



DST x LWV Civic Collaboration Toolkit

Delta Sigma Theta (DST) and the League of Women Voters (LWV) are partnering to activate, expand, and support civic collaboration between chapters and Leagues nationwide. We have created this toolkit to make it easier to connect with one another, share resources, and implement joint initiatives that empower communities through civic participation like voter education and registration. By utilizing the strengths of both organizations, this partnership aims to build sustained civic engagement and foster inclusive democracy at the local, state, and national levels.

About Our Organizations

Delta Sigma Theta (DST) | <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org/>

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 collegiate women at Howard University to promote academic excellence and provide assistance to those in need. The Founders of Delta Sigma Theta envisioned an organization committed to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and addressing the social issues of the time. Since its founding, Delta Sigma Theta has become one of the preeminent service-based sororities, with more than 350,000 initiated members and over 1,050 chartered chapters worldwide.

As a sisterhood comprised primarily of Black, college-educated women, the Sorority seriously considers the issues impacting the Black community and boldly confronts the challenges of African Americans and, hence, all Americans. Over the years, a wide range of programs addressing education, health, international development, and the strengthening of African American families have evolved. The major programs of the Sorority are based upon the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

League Women Voters (LWV) | <https://www.lwv.org/>

LWV is a nonpartisan organization that has fought since 1920 to empower voters and defend democracy. It conducts voter registration, education, mobilization, and protection activity at the national, state, and local level through 750+ Leagues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and US Virgin Islands. With more than a million members and supporters, the League is one of the most trusted nonpartisan voices in the elections landscape with deep grassroots in every corner of America.



Why does Collaboration Matter?

Collaboration between DST and the LWV brings together two powerhouses of civic leadership and community engagement. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has proudly stood at the forefront of civic advocacy by women since its inception in 1913. . The Founders of DST marched in the Women’s Suffrage Parade, in March 1913 despite objections to their participation. Similarly, the League was formed six months before the right to vote was ratified by the 19th Amendment to advocate for white women in the civic arena. DST and LWV both have rich histories of civic and community involvement. “Together, chapters and Leagues can deepen their collaboration to more powerfully strengthen democratic processes within their local communities. We can close gaps in voter access, share tools, coordinate