

Voting and Elections Resources



Youth and Voting Website Resources

Center for Civic Education and the Aarsalyn Program of the Ludwick Family Foundation: <http://new.civiced.org/programs/citizens> - Citizens, Not Spectators is a voter education initiative that offers free lesson plans for teachers of upper elementary, middle, and high school students. Citizens, Not Spectators demystifies the voting process by teaching students how to cast a vote, how the voting process works, how to become an informed voter, and why it is important to cast an informed vote. [New lessons for the 2012 election](#) examine presidential campaign slogans, allow students to explore where the presidential candidates stand on issues that are important to them, engage students in viewing and analyzing the presidential debates, and culminate in a simulated election.

CIRCLE: <http://www.civicyouth.org/> - The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement promotes research on the civic and political engagement of Americans between the ages of 15 and 25. CIRCLE is clearinghouse for youth civic and political engagement information and scholarship.

 **Getting Young Voters to the Polls** www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/Young_Voters_Guide.pdf

Choices Program: <http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/twtn-2012-election.php> - The Choices Program provides teaching resources on historical and current international issues, offers professional development for classroom teachers, and sponsors programs that engage students beyond the classroom. See Teaching with the News – Following the U.S. Presidential Election.

Constitutional Rights Foundation: <http://crf-usa.org/election-central/election-central.html> - Election Central 2012 is an online resource that helps teachers and students explore the electoral process past and present, in the United States and around the world.

KIDS Voting USA: <http://kidsvotingusa.org/> - Kids Voting USA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization that fosters an informed, participating electorate by educating and actively engaging young people and their families in voting and other elements of effective civic engagement.

League of Young Voters: <http://www.theleague.com> - The League make politics relevant, fun and meaningful for young people. Their long-term strategy is to build an inspired, engaged and effective culture and community around youth participation.

- **Maine League of Young Voters:** <http://maine.theleague.com/>

No Vote Left Behind: <http://www.novoteleftbehind.org/> - No Vote Left Behind is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating and exciting children about the democratic

process. They provide K-6 teachers with free classroom lessons and resources (including downloadable books).

Project Vote Smart: <http://www.votesmart.org/> - Project Vote Smart is committed to creating an informed electorate. Great research resource with information on registration, absentee ballots as well as current representatives around the country.

Rock the Vote: <http://www.rockthevote.com/home.php> - Rock the Vote is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that engages youth in the political process by incorporating the entertainment community and youth culture into its activities. Rock the Vote can be contacted to help run a voter registration drive, and supply elections/voting information and paraphernalia.

ServiceVote 12 for '12: <http://www.ysa.org/ServiceVote> - ServiceVote is YSA's U.S. election-year campaign to engage young people, ages 5-25, in the political process by connecting with their peers, voters, and candidates. Designed for both voting age and non-voting age youth, ServiceVote challenges young people to learn more about our government and political system and to think critically about how they can affect the issues that they work to address through service during elections.

Maine/New England Website Resources

League of Women Voters: <http://www.lwv.org> - The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major political policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For state-specific information on voter registration, absentee voting, voter rights, caucuses, primaries and the Electoral College see:

- **League of Women Voters of Maine** – <http://www.lwvme.org>
- **League of Women Voters of Connecticut** – <http://www.lwvct.org>
- **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts** – <http://www.lwvma.org>
- **League of Women Voters of New Hampshire** – <http://www.lwvnh.org>
- **League of Women Voters of Rhode Island** – <http://www.lwvri.org>
- **League of Women Voters of Vermont** – <http://www.lwvofvt.org>

Secretary of State Offices – Find state-specific resources and information on voting, elections, electoral districts, candidates, parties, election officials, election laws, and/or voting statistics.

- **Maine Secretary of State** - <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html>
- **Connecticut Secretary of the State** - <http://www.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp>
- **Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth** - <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/>
- **New Hampshire Secretary of State** - <http://sos.nh.gov/Elections.aspx>
- **Rhode Island Board of Elections** - <http://www.elections.state.ri.us/>
- **Vermont Secretary of State** - <http://vermont-elections.org/soshome.htm>

Literary Resources* (Contributed by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A.)

Duck for President by Doreen Cronin. In this sequel to *Click Clack Moo, Cows That Type*, the duck gets the idea to run the farm. After beating Farmer Brown in an election, he sets his sights on being governor and beyond! Preschool through Grade 2

Election Connection: The Official Nick Guide to Electing the President by Susan Ring. A book jam-packed with election information from every possible angle. In addition to complete questionnaires and design your own political bumper sticker, content goes beyond the basics to include: the process of voting, "spin," debates, campaign strategies, and more. Grades 3 – 6

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer. When 16-year-old Hope moves with her aunt from New York to Wisconsin to work in a diner, she finds more cooking than expected. To the town's surprise, diner owner G.T. announces his candidacy to oust the corrupt mayor. Hope and other teens rally together, adding the vital ingredient of youth action to the campaign. Grades 5-12

Vote! By Eileen Christelow. What does it mean to vote? How does a person register? What happens in a close call? In this mix of cartoon-style art and text, many questions about the process are answered. Includes an historical timeline of voting rights and resources. Grades 1-4

Vote for Larry! By Janet Tashjian. Get ready to meet Josh, a 17-year-old who is convinced that indeed young people do have much to contribute to politics. In this book Josh (along with his alter-ego "Larry"), returns to run for a local city office. Instead, he sees a larger need and runs for President of the United States. Set in the fall of 2004, this contemporary glimpse into the election illuminates many social issues that will grab and motivate readers to get involved. Grades 7-12

A Woman for President: The Story of Victoria Woodhull by Kathlenn Krull. Could a woman run for president of the United States? In this picture book, meet dynamic Victoria Woodhull, who did just that. She declared her candidacy and ran against Ulysses S. Grant for President. She believed woman deserved the right to vote and helped set the course to make this a reality. Follow Victoria from her childhood to be the first woman to speak before Congress! Grades 4-12
Download a free Service-Learning Teacher Guide for this book at www.abcdbooks.org, click on Curriculum.

Potential Partner Resources

- **Town/City Clerk's Office**
- **Town/City Hall Manager's Office**
- **Town/City Refugee/Immigrant Services Office**
- **Town/City Multilingual and Multicultural Office**
- **Town/City Mayor's Office**
- **Local Campus Compact**
- **Local Chapter of the League of Women Voters**
- **Local League of Young Voters**
- **Local/State Political Parties**
- **Local/State Elected Officials**
- **Local Housing Authority**
- **Secretary of State's Office**
- **Local/State Agency, Office or Group connected to referendum** (i.e. students working on voter education for bear baiting referendum could work with Fisheries and Wildlife Office)

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