



Winter Newsletter

As the 2023-2024 school year progresses, Voters2Be is excited to continue to offer our *Democracy and You* course this winter and begin planning for new summer programming and research initiatives. Please take a look below at a letter from our President and Founder, an outline of our winter offerings, and an update on our research initiatives.

Message from Asher Cohen, President and Founder of Voters2Be

I hope you are doing well and finding ways to reflect and connect with your community during these emotionally challenging times. At the heart of Voters2Be's mission is a commitment to community engagement, and over the last couple of weeks, our organization has explored how the current global challenges impact how individuals engage with issues in their community. It is through this work that I have been exploring a few new ideas that I hope to introduce into Voters2Be's programming.

Although the most standard form of civic engagement is casting a vote in an election, there are other ways for individuals to engage with community issues. Civic engagement can be as simple as knowing who your legislators are, sending letters to your local politician, joining an organization to support an issue you care about, or attending City Council meetings.

Upon thinking more about how all of these things fall under the broad category of civic engagement, I realize that Voters2Be needs to expand its programming to teach our youth population the different ways they can advocate for issues they care about. Over the next six months, I hope to work with Gabriel Rhodes, our Chief Program

Officer, to develop an advocacy lesson that will teach students how they can fight for the issues they believe in. I hope to debut this lesson and expand our five-part *Democracy and You* course by adding an extra class on this topic in the Fall of 2024.

In addition to long-term planning, I am also happy to announce a few new things you can now explore on our website. The first is pictures from our fall in-person classes at the Association to Benefit Children in Harlem. You can access those photos [here](#). The second thing I am excited to announce is the first output of our research center. You can now find our research on voter turnout levels [here](#). More information is available on this resource later in this letter.

Finally, I am excited to announce that I will be giving a presentation at the Morningside Heights Public Library on January 20th at 2pm. The presentation will focus on how parents can keep their kids civically engaged and kids can find ways to engage with politics.

In the rest of this letter, you will find our winter schedule and a detailed update on our research initiatives. I hope you enjoy exploring some of our latest work improving youth civic engagement education and I encourage you to reach out to me at asher.voters2be@gmail.com with any questions about our programming.

Sincerely,
Asher Cohen
President and Founder, Voters2Be

Winter Course Schedule

Online (students must register on the [Learn to Be](#) website):

January 22nd at 6pm
January 29th at 6pm
February 5th at 6pm
February 12th at 6pm
February 26th at 6pm

In-Person at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County (Hackensack, NJ):

January 24th at 4pm
January 31st at 4pm
February 7th at 4pm

February 14th at 4pm
February 21st at 4pm

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

Research Center Updates

We are excited to share the first output of our research center: a report on voter turnout levels and demographics. Over the last couple of months, members of our team at Voters2Be have been working on a state-by-state level to study current voter turnout levels and the demographics of each state based on the most recent census data. Using this information, we produced comparative charts by looking at each region of the country and averaging the data from the states within those regions.

From our research, we have identified a few important trends. The first trend confirmed our previous program framework: diverse areas tend to have the lowest voter turnout rate. This finding confirms how our programming must continue to reach diverse groups of students. Our research also identified how there is not a strong correlation between age and people choosing to vote. So, we have decided to re-evaluate our programming and consider expanding our classes. We are considering offering classes for adults where we go over the same key topics and skills related to civics and politics. Finally, our research determined that some areas of the country have much lower voter turnout levels than other regions. We are committed to expanding our programming to areas like the Southwest and Southeast that have the lowest voter turnout levels.

For our full report on voter turnout and demographics, please click [here](#) or visit <https://voters2be.org/research-center>.

In our spring newsletter, we will share additional research about current voter engagement programs and our innovative survey we will use to collect more data on youth civic engagement. Stay tuned in the summer and fall for additional research on foreign civic engagement programs and our plan to boost political engagement in the United States.

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



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