NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY: SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 HIGH SCHOOLS FACTSHEET

Empower Your Students by Supporting National Voter Registration Day



What is National Voter Registration Day?

National Voter Registration Day is a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and has quickly become a national celebration. Volunteers and organizations nationwide hit the streets to register voters in front of libraries, school campuses, and other social events.

"On National Voter Registration Day, we celebrate the foundation of our democracy and ensure every eligible American can exercise their most fundamental right: the right to vote. This day of action involves thousands of volunteers and organizations, and it is dedicated to educating voters about registration, ensuring that Americans can vote in the upcoming elections, and encouraging voter participation in our democracy."

Source: Official statement from the White House on National Voter Registration Day, 2023.

Why Should High Schools Participate?

High schools play a crucial role in fostering a culture of civic engagement, and can encourage students to take their first step on a lifelong path of participation in our democracy by establishing voting as a civic habit. All states allow individuals to register to vote before their 18th birthday provided they will be 18 by Election Day, a nd many allow pre-registration for all 16 and/or 17 year olds (*learn the rules for your state*).

Additionally, two out of five American students are not bound for college, making high school one of the last major opportunities for voter education and registration before graduating and entering the busy world of adulthood.

By joining this national push on September 17th, you can help all of your students understand their voice and their vote matters. Together we can strengthen democracy one student at a time. NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

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A Few Ideas to Get You Started:

- Promote Voter Registration and Education: Utilize civics classes, social studies, and history courses to educate students about elections and voter registration. Equip guidance counselors to discuss voter registration with juniors and seniors as they consider post-graduation plans.
- * Make Announcements: Use school-wide announcements, assemblies, and emails to inform students about registration opportunities and the importance of voting.
- * Set Up Voter Registration Tables: Place dedicated tables in high-traffic areas such as cafeterias, student centers, and during sports games and other school-sponsored events to facilitate easy access to voter registration.
- Collaborate with Student Organizations: Work with student councils and clubs to organize and promote voter registration drives and events.
- * Host Guest Speakers: Invite local election officials to speak about the importance of voting and how to register.
- * Social Media Engagement: Share posts and stories highlighting National Voter Registration Day, offering tips on voter registration, and promoting your school's participation. Encourage your students to post, too!

Sample Activity Timeline

- Leading up to National Voter Registration Day:
 - Promote voter registration and voter education in school-wide communications.
 - Find creative ways to work voter education into lesson plans.
 - Set up voter registration tables during lunch breaks and school events.
 - Collaborate with student clubs and organizations to spread the word.
 - Train student volunteers to assist with voter registration.
- On National Voter Registration Day:
 - Host a special voter registration event with food, games, and guest speakers.
 - Distribute voter registration materials to students.
 - Use social media to remind and encourage student participation.
- Beyond National Voter Registration Day:
 - Include voter registration information in graduation packets.
 - Continue awareness campaigns to maintain engagement.
 - Partner with local organizations for ongoing voter education.

High Schools in Action!

- The Community Action Club and Maize South High School in Kansas partnered with students to cover their hallways with posters, distributed NVRD swag to different classrooms, and chalked the entrance to the school. Students gave presentations in civics classes and held a registration drive on student-teacher conference day, engaging both students and parents.
- A teacher at Woodland High School in Washington passed out Future Voter Pamphlets (made by the state) that included a QR code students could use to check their registration, and promoted National Voter Registration Day on the school's social media account.
- North Hunterdon High School in New Jersey held a NVRD event in their school library. They shouted out National Voter Registration Day in their morning announcements, included it in their student letter, and set up a self-serve registration station at our circulation desk so students could pick up forms and stickers.
- At Cedar Park High School in Texas, the school set up decorated tables at their pep rally and in their school's courtyard, inviting all eligible seniors and faculty to stop by to register during flex time in the school day.

Sample Social Media Posts

Join us on National Voter Registration Day to make your voice heard! *#NationalVoterRegistrationDay #VoteReady*

Register to vote and make a difference in our community. Visit [your school/college] on September 17th! **#VoteReady**

For more information, contact Allen Blackwell at *allen@nationalvoterregistrationday.org*

Together, we can strengthen democracy, one student at a time.



Scan here for a student vote registration website



NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org