## Supplies to bring to classroom presentations on voting

- Download the MI Voter Registration form from the Secretary of State website: https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Elections/Election-Forms/Voter-Registration-Form-English.pdf
- Print enough copies for all students in the class
- Bring pens (blue or blank ink); make it easy for them!

## Timeline

| The Class Before | During Class | After Class |
|---|---|---|
| Explain to students that we will be doing a registration drive in class next time.<br><br>Remind them to bring in their Michigan driver's license (if they have one) and their Social Security Number.<br><br>Gather supplies: printed voter registration forms and pens. | 1. Distribute voter registration forms and pens. One on each desk is best. You will get higher uptake if you give each student a form than if you wait for them to approach you.<br>2. Ask the instructor to share why they genuinely believe voting is important. (Below is a script they can use.)<br>3. Announce that registering to vote is important and that it's a good idea to do it right now, in class, before anybody forgets.<br>4. Show the Michigan Voter Registration 101 slide deck, which walks students through the process of registering<br>5. Collect forms from students. As you collect them, check for common mistakes. (See list of common errors below.) | Submit the forms to the appropriate clerk(s) ASAP (and definitely before October 21) |

## Checking for common errors

- Online form
  - Must click all the way to the end to ensure that their form went through.

- Paper form:
  - Must not forget to check both boxes in Qualifications (I am a citizen; I am of age).
  - Must not forget to sign and date at the bottom.
  - Must not confuse date of birth and today's date.
  - Must not forget to include the entire license number, which will be in the following format: X-XXX-XXX-XXX-XXX

- Must not forget to include the room/unit number, if they live in a dorm or apartment.

## Script (Optional)

- Voting is important
  - Speak from the heart!
  - Just make sure you aren't telling students whom to vote for or how to vote on any issues.
  - For example:

> Today I want to take a few minutes to talk with you all about a very important issue. Our school is highly invested in making sure that students are heard in the upcoming election. We want to make sure that young people turn out to vote this November so that we can get attention paid to students and to the issues that matter to them.
>
> There are a lot of important things going on right now that affect your lives. It's not as if you all have the same opinion on this stuff just because you are young people, but you do need our government representatives to pay attention to these issues and to pay attention to you.
>
> Believe it or not, a lot of it comes down to voting and what you do on Election Day this November. So that's why I am so invested in getting students registered and out to vote.
>
> Each of you has a voter registration form on your desk. I'm asking you take just a couple of minutes to complete them now. We'll collect them and be sure that they are turned into the proper voter registration office.
>
> It's important that you register *now*, before you forget.

## Dos and Don'ts

| Do | Don't |
|---|---|
| • Tell students why you think voting matters.<br><br>• Share your nonpartisan reasons why voting matters, such as making your voice heard, sending a message to our representatives that students' views matter, or participating in democracy as an engaged citizen. | • Do not fill in students' information for them. If you notice a student left something blank, ask them to complete the form themselves.<br><br>• Do not provide incentives for registering or for voting. It is not appropriate to offer extra credit for students who register. |

| | |
|---|---|
| • Tell students that you recommend registering right now while we're here in class. | • Do not wait to do this. After October 21, students will need to register in person at the clerk's office, so this initiative must happen before then. |

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why are in-class voter registration drives a good idea?

A1: Universities have a legal obligation under the Higher Education Act to make a good-faith effort to distribute a voter registration form to each student enrolled. Furthermore, research shows that in-class voter registration drives are highly effective in boosting student registrations as well as turnout.

Q2: What if students have complicated questions about voting?

A2: They can email questions to the Secretary of State at MDOS-StudentsVote@Michigan.gov, or call their local clerk's office. We do not advise answering any student questions if you are not 100% sure you have the most accurate and up-to-date information. Err on the side of referring them to official sources.

Q3: If students want to learn what's on the ballot and get informed about the issues, what resources can I recommend?

A3: Vote411 and BallotReady are nonpartisan resources.

Q4: I want to do more to support my students' civic participation. What else can I do beyond holding a registration drive in my class?

A4: We have several suggestions, all backed by empirical research.

1) Encourage students to make a voting plan. Considering offering extra credit if students email you a voting plan they made for themselves or with a friend. The plan should detail what day, time, and location the voter plans to vote (including specifying where the voter will be coming from and what the voter will be doing beforehand). For students who are not eligible to vote, they can receive credit by submitting a voting plan they helped a friend make.

2) Encourage students to make a “vote tripling” plan. Consider offering extra credit if students email you their plan for contacting 3 friends (or other eligible individuals) to remind them to vote (including specifying which friends, what method of communication, what the message will say, and when they plan to send it).

   *** Remember, instructors are permitted to educate students about voting and to encourage students to make voting plans and vote tripling plans. They are not permitted to incentivize students to register or vote. Do not offer academic credit for registering or voting.***

3) Share your own voting plan. As long as you do not endorse any particular candidate, party, or issue, you can share your personal commitment to democratic participation. Be enthusiastic when you talk about voting—it’s infectious!

4) Verbally remind students throughout the fall of important registration and election dates:

   - **September 26**: Absentee ballots become available in MI. Request yours and track its status at mi.gov/vote

   - **October 21**: Last day of “easy registration” (i.e., in-person registration at a clerk’s office not required) in MI.

   - **October 22**: Time to mail in absentee ballots. Anything later risks arriving after the deadline (8pm on Election Day).

   - **October 26**: Nine days of Early Voting begins in MI.
     - Look up Early Voting sites (which are often different from Polling Places where you’d go if you waited until Election Day to vote) at mi.gov/vote

   - **November 5**: Election Day! Polls are open from 7am-8pm.