



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Preparing for the Students Voting 2024 Mock Election

Students, teachers, and administrators in over 500 schools across Minnesota are planning and preparing to host a Students Voting 2024 mock election this fall. In the weeks leading up to the mock election, please consider the following:

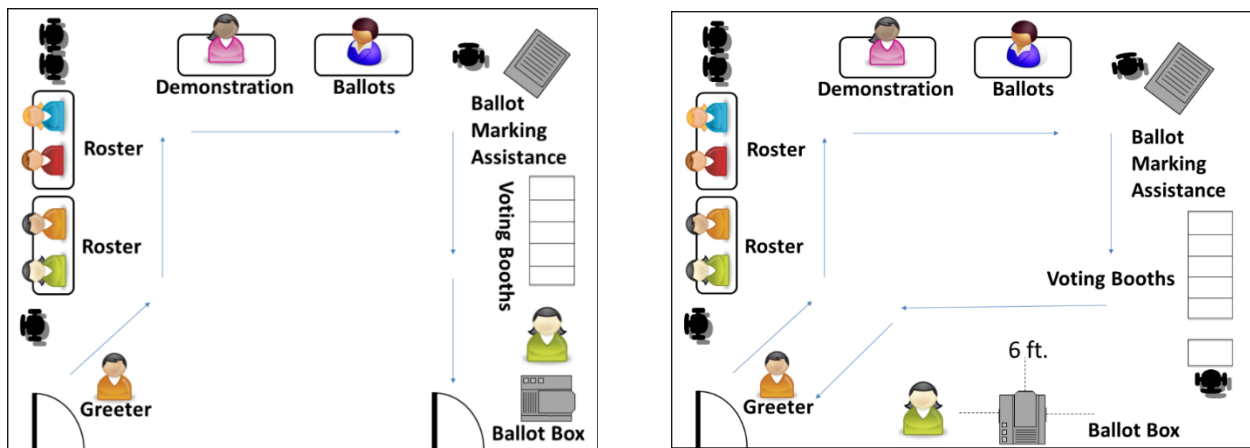
- **Make an implementation plan for how and where the Students Voting mock election will be held in your school.** Connect and collaborate with building administrators and teachers to ensure the mock election runs smoothly for all participating grade levels. See examples of how to set up and facilitate your school's mock election below.
- **Collect the materials needed to run the mock election.** Materials could include pencils or pens for marking ballots, paper copies of class rosters for voter check-in/registration, directional or room reservation signs, paper copies of your school's custom ballot, etc. The physical polling place materials including ballot boxes, privacy screens, and "I Voted" stickers will be mailed to you in mid-October from the YMCA Center for Youth Voice.
- **Promote the program to colleagues and students at your school.** Share the Ballot Ready online voter guide so all classes have an opportunity to learn about the candidates and offices on their ballot and view the statewide mock election results.
- **Make a plan to collect ballots, count votes, and report the results.** Identify a group of staff members and/or students to count votes throughout the mock election. Some schools connect with local service organizations like the League of Women Voters, Rotary, or Kiwanis to volunteer and help run the mock election and count votes. The vote counts should be shared with the teacher, staff member, or volunteer who will upload the results into Ballot Ready throughout the mock election.
- **Share that your school is participating in the Students Voting 2024 mock election with caregivers and community members.** This can be a great opportunity to recruit volunteers to help run the mock election and share about the work your school is doing to engage and educate future voters!

Setting up the Polling Place

Polling places can be set up various ways. Please see examples and diagrams below for ideas of what could work best for your school, schedule, and students.

- **Voting in classrooms:** Schools can set up polling places in individual classrooms for classes of students to vote in the days leading up to and/or on Election Day. Teachers can rotate the polling place materials between classes or grade levels to ensure all students have the chance to vote in a polling place.

- **Scheduling voting by class or grade level in a common area:** Schools can set up their polling place in a common area like the media center, auditorium, or cafeteria and schedule classes or grade levels to visit the polling place to vote in shifts during the mock election. This option is often implemented the same way that your schools run picture day.
- **Open voting in a common area:** Schools can set up their polling place in a common area like the media center, auditorium, or cafeteria and hold open voting for students to visit the polling place and vote when their schedule or teacher allows during a pre-determined amount of time. Teachers, school staff, students, or volunteers can staff the polling place throughout the day(s) that your school holds the mock election.



Checking-In Voters

Your school's polling place should have a teacher, staff member, student, or volunteer at a table near the front of the polling place to check-in voters and allow them to sign their name on a class roster. This person will also give each student a ballot and direct them to a voting booth.

Collecting Ballots, Counting Votes, and Reporting Results

After each class, grade level, or group of students casts their vote and drops their ballot into the ballot box, a teacher, staff member, student, or volunteer should begin counting the votes. Please see examples of vote counting worksheets below and download and modify for your school's vote counting plan.

The vote totals should then be reported to the teacher, staff member, or volunteer who will upload the results into Ballot Ready. In the days leading up to Election Day and on Election Day, results from the statewide Students Voting 2024 mock election will be published on the Ballot Ready dashboard to encourage reflection and conversation.

Initial Vote Counting Worksheet Example (Bundles Separated by Class or Grade Level)

Election Date: _____ School: _____

City: _____ Class Name or Number: _____

Judge 1 name: _____

Judge 1 signature: _____

Judge 2 name: _____

Judge 2 signature: _____

Head Judge/Faculty Signature: _____



Candidates	Judge 1 Bundle Vote Count	Judge 2 Bundle Vote Count
Donald J. Trump and JD Vance		
Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz		
Chase Oliver and Mike ter Maat		
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Nicole Shanahan		
Jill Stein and Samson Kpadenou		
Claudia De la Cruz and Karina Garcia		
Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter		
Cornel West and Melina Abdullah		
Shiva Ayyadurai and Crystal Ellis		
Votes for write-in candidates		
Bundle Vote Totals:		
Combined Vote Total from Judge 1 and Judge 2:		

Keep this sheet with its bundle!

School-Wide Final Vote Counting Worksheet Example

Election Date: _____ School: _____

City: _____

Judge 1 name: _____

Judge 1 signature: _____

Judge 2 name: _____

Judge 2 signature: _____

Head Judge/Faculty Signature: _____



Candidates	Grades X – X Results	Grades X – X Results
Donald J. Trump and JD Vance		
Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz		
Chase Oliver and Mike ter Maat		
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Nicole Shanahan		
Jill Stein and Samson Kpadenou		
Claudia De la Cruz and Karina Garcia		
Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter		
Cornel West and Melina Abdullah		
Shiva Ayyadurai and Crystal Ellis		
Votes for write-in candidates		
Vote Totals by Grade Levels:		
All Grade Levels Vote Total:		