



Kern County Voter Engagement Project

Please Read these Instructions to the Students

Tool Kit:

Instructions

FAQ, Resource and Questions Page

Voter Registration Forms for Students

Highlighted Voter Registration Form for Teacher

Collection Boxes

Envelope for Spoiled Forms for School Disposal

Black pens

Contact: Neel Sannappa, 661 699-8954

High School Voter Education Weeks, April 16, 2018 through April 30, 2018

Drop off Date:

Pick-Up, Take to AP's Office:

This is the pilot program. Suggestions and questions are encouraged.

GOAL: This project is designed to educate students on how to register to vote and send in an Absentee Ballot.
OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to determine if they are eligible to register to vote, and eligible students will be able to fill out a voter registration form today. The Kern County Elections Office will determine legal eligibility.

Because improperly filling out a voter registration form can prevent a person from being registered, and not signing and dating forms and Absentee Ballots results in invalid ballots, the Kern County Voter Engagement Project was formed to educate and register eligible people. The California Education Code designates the last two full weeks in April and September to be High School Voter Education Weeks. Education Code Section 33540(b), 3(b), outlines how schools partner with community organizations to register voters. This is a non-mandatory and non-partisan project. Please contact your AP if you have additional questions

Kern County High School Voter Engagement Project

Say: Have you ever had a great idea and thought to yourself, “Our country should do this!” or maybe, “That isn’t right. Someone should do something about that!”? While anyone can call a Congressman, it’s your vote that matters. Today we’d like to invite you to register to vote! This is a non-partisan project, which means we aren’t taking a political side. If young people don’t vote, people older than you will make decisions about your future.

Say: This is a private application, and because voter fraud and tampering with an election process are illegal, it’s important to take this opportunity seriously. Please do not try to influence others with your party preference. This is also not the moment to define or explain politics to someone else. How you fill out the party preference portion of this is form is completely up to you! When you’re done, you will put your application in the box.

Say: Not everyone will be registering today. To register today, you must be 18 now or age 18 on or before June 5, 2018—next year! This ensures you will be 18 for the next election. You must be a citizen of the United States to register and vote. A person cannot register if they are on parole for a felony conviction, but people who have been arrested or have misdemeanor charges are allowed to register and vote. The County Election’s Office determines if you are legally eligible to vote. However, all of you will look at the questions today to understand how to fill it out and why some people’s forms are invalidated.

Say: You will need:

- **blue or black pen (no pencil, and you will need to do the writing yourself)**
- **voter registration form –Everyone will get one, but don’t write on it yet!**
- **an idea of what you want your legal signature to look like as you will be creating it today. It can be the same as your DMV signature, or it may have changed since you got your license. Figure out how you usually sign forms, and use that signature from now on.**
- **driver’s license (or know license number), California ID, or know last 4 digits of social security number**

(If you do not have one of these forms of ID, you can still register to vote today. Make sure you put your phone number or email address on the form so you can be contacted. The County Elections Office will assign you a unique voter ID when they receive your information, and you will be notified of that number in the mail. If you get a license or California ID later on, you can fill out another written voter registration form or register online. If you register online, your DMV signature is your official signature).

- **today’s date, and figure out if you will be age 18 or older on or before June 5, 2018—next year!**

Say: When I hand out the forms, don’t write on them yet. We’ll go over the questions together. Some of the questions are tricky, and only valid responses are acceptable. If you make a simple mistake and need to change an “o” to an “e,” just put your initials near the mistake. Otherwise, you will need to start over with a new form. I have extras.

Teacher Note: Have students fill out the form as you read the instructions.

Hand out Voter Registration Form - DO NOT WRITE ON THE FORM YET!

Say: At the top it says, "Use blue or black ink. Print clearly. Fill out this form if you are a new voter, have moved or changed your name, or want to change your political party preference." So, a few years from now, you may need to fill out another form.

Say: **Number 1** is where you find out if you are eligible to register to vote today. It asks if you are a U.S. citizen and if you will be 18 or older by the next election. If you answer "No" to either question, you CANNOT register to vote. Don't write on this form so we can save paper.

If your answer is "Yes" to both questions, you can **check "Yes" in both boxes now** and fill out the form.

Say: **Number 2** is tricky. Print your legal FIRST name. Print your middle name or middle initial in the next section. It's best to have it match exactly what is on your driver's license so you don't get called to jury duty too often.

Number 3 is your legal LAST name.

Say: **Numbers 4-6** are for your address.

Say: **Numbers 7,8, and 9 are for people :** (You can leave these blank if you live and get mail at the above address.)

- Who don't have an actual street address (i.e. homeless)
- Who have a mailing address different from where they live (i.e. move a lot and get mail at mother's house)

Say: **Number 10** is date of birth (month, day, year), and for **Number 11**, you print the U.S. State you were born in or foreign country of birth. You must be a citizen now in order to register today.

Say: **Number 12** is where you put your driver's license number, California ID number, or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you don't have this information with you, you can still register today but you need to put your phone number (cell phone okay) on the form the Election's Office can get that information from you at a later date.

Numbers 13 and 14 are optional. However, putting your phone number and email address on the form ensures that the Election's Office can contact you if there is a mistake. Some people think they are registered, but when they go to vote, they can't because the form wasn't filled out properly.

Say: **Number 15** is political party preference. This voter engagement project is non-partisan, which means it cannot recommend a political party. This part is up to you. If you know your political party, check that box. Otherwise, you can check the "No" box. **Check only ONE box.**

Say: **Number 16** says, "I want to get my ballot by mail." Many people have work or school, and some people don't want to stand in line (which can often take hours). If you initial this box you can get your ballot through the mail, fill it out at home, and either mail it in or drop it off at the voting location by 8 P.M. on Election Day without standing in line. Or, you can choose not to initial it and go to the polling place (and stand in line) to vote each time there is an election.

