

Teaching About Voting and the 2020 Election

One of the Six Proven Practices of Civic Learning is to provide opportunities for “discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events in the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives.” In doing so, educators allow students to “learn how to engage productively with the issues and events that animate our political system today and will continue to do so in the future.” (National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement)

At the same time, this election is unlike any in our lifetime. It can evoke high levels of emotion from students and can create extreme discord in the class. Therefore, especially in a distance learning environment, educators should ensure that they have created an environment that supports civil discourse. These resources provide guidance for educators:

- Facing History and Ourselves: Fostering Civil Discourse-
https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/publications/Fostering_Civil_Discourse.pdf
- Teaching Tolerance: Civil Discourse in the Classroom-
https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/Civil_Discourse_in_the_Classroom.pdf
- Indiana University Bloomington: Managing Difficult Classroom Discussions-
<https://citl.indiana.edu/teaching-resources/diversity-inclusion/managing-difficult-classroom-discussions/index.html>

In addition, the [National Constitution Center](#) recommends that educators frame questions in a manner such that they are not political. Instead, the Center suggests questions should focus on Constitutional issues. Examples provided by the National Constitution Center include:

Political Question: Should the federal government increase income taxes?

Constitutional Question: Does the federal government have the authority to tax individuals?

Or,

Political Question: Should the election move to predominantly mail in voting?

Constitutional Question: Can states decide to move voting to a predominantly mail in format?

Teaching Resources

Below are resources that educators can use to teach about voting and the 2020 Election. They are provided for informational purposes. Educators should review them and determine their appropriateness for their students.

Lesson Plans

- The Center for Civic Learning- [Voting Lessons](#)
- The Constitution Rights Foundation- [Election Central](#)
- C-SPAN- [Predicting the 2020 Presidential Race](#)
- Facing History and Ourselves- [Voting Rights in the United States, A New Generation of Young Voters Emerges](#)
- iCivics- [Election Headquarters](#)
- National Constitution Center- [15th Amendment: The Right to Vote Not Denied by Race](#)
- National Women's History Museum- [19th Amendment Lesson Plan](#)
- PBS Learning Media- [Teaching Women's Suffrage](#)
- Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation- [Election 2020: The Road to the White House](#)
- Teaching Tolerance- [Women's Suffrage](#)

Voter Information

- The San Diego County Registrar of Voters- <https://www.sdvote.com/>
- The California Secretary of State- Vote California <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>

Current Events & Media Literacy

- AllSides- <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>
- C-Span Classroom- <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/>
- Stanford History-Education Group- [Civic Online Reasoning](#)