



California Department of Education

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California Secretary of State

Alex Padilla, *Secretary of State*
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
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August 23, 2018

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and Middle and High School Principals:

California Student Mock Election: Register Your School Today!

The 2018 General Election is quickly approaching, and it is once again time to get your students involved and excited about civic engagement. The California Secretary of State and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction are partnering to host another California Student Mock Election on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**.

Working with the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and in coordination with the National Student Mock Election, the California Student Mock Election helps young people discover the importance of elections and the power their vote has in our democracy. This year it builds on the excitement of a Statewide Election by giving California's high school and middle school students a chance to cast their mock vote for who they want to be our next Governor, United States Senator, and more. Once their votes are counted, students can compare their votes to those of their peers at schools from across the state.

We encourage you to incorporate this great program into your classroom schedule. Registration for the California Student Mock Election is on the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/student-mock-election/>. Here you will be able to register your school and obtain resources for holding a successful mock election on your campus.

All schools that register by September 18, 2018, will receive printed ballots, posters, "I Voted" stickers, and other materials by mail. Ballots and posters will be available to print on the Student Mock Election website for schools that register after September 18, 2018.

In addition to the materials above, you will find a collection of standards-based lesson plans designed to engage your students as well as ideas that other schools have used to incorporate the Mock Election in their schools.

August 23, 2018

Page 2

Another way you can get your students excited about civic engagement is by helping students host a voter registration/pre-registration drive at your school. In California, students can pre-register to vote starting at age 16 on paper or online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. Once pre-registered, they will be automatically registered to vote on their eighteenth birthday. For more information about pre-registration and the Secretary of State's other high school civic engagement initiatives, visit <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/high-school-programs/>.

With your involvement, students will discover that democracy only flourishes when we all take part and participate in our civic duty. Together, we can inspire a new generation to become more active and informed voters.

If you have any questions about the California Student Mock Election or other civic engagement opportunities, please contact the Student Mock Election Team at 916-651-3070 or MyVote@sos.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Padilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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