Your Choice, Your Voice

EMPOWERING TRANSITION STUDENTS TO VOTE
Objective

Young adults can now register to vote at age 16 in Oregon.

Voting supports better health, social connections, empowerment, and personal agency.

Voters with disabilities also have new technology accommodations available.

Learn how schools and IL programs can support registration and voting as an important aspect of independent living.
Goal

Teachers, administrators, and other personnel will learn how to:

- implement voter registration practices
- encourage civic engagement and voter education
- get out the vote

in order to support full participation in community and a sense of empowerment for students.
Voter Registration
Reasons to Register

• Better health
• Stronger communities
• Better informed
• Personal empowerment
• Be heard on issues that matter to you, your family, and your community
Reasons to Register

• You will always receive a mail ballot and can decide then if you want to vote.
• **ONE VOTE** can make a difference. There have been tie votes recently.
• Registering allows you to show support for a party platform and get involved.
Who can register?

- 16 years old and older
- U.S. citizen
- Oregon resident
Oregon and federal law allow most people to register

- Disability
- Criminal record
- Homelessness
- No ID
- Not able to write/sign
What about...

Civil rights: Guardianship, conservatorship, rep payee, reading or writing abilities, do not impact right to register or vote.

Criminal involvement: Criminal record does not impact right to register or vote. (Only current incarceration with a felony conviction suspends right to vote.) Someone with pending charges, or previous conviction with time already served, has the right to vote in Oregon.
Required information

• **Name and DOB**

• **Address:** Can be homeless (pick up ballot or use mailing address); does not impact parents’ filing status or financial aid

• **Identification:** Can be DMV ID, last 4 of SSN, photo ID (school ID), utility bill, pay stub, bank statement, or government document
How to Register

• Online at oregonvotes.gov
• Paper form
• Large print paper form
• Automatically at DMV when getting or renewing Driver’s License, ID, or Driver’s Permit
How to Check Registration

• **Online:** Enter person’s name and DOB at oregonvotes.gov. Provides registration address, status (“Active” or “Inactive”), political party, date ballot sent

• **Call:** Call local elections office and they can look it up.
Signature

If someone is unable to sign registration because of a disability (or sign it the same every time), they should file Signature Stamp Attestation Form.

They can use a stamp or other mark ("X", "---") to sign the form, their registration, and future ballots.
Signature Stamp Attestation Form

I, [print voter’s name as it appears on the voter registration form] hereby attest that I am unable to sign my name because of a disability.

I have read, and understand, the statements on this form, and I hereby swear or affirm that the statements on this form are true.

[Signature]

Instructions
This attestation shall be completed and filed before a voter may use a signature stamp or other indicator of the voter’s signature on any election document.

The person filing this form must be:
→ Disabled;
→ Unable, because of the disability, to sign the voter’s name; and
→ Registered to vote (a voter registration card may be filed at the same time as this attestation).
Action Items

• New voter registration deadlines 21 days before elections

• Hold a voter registration event in your classroom on Tax Day (April 15) and National Voter Registration Day (September 25). Turn in forms within 5 days.
Voting
Election Timeline

• 21 days before election day: Deadline for new registrations at 8 p.m.
• 20 days before election day: Ballots start being mailed – voter has 2 weeks to vote
• 5 days (Thursday) before election day: Last day to safely mail ballot
Learn About Candidates and Issues

• Talk to trusted friends, family
• Read and watch the news
• Search the web
• Read the Voter’s Pamphlet mailed to each address
• Read the DRO Easy Voting Guide (federal elections)
Get Help

- Voter can choose anyone to help them except employer or union.
- Voter can get private help from elections office.
- Voter has right to accommodations for private, independent voting (including filling out and turning in ballot).
Get Help

- Ballot should be filled out (or not) the way voter expresses they want.
- Example: Voter ONLY wants to vote for President. All other races should be blank.
- Example: Parent thinks voter “would” vote for a certain candidate, but voter has not expressed that. That race should be blank.
Get Help

• If voter makes a mistake, they can get a new ballot up through 8 p.m. on Election Day.
• If a voter didn’t get their ballot, they should call elections office and can get a new ballot.
• Signature on ballot envelope should match their registration, otherwise it may be challenged. No one else can sign for the voter.
Action Items

• Request Easy Voting Guides from DRO in April (Tax Day) and September (National Voter Registration Day) in even numbered years
Get Out The Vote
Ballot Collection

• Sign required: all caps, 50+ font

NOT AN OFFICIAL BALLOT DROP SITE
Ballot Collection

- Ballots must be turned in within 2 days, or on Election Day, whichever is sooner.
Action Items

• Hold a ballot collection event in your classroom on May Day and Halloween.
• Use a sign.
• Turn in ballots within 2 days or by Election Day.
Summary and Action Items
Registration Checklist

- Access to oregonvotes.gov online registration and lookup
- Registration cards (regular and large print)
- Signature Stamp Attestation forms

All available by calling the Elections Division.
Important Dates

April 15 (Tax Day): Voter registration event and request DRO Easy Voting Guides

May 1 (May Day): Hold a ballot collection event and turn in ballots within 2 days or by Election Day (whichever is sooner)

September 25 (NVRD): Voter registration event and request DRO Easy Voting Guides

October 31 (Halloween): Hold a ballot collection event and turn in ballots within 2 days or by Election Day (whichever is sooner)
**Action summary**

- **Supporting materials:** Keep voter registration forms and signature stamp attestation forms in classroom year round
- **On Tax Day (April 15) and National Voter Registration Day (September 23),** hold voter registration events
  - Talk about why you should register to vote and keep address updated
  - Talk about voting rights for people with disabilities
  - Practice looking up and updating voter registration online (overhead or on students’ cell phones) at oregonvotes.gov “MyVote”
- **Discuss civic engagement and voting in every local election**
  - Discuss ways to learn about candidates and issues, and how local elections impact students and constituents
- **Get out the vote**
  - Collect ballots on May Day (May 1) and Halloween and turn in ballots within 2 days or by election day (whichever is sooner) – punishable by fine
Curriculum and lesson plan resources

- Rock the Vote, “Democracy Class Educator Toolkit”: 3 good, basic curricula about the history of voting rights, engaging in every election, and why voting matters: www.rockthevote.org/resources/democracy-class

- Vote Smart, “Classroom Activities and Resources”: Lessons about government structure and civic engagement: votesmart.org/education/classroom
For More Information

Disability Rights Oregon
511 SW 10th Ave, #200
Portland, OR 97213
800-452-1694
www.droregon.org

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