



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION

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September 4, 2019

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #19074

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Paige Kent
NVRA Coordinator

RE: Voter Education and Outreach: High School Voter Education Weeks
September 16-27, 2019

The California Education Code designates the last two weeks in April and September to be High School Voter Education Weeks. This provides an opportunity for high schools and their students to partner with county elections officials to promote civic education and participation on campus. With National Voter Registration Day falling on September 24, and pre-registration available to 16- and 17-year-olds, now is the time to encourage students to become engaged and active in their communities.

Secretary Padilla, in partnership with California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, issued a [letter](#) encouraging schools to invite students to participate in our democracy. You can also view Secretary Padilla's [resolution](#) online, encouraging all California high schools to participate in the upcoming High School Voter Education Weeks, September 16-27, 2019. Feel free to use this resolution as a tool to gain support and recognition from your Board of Supervisors or County Board of Education.

In addition, see our High School and Youth Initiatives webpage for some of the most popular student voter outreach ideas and activities shared by county elections officials, including how to pre-register 16- and 17-year-olds at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/high-school-programs/>.

If you have questions about this or any other outreach related matter, please feel free to contact me at pkent@sos.ca.gov or (916) 695-1564. Thank you.

Attachments

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 you would like to share, please email them to pkent@sos.ca.gov so they can be included in future communications.

Pre-Registration for 16- and 17-year-olds

- ✓ Contact high schools to promote pre-registration. Schools can now include younger students in voter registration drives and generate greater participation and engagement on campus.
- ✓ Order pre-registration flyers. Contact the Secretary of State's Office Voter Education and Outreach Team.
- ✓ For more information visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/high-school-programs/#prereg>

High School "Voter Registration Tool Kits" and "Texting Features"

- ✓ Create a "Voter Registration Tool Kit" which includes flyers, registration cards, and even some patriotic flair to deliver to local high schools.

Partner with the County's Office of Education and Local Agencies

- ✓ Partner with your County Office of Education, local school districts, and Board of Supervisors.
- ✓ Engage students in friendly competition between high schools to record points for participation, pledges, and registrations. School recognition for highest number of points at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Conduct a Mock Election

- ✓ Select a school that is enthusiastic about giving students the opportunity to encourage their students to become involved in their democracy.
- ✓ Create a mock election ballot with issues relevant to high school students.
- ✓ Pre-register and register eligible students.

Host a Voter Registration Drive on Campus

- ✓ Select a high school with a Government teacher who is passionate about democracy and coordinate a Voter Registration Drive on campus.