



Fall Newsletter

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. With the new year ahead, Voters2Be is excited to re-launch our updated programs and new course offerings. Read below for information about our returning *Democracy and You* course, our new special summer series, and our newly created research center.

Message from Asher Cohen, President and Founder of Voters2Be

I hope you all have enjoyed the summer months and had a chance to rest and relax. I am excited to announce the re-launch of Voters2Be's updated programming for the 2023-2024 school year.

When I started Voters2Be one year ago, my goal was to host classes for small groups of kids online. Since then, I realized that I could expand my goal, reach a wider number of students, and create more diversity in what we can offer teens and kids. I am pleased to say that over the last year, I have worked with over 150 students from around the world who I helped understand basic political skills and the importance of civic engagement.

Because of the wide interest in Voters2Be's programs, I have decided to expand our offerings and my team so that we can truly meet our mission of boosting political participation and increasing youth civic engagement programs to increase voter turnout rates in young adults. This year, Voters2Be will be offering courses in the fall, winter, and summer. We will continue to offer our *Democracy and You* intro to political participation course online through zoom and Learn to Be. We will also be offering this course in-person at select organizations. To attend the in-person sessions, you must be a member of our host organizations. In addition to our

returning course, we will also be offering a special summer series that covers specific political topics and current events for kids to learn about.

In addition to our new course offerings, we are also launching a new research center. Voters2Be's research center will conduct research on current levels of voter turnout, state civic engagement programs, and provide a detailed plan of how to improve political participation.

Since we are launching new courses and a new research center, I am happy to welcome four new people to the Voters2Be team. Gabriel Rhodes is our new Vice President and Chief Program Officer, overseeing our research center and curriculum. Gavin Spencer will be our Director of Strategic Initiatives, overseeing program expansion. Ian Soracchi will be our Director of Operations, providing logistical support. Finally, Eddy Gelman is our new Director of Research and Engineering, managing our research center projects.

I hope you take the time to read through this email in its entirety and take a look at a description of our 2023-2024 courses, our research center's philosophy, our course schedule for the fall, and a list of recommended resources.

Sincerely,
Asher Cohen
President and Founder, Voters2Be

2023-2024 Course Offerings

Democracy and You Course: Our innovative course done online and in-person teaches students the importance of voting and how they can be informed future voters within our democracy through engaging interactive activities. Young adults learn about political participation, voting rights, key political issues, democracy, and how they can share their voice.

Summer Special Event Series: In addition to educating future voters and leaders on the importance of casting their informed vote, we have a summer special event series that aims to touch other key areas of political advocacy and information beyond basic voting skills. Our summer series includes five sessions and covers: public safety information, the 2024 election, economic policy, political trivia, and local elections.

Fall Course Schedule

Online (students must register for tutoring on the Learn to Be website):

October 16th at 6pm
October 23rd at 6pm
October 30th at 6pm
November 6th at 6pm
November 20th at 6pm

In-Person at the Association to Benefit Children (Harlem, NY):

October 18th at 4pm
October 25th at 4pm
November 1st at 4pm
November 8th at 4pm
November 15th at 4pm

[Email Asher Cohen to sign up for one of our classes](#)

Introducing the Voters2Be Research Center

Mission Statement: The research center at Voters2Be seeks to understand current civic engagement programs and create a plan for the future that will boost public participation in political affairs and student political knowledge. The goal of the research center is to support our programming by helping the education team understand current barriers to voter turnout and levels of voter engagement. By understanding current civic engagement programs and innovating new ones, the research center at Voters2Be creates solutions that will protect our democracy for years to come.

Plan:

- Step 1: Researching Levels of Voter Turnout and Demographics
- Step 2: Creating Digital Infrastructure and Software for Data on Student Political Awareness
- Step 3: Understanding Current Voter Engagement Programs

Step 4: Comparative Study of Civic Engagement Programs Across the World
Step 5: Innovating our Plan to Boost Civic Engagement Education

In our winter newsletter, we will share our research for steps 1 and 2 of our plan. In our spring newsletter, we will share our research for steps 3 and 4 of our plan. In the Summer, we will share our research for step 5 of our plan.

[Check out our political resource of the fall](#)



<https://voters2be.org>
asher.voters2be@gmail.com

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