Say: **Number 17** should be filled out if you have registered to vote before today and are updating your application.

Say: **Number 18** is so important. Take a moment to read it and know your signature. The signature you put in the red box on the voter registration form becomes your legal signature. It is the same signature you will use for voting, and it must be the same signature you use on the envelope of your Absentee Ballot if you vote by mail. It is also the one you will use if you ever sign a petition. **YOU MUST ALSO PUT TODAY'S DATE IN THE RED BOX!**

Say: **PUT TODAY'S DATE** in the red box with your signature. Today's date is _____.

Say: Where it says "Did someone help you fill out this form?" is where the Kern County Voter Engagement Project will fill it out and sign it since they are giving you these directions today. Don't put anything there.

Say: In 4-6 weeks, you will receive a Voter Notification card in the mail. About a month before the election, you will receive a Sample Ballot and information where you can learn about the candidates and issues. You can take your Sample Ballot into a polling place to save time.

If you put your initials on number 16, you will receive an Absentee Ballot in the mail before an election, which means you can fill it out at home and do not need to stand in line to vote. When you complete the Absentee Ballot at election time, SEAL IT, SIGN IT and DATE IT, STAMP IT and SEND IT. You can mail it before Election Day –people call this early voting—or have it postmarked by 8 P.M. on Election Day. If you choose to drop it off at the polls on Election Day, you must do so before 8 P.M.

Say: If you did not fill out a form today, you can hand it back to me or take it home. It's good for a few months.

If it's a spoiled form with writing or mistakes, put it in the envelope and we will dispose of it properly.

Say: **IF YOU ARE A NEWLY REGISTERED VOTER AS OF TODAY:**

- **Scan numbers 1-18.**
- **Check that you marked "Yes" in boxes for number 1**
- **Check that you marked only ONE box for number 15. (Get a new form if you errored).**
- **Check your signature AND date on number 18.**
- **Tear off the bottom portion. It's for you.**
- **Return the pen if you borrowed one.**
- **Fold completed form and have your teacher scan it before you put it in the box.**
 - **Voter Engagement staff will fill out their part, protect your information from illegal or commercial use, and will take it to the Election's Office.**
- **Congratulations! Get educated and make a difference!**

Teachers—Please check each registration form numbers 1-18 to make sure they are filled out properly before the students put them in the collection box. If there is an error, point out to the student where it needs to be completed or give the student a new form if necessary. Thank you!

Because the forms contain private student information, take the box of completed forms and the envelope of spoiled forms to the AP's office at the end of the day when your students have completed the forms. If YOU can't bring it up, leave it in your room and we'll pick it up! If you or your students have questions or comments, write your name and question or comment on the back of the Questions paper and put it in the box at the end of the activity. We'll get back to you in a few days. The extra voter registration forms are usually good for 3 months. If a student wants one for a family member or needs to update or change information, go ahead and hand them out!

FAQ

What should I double check on my form? People always forget to put the date in the red box with their signature.

Where else can I ask my question? You can call the free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE (8683). You can also go online to REGISTERTOVOTE.CA.GOV or go to the Kern County Election's Office, 1115 Truxtun Ave in Bakersfield.

Can you register to vote under age 18? Yes, if you will be 18 by the next election. For people as young as 16 who will not be 18 at election time, you can pre-register at REGISTERTOVOTE.CA.GOV.

When I fill out this form, does it mean I am registered? No, the Kern County Election's Office must process the form and confirm eligibility. You will receive a voter card in the mail in 4-6 weeks to confirm your registration. If you did not fill out the form properly, they sometimes send you a form so you can correct the error. For the most part, it is up to you to check if you are registered properly.

How do I check if I'm registered? Go to REGISTERTOVOTE.CA.GOV. Find the embedded link, "check if I am registered."

What if I make a mistake filling out the form? If you make a mistake selecting your political party preference or while checking the boxes in question number one, you need to fill out a new form. Minor mistakes, such as changing an "e" to an "o" are usually not a problem. You can initial your change. If in doubt, fill out a new form.

What if I don't select a political party? If you check, "No, I do not want to disclose political party preference," that is fine. Do not leave it blank.

What if I check a political party, and then I want to change it? Any time you want to change information you will need to fill out a new form. You can do that at any time. If you change anything about your voter registration online or if you register online, your new legal signature will be your DMV signature.

How do I know if my Absentee Vote was counted? Under SB589, county officials are required to create a system allowing voters to verify whether their vote-by-mail ballot was counted and more importantly, why or why not. However, voters bear the burden of seeking out that information from their local Election's Office.

What if my signature is sloppy? Your legal signature is the one on your voter registration form. If you change anything about your voter registration online or if you register online, your new legal signature will be your DMV signature.

Why did I get a voter registration card with my DMV information in the mail? By law, DMV has to provide you with the voter card. They don't know if you are registered or not. WHEN IN DOUBT, FILL IT OUT.

What does party affiliation mean? It means which political party you support or want to get voter information from at election time. This voter registration project is non-partisan, so we do not give out party information.

How do I vote by mail? When you get your ballot, fill it out. Then, SEAL IT, SIGN and DATE IT, STAMP IT and SEND IT. Absentee Ballots can also be dropped off at your polling place by 8 P.M. on Election Day.

RESOURCES: Voter Registration Hotline 1-800-VOTE (8683) or REGISTERTOVOTE.CA.GOV

QUESTIONS: If you have comments or questions about the Voter Engagement Project or if you have suggestions on how to make this process go smoother, please contact us (see front cover) or write your comments or questions on the back of this paper and we will get back to you. Thank you so much for helping to get your students educated and registered to vote!