

CIRCLE Growing Voters: Election Directors and Officials

Election administrators and other public officials who are involved in the planning and management of elections are especially important in ensuring that youth have the information and encouragement they need to vote. These officials, who range from secretaries of state to election judges, have a dual role: making voting easier for young people and showing them that they are welcome at the polls and their voices matter.

THE FACTS

+9

PERCENTAGE POINT

youth voter turnout in counties that had a pre-registration law (for ages 16-17) in place in 2020.

57%

of youth couldn't correctly identify whether their state offered online voter registration.

6%

of poll workers in 2020 were under age 25, and only 2% were under age 18.

The CIRCLE Growing Voters is a paradigm shift to transform how policymakers and many other stakeholders can strengthen young people's equitable engagement in democracy. Learn more, engage in this work, and share it with others at:

circle.tufts.edu/circlegrowingvoters



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Youth Poll Workers Are A Win-Win:

CIRCLE research on the Minneapolis Election Judge Project found that 2020 youth voter turnout was highest in precincts with multiple young poll workers and that these youth reported myriad benefits from working on elections.

WORKING AS AN ELECTION JUDGE...

A majority of young poll workers felt that the experience connected them to the community and improved their skills

76%

Made me feel like I helped ensure every eligible voter felt welcome and able to vote

67%

Made me feel like I was making things better for my community

59%

Gave me practical skills that will help me in the future

54%

Helped me improve how to communicate with older people

52%

Gave me a strong sense of belonging to my community

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION: HOW ELECTION OFFICIALS CAN HELP GROW VOTERS

WHAT

Talk with, listen to, and partner with young people. Ask them what they need to be ready to vote.

Engage young people before they reach 18.

Make voting data accessible.

Hire young people.

WHY

Youth know best what questions they and their peers may have about registration and voting, what information they need, and how best to ensure that information reaches all youth.

Teens who are nearing voting age often don't get the information about voting they need to in school. Election administrators can fill that gap so that teens begin to see themselves as voters early on.

Publicly accessible, sub-group specific data can help other stakeholders organize their educational and voter mobilization efforts.

Collaborating with young people can help provide new insights and ideas for outreach, and compensating youth for their time helps make opportunities more accessible to young people.

HOW

Work with young people to assess how well and how equitably policies that promote voter registration and voting are being implemented in different neighborhoods and with different populations in your community. If necessary, redirect resources to make sure all voters are ready and able to exercise their right to vote.

Actively develop or support proposals that can engage diverse young people and bolster opportunities for them to get registered (or pre-registered) to vote while they are in K-12 schools.

Make data about voter registration and voting available to your community, organizations, teachers, and others. For instance, make specific youth voter registration and turnout data available on your website (rather than in a .pdf document, which can be less accessible).

Create opportunities for young people to support the work of election offices, such as youth poll worker programs, youth-led outreach teams, and internships that allow young people to learn how elections work. Partnering with local nonprofits and schools is an effective way to connect young people and election offices; [here's a toolkit](#) to help election officials get started!

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