent years and can help you get registered today!

If you want to get started, pull it up on your device right now!

SLIDE 13

Let students know that in addition to learning how to register to vote, illinoisvoterguide.org.

SLIDE 14

SLIDE 15

Sign up!

If candidate information is live, go through the guide using the school's address.

SLIDE 16

Individual local Leagues may have added Q & As and/or recordings of candidate forums or a recorded statement from a candidate.

SLIDE 17

IVG allows for a voter to set reminders.

SLIDE 18

VOTE!

SLIDE 19

Walk through rights and responsibilities.



Your local League of Women Voters can also help!

There is a nationwide hotline, 1-866-OUR-VOTE, which can help with your live voting questions on Election Day!

SLIDE 20

Explore the additional resources from us and our partner organizations to expand civic education in your classroom.

SLIDE 21

Thanks for helping keep the power of our democracy in the people's hands!