

My Vote ✓ My Voice

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Check out the new **Voter Registration Corner** in your **College and Career Center!**

Voter registration is now possible at any time at the College and Career Center. Most students can follow the instructions on the flip board and complete the registration process themselves.

Important Dates:

[Tues., Feb 20th - Spring Primary](#)

-**Jan 31st** - Last day to register to vote by mail.

-**February 5th** - First day for In-Person Absentee Voting (City Hall, Room 501).

-**February 15th** - Last day to request absentee ballots by mail or on MyVote.

[Tues., April 3rd - Spring Election](#)

-**March 14th** - Last day to register to vote by mail.

-**March 19th** - First day for In-Person Absentee Voting (City Hall, Room 501).

-**March 29th** - Last day to request absentee ballots by mail or on MyVote.



Schedule a classroom presentation and/or voter registration

League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is currently scheduling voter registration events for February through May at MPS.

The registration event may include a motivational presentation about the importance of voting.

Our motivational presentation highlights the granting of voting rights from the signing of the constitution through the 1960's and 1970's when young people demanded the right of 18 year olds to vote. It identifies some of the obstacles that have prevented people from registering and voting. The students get the chance to take the Louisiana Literacy Test. Next, students are asked to identify the issues that are important in their lives. These issues are listed on a board and then matched with local, state and national elections so students can see why it is important to vote in every election.

Lastly, a visual demonstration points out that only about 30% (or less depending on the election) of 17-19 year olds make the decisions for the group because the remaining 70% either do not register or do not vote. Those who are not yet old enough to vote are encouraged to become a positive force within their families and community in getting others to register and turn out at the polls.

If you would like to learn more about our classroom presentation or schedule an event, please **contact us at lwvmc.hsvoter@gmail.com**.

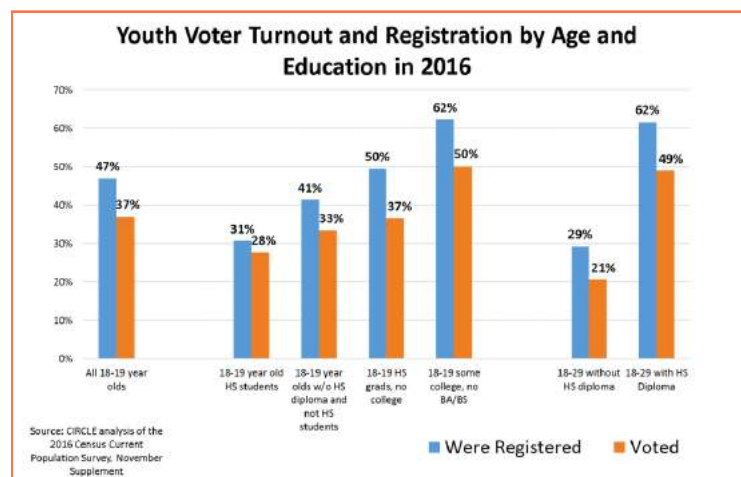
Why don't High School Youth Vote? - Studies from Tufts University

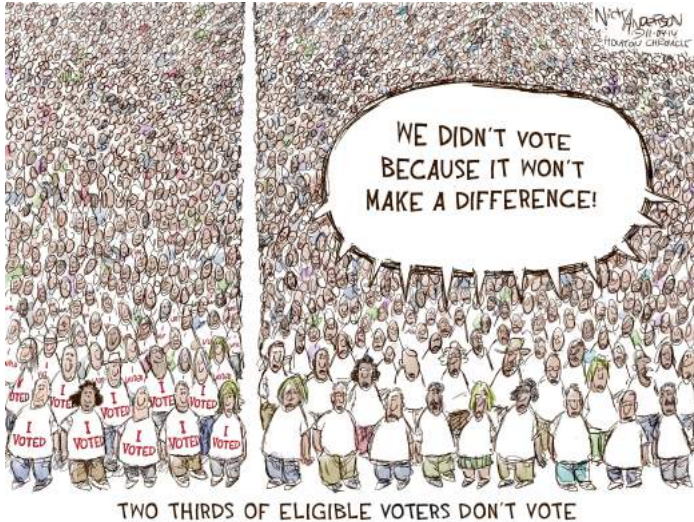
The following information appears on the CIRCLE* Website: BlogTeens and Elections
- Teens and Elections - January 23rd, 2018 For more information, go to <https://goo.gl/sCR9MA>

With the 2018 elections now less than a year away, political parties, journalists, and other observers are increasingly turning their attention not just to how people will vote in the midterms, but to how many will cast a ballot. Turnout in off-year elections has historically been much lower than in presidential years across all age groups, but especially among youth; in 2014, we calculated that only one-fifth of young people (ages 18-29) participated in that year's midterm elections—the lowest youth turnout ever recorded by the Census.

While many cite this downward trend in order to dismiss young people as apathetic, the research tells us that there is a deeper story. Voting is like any other habit: it must be taught, facilitated, and nurtured through concrete opportunities and through a culture that encourages and celebrates political participation. And like most habits, the earlier one develops it, the easier it is to keep at it later in life. Research has shown that young people who cast a ballot earlier in life are more likely to continue voting in the years and decades to come.

The 2016 November Supplement to U.S. Census Current Population Survey provides some insight into why some of these youngest potential voters did not participate in the election. Among youth 18 and 19 years old who were not registered to vote, **23% said they missed the registration deadlines, 6% said they didn't know where or how to register, and 3% said their vote "wouldn't make a difference."** Over a third (38%) indicated they were not interested in the election or not involved in politics. This accounts for an estimated 14 million voters.





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These responses underscore that interventions to increase electoral engagement have to address two distinct types of obstacles. On the one hand, there is a **lack of information** about when, where, and how to register which may be compounded by technical barriers like restrictive voting laws. On the other hand, there are efficacy-related barriers that speak to young people's understanding—or lack thereof—of their value and role in democratic life. That same poll showed that a majority of 18 to 20-year-olds agree or strongly agree that “I don't think public officials care much what people like me think,” and far fewer believe that “people like me have a legitimate voice in the political process.”

*CIRCLE, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, focuses on young people in the United States, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged in political life. CIRCLE's scholarly research informs policy and practice for healthier youth development and a better democracy. It is based at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. (Bolding in the above added by LWVMC.)

How can MPS and the League of Women Voters Work Together to Improve Student Voter Registration and Turnout?

Ways we can help:

- Teaming up with you or a student led organization to plan and schedule a voter registration event at your school.
- Teaming up with you or a student led organization to give the motivational presentation to a classroom, assembly, student meeting, or student organization.
- Teaming up with you to identify ways to invite students to the Voter Registration Corner where they can register.
- Training Student Voter Advocates to assist their peers with voter registration and encouraging them to help plan a voter registration event.
- Creating a class project designed to increase voter registration and voting at your high school. The plan could include a way to earn community service hours.
- Your idea. We're listening! We encourage student leaders to become involved as well.
- Contact us at lwvmc.hsvoter@gmail.com to get the ball rolling!