

Introduction

We would like to thank you for accepting the important responsibility of bringing democracy and civic education into your classroom.

Your enthusiasm toward special initiatives like Student Vote provides an example to students and their families and friends that democratic engagement is an important and worthwhile effort.

What is the purpose of the Student Vote program?

The program provides young people with an opportunity to experience the voting process firsthand and to practice the habits of informed and engaged citizenship.

The Student Vote program applies the concept of the “teachable moment” and uses the official election as a springboard for discussing current affairs and the value of democratic participation.

What is the rationale for this resource?

The lessons are intended to improve civic literacy, introduce the concepts of democracy and elections, increase awareness about the workings and impact of government, and teach students how to actively participate in the democratic process. The final lesson allows students to reflect on their participation in Student Vote and the outcome of the election. The whole process is an empowering lesson in civic responsibility and citizen engagement.

Why is it important to encourage discussion with family and friends?

Based on feedback from teachers, we know that students are eager to share their newfound knowledge with family and friends, and engage them in conversation about the election. This exchange allows students to explore different points of view, further develop their own opinions and start conversations that they may not have started otherwise. This dialogue also has a positive impact on families and their voting habits. We encourage you to incorporate take-home activities into your Student Vote plans and find ways to promote political discussion at home.

What is Student Vote Day?

During National Student Vote Week, more than 500,000 students from across Canada will vote using the ballots and ballot boxes provided. Students will take on the roles of election workers to conduct a parallel vote on the official election candidates. The results of the parallel election will be shared on the Student Vote website following the closing of the official polls and with the media for broadcast and publication.

Additional Resources, Comments or Questions?

We hope this resource is helpful to you and your students. The lessons, editable worksheets in Word and additional resources, including videos and PowerPoint presentations, can be found on the Student Vote website (www.studentvote.ca).

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact the CIVIX team at 1-866-488-8775 or by email at hello@civix.ca.