

INVITATION FOR STUDENT-LED CIVICS PROJECT ON YOUTH VOTING
With Assistance from the League of Women Voters
(Recommended for a high school class interested in this topic)

Description of the Issue

While young adults between the ages of 18 to 29 have been increasing their rate of voting, they are still significantly under voting in comparison to older age groups, and in comparison to their own registration rate. In 2018, 33 % of Massachusetts young adults in this age group voted, but 58% of them were registered to vote. Data for 2022, when ready, will show a slight increase in voter turnout among young adults. But nationally, it is still below 30%. Why is there such a large gap between actual voting and the voter registration rate? Why is the registration rate so low? What do young adults need to help them feel more ready and motivated to vote?

Researching and Investigating

Background research and data on youth voting is available from CIRCLE (Center for Research, Civic Learning and Engagement) at Tufts University. <https://circle.tufts.edu>

The root causes of lower rates of youth voting are researched in a report from CIRCLE, entitled, "Growing Voters." This report identifies barriers to youth voting and needed supports from the whole community, including schools, election officials, news media, and civic organizations. <https://circle.tufts.edu/index.php/circlegrowingvoters>

You can read the report and view a video presentation of the report at the link listed above.

Talk with young adults in this age group and listen to their thoughts about why voters between 18 to 29 are reluctant to vote and what more can be done to help them vote.

Develop an Action Plan for Your School and Community

Did you receive ideas from your talks with young adults?

There are recommendations in the "Growing Voters" report. Are there recommendations that you would like to implement?

The "Growing Voters" report has a self-assessment tool for schools and communities to use to identify what they are doing well and what improvements they can make in supporting youth voting. The League of Women Voters is willing to convene a discussion group with school leaders, students, election officials and local news media to use this tool to identify improvements we can make together. Findings from this discussion can be used to form your action plan.

Taking Action

Identify recommendations you can act on now and recommendations the school and community would need to act on in the future. Identify who could follow-through on your recommendations for the future.