



## Suggestions for High School Voter Registration Drives

### General Resources

Secretary of State's Guide to Voter Registration Drives:

<https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/guides/guide-to-vr-drives.pdf>

Secretary of State's High School and Youth Initiatives.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/high-school-programs/>

LWVUS High School Registration Manual. The most current manual is found at:

[https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/empowering\\_the\\_voters\\_of\\_tomorrow\\_2018.final\\_.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/empowering_the_voters_of_tomorrow_2018.final_.pdf)

Cultivate a good relationship with your county's Registrar of Voters (ROV) Let the office know that you intend to go into the schools.

### Accessing schools

Work your contacts to get into schools. Some districts and schools are more open to outside organizations coming in to offer voter registration and general voting information.

The California Education Code specifies two High School Voter Education periods; one in September and one in May. It can be useful to point that out in trying to access schools. See: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/help-strengthen-our-democracy/>

### Techniques for Registration

Peer to peer registration — A student government association or a leadership class can be trained to register (and pre-register) other students. Students understand what motivates other students. They encourage and cajole each other.

Classroom visits — A brief talk about reasons to vote followed by passing out forms and discussion of the forms works well. Mention current issues that impact student life. Don't just talk about college tuition costs. Military service, job prospects, taxes are also issues that concern students.

Classroom Exercises — Involve students directly. The LWVUS manual offers an example of an exercise. Another one is to ask 25% of the students to stand up (roughly the youth voter turnout rate). Announce “Let’s have a vote on favorite music, food, professional sports team, etc.” Take two or three choices and then have only the standing students vote. This is a nice illustration of the impact not voting.

Competitions — Competitions between high schools, homerooms, or classes within a school are fun and motivational.

Registration tables — Having students at the table is ideal.

Paper or online registration — Using paper aids in data collection and sometimes prompts questions that are good for general discussion. However, student may prefer online, so use it if wifi is available.

### **Collect Data**

This serves two purposes. The first is to record the number of registrations. The second is to get information for future get out the vote efforts.

Set up a sign in sheet, a pledge to vote form, or use the attached opt in form for students. A name and cell phone is enough. Many students won’t fill out more.

### **Make it Fun**

Be an inspiring speaker or show a great video to interest and engage students.

Offer large picture frame saying “I registered!” “My voice is heard!” “I pledge to vote!” for students to take selfies or photos of each other. Make sure a student is 18 or over if you intend to use the photos for your League website or Facebook page.

Bring candy, T shirts, some sort of trinket (your ROV may have some). It must be available to all, not just to those who register.

### **Warnings**

Do not push every student to register because:

— a student might well have good reason to decline such as lack of citizenship.

— a students may have parents who warn them against revealing phone numbers, email address, birthdates.