

# PARENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF HOUSTON

ORGANIZING, TRAINING & ENGAGING PARENTS



## Voter Curriculum Resources

By Elizabeth Harrison

### **Conversation Starters:**

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- (1) How can I prepare myself for voting?
- (2) What are the issues that are being decided?
- (3) What are the pros and cons for voting a straight ticket?
- (4) If voting for individuals, how do I decide who to vote for?
- (5) What should I do if I am undecided about a candidate or issue or if I am uninformed?
- (6) What if I get in the voting booth and don't know anything about any of the candidates for a position?
- (7) Why is an office such as the Harris County Clerk important to me? How am I affected by this person?
- (8) How could I be affected by decisions made by people elected to other offices I vote for?

### **Lesson Planning:**

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[Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow](#) (PDF 4MB)

This 51-page manual was developed by the League of Women Voters. Page 2 provides information regarding why voter registration is of vital importance in schools with large numbers of students who are disadvantaged. Also see pages 7-8, 31, 34, 39-40 for information to assist your course planning.

[Civic Education in the Nation's Schools](#)

Lesson ideas from the legal profession.

[Youth Leadership Initiative](#)

Education resources designed to help encourage student participation in the political process developed by The University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

[Project Vote Smart](#)

Curriculum for Government 101, classroom activities/resources and a political glossary.

### **“The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (Circle)”:**

Tufts University has a center that studies youth involvement in government. Browse the banner along the top of the page for helpful topics. Below are three articles of possible interest.

[New Study Dispels Stereotypes About Young Voters Ahead of 2012 Elections](#)

[“That’s Not Democracy.” How Out-of-School Youth Engage in Civic Life and What Stands in Their Way](#)  
[Why Youth Voting Matters](#)

### **“Rock the Vote”:**

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Rock the Vote is a voter registration group that engages young people from 18-29 in the political process.

[Democracy Day](#)

Lesson plans for teachers with an engaging “History of Voting” video.

[Democracy Class](#)

A complimentary site intended for students.