California High School Voter Education Weeks

Best Practices Shared by County Elections Offices

Below are ideas that have been shared by counties to promote civic engagement in high schools around California. These projects have been used and proved to be successful. If you have ideas that would like to share, please email them to Steven.Carda@sos.ca.gov so they can be included in future communications.

Political Party and Candidate Forum in a Mock Election Atmosphere (Placer County)

- ✓ Select a school or schools that would like to encourage their staff and students to become more civically engaged.
- ✓ Contact representatives of political parties and invite them to come make a short presentation to the school about their party and its platform. (set boundaries on subject matter)
- ✓ Invite local candidates that may have been elected recently and encourage them to tell their story. Have them explain the process and experience from the time they decided to run for office to the day they were elected. (set boundaries on subject matter)
- ✓ Encourage a question and answer period where the students can inquire about the process of a working democracy.
- ✓ Allow teachers and students who are eligible to register to vote, to apply on site.
- ✓ Create a mock election ballot and give attendees the opportunity to cast their ballot, just as they would on Election Day.

Conduct a Mock Election (Sacramento County)

- ✓ Select a school that is enthusiastic about giving students the opportunity to encouraging their students to become involved in their democracy.
- ✓ Create a mock election ballot with issues relevant to high school students.
- ✓ Work with school to provide a "polling place" on campus. Bring voting equipment that students can use to simulate an actual election day.
- ✓ Use this time to encourage students to become poll workers on Election Day.

Host a Voter Registration Drive on Campus (Plumas County)

- ✓ Select a high school with a Government teacher who is passionate about democracy.
- ✓ "Elections 101". Present a slide show to Government classes giving the basics of participating in a democracy.
  - o How to Register.

- Am I eligible to register to vote?
- What to expect after you're registered to vote.
- What the County Election Office does.
- How does the county know which contest I get to vote on?
- Where can I find information on what I am voting for?
✓ Coordinate a Voter Registration Drive on campus.

<u>Assist High School with Student Body Elections</u>
(Plumas County)

✓ Select a high school with an upcoming student body election.
✓ Create a schedule with the Student Leadership Instructor, school administration and select a location on campus for the polling place.
✓ Work with a local ballot printer to have ballots donated to school.
✓ Provide poll worker training class to Senior class volunteers. (these students were selected because they were not voting on student body officers for the upcoming year.)
✓ Election Day! Set up a polling place! Provide the roster, badges, voting booths, ballot boxes, polling place signage, "I Voted" stickers and of course the American flag to make it identifiable.
✓ Allow student poll workers to announce results at school assembly/rally.