

# Welcome

Dear Educator,

Thank you for leading the Student Vote program for the local elections, happening throughout British Columbia this October.

We know the beginning of the school year is a busy time, and we appreciate the time you are dedicating to the program.

The Student Vote experience can foster a sense of belonging by helping students learn about themselves and understand others. This can be achieved through collaborative problem solving, exploring multiple perspectives, and setting and achieving personal and class goals.

Numerous Student Vote program evaluations have found that participating in the program has a positive impact on students' knowledge and understanding of government and elections, on their sense of civic responsibility and confidence in participating in the electoral process.

The program also provides an opportunity for students to take their newfound knowledge home and engage in conversations about the election with their family.

As part of CIVIX's current priorities for this school year, you will see an emphasis in building constructive dialogue skills among students.

Heightened social tensions, and the erosion of democratic norms around the world, only underscore the need for constructive dialogue skills. Democracy requires bridges between different perspectives.

On the following pages, you will find guiding principles for classroom discussion and activities for co-creating a 'norms of agreement' with students. Developing classroom norms with your students is a great way to ensure a safe and caring classroom environment, and encourage respectful discussion.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact our team at [hello@civix.ca](mailto:hello@civix.ca).

Please be sure to visit the project website for videos, slide decks, digital activity sheets and more:  
[www.studentvote.ca/bclocal2022](http://www.studentvote.ca/bclocal2022)

Wishing you and your students a great election,

The CIVIX Team