



Fall Newsletter

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! Voters2Be is excited to begin a new year of programming and help students understand and grapple with the upcoming 2024 election. We are excited to continue to offer our *Democracy and You* course this fall, expand our volunteer programming, release new research initiatives, and create special programming around the 2024 election. Please take a look below at a letter from our President and Founder, a reflection on our summer courses, and an update on our research initiatives.

Message from Asher Cohen, President and Founder of Voters2Be

Dear Students, Parents, and Partners,

I hope you are doing well and had a summer filled with fun, learning, and time outdoors. This summer, I spent much of my time enhancing our offerings and working with my team at Voters2Be to determine how to best prepare students to engage in civil discourse about the 2024 Presidential Election.

National elections are times when youth civic engagement matters most. It is crucially important that children, even if they cannot yet vote, understand how presidential elections can change the trajectory of the country. In a world with increasing political polarization, it is important to equip students with the skills to make sense of the information they read through the media.

To help our students engage with the 2024 presidential election, we have incorporated specific information about the candidates, their policy views, and the electoral college into our *Democracy and You Course*. We have also added a civil discourse component into the course, where students first learn skills for discussing politics across lines of difference and then get to practice having these conversations.

In addition to our course offerings, we also plan to host special workshops leading up to and after the election. Look out for email updates about these events.

I am also excited to announce some changes to the Voters2Be staff. We have recently hired a Director of Education, Julia “Lia” Pascual, who will specialize in updating our course offerings and creating election programming. We also have a new Director of Volunteer Programs, Charlotte Rubin, who will oversee creating partnerships with other non-profits and service opportunities for high schoolers to contribute to our mission.

In the rest of this letter, you will find a reflection on our *Summer Civics Series* course and an update on our research initiatives. I hope you enjoy exploring some of our latest work improving youth civic 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

A Look Back: *Summer Civics Series*

This summer, we hosted our first season of the *Summer Civics Series* course. The course included lessons on the 2024 election, state government, local politics, economic policy, and voter registration.

The course also included interactive simulations in which students played the role of different federal and state politicians and determined their policy goals. Students also learned how to register to vote and find their local voting site.

We plan to teach the *Summer Civics Series* course again and include a new discourse component in the curriculum, where students will practice engaging in dialogue across lines of difference.

Research Center Updates

We are excited to share the latest output of our research center, [a guide to youth civil discourse and civic engagement](#). Through extensive research, our research team identified a list of steps and guidelines that young adults should use when discussing politics or governmental affairs.

As our next new course offering, we plan to use these findings to create a course centered around political discourse and discussing different areas of public policy.

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



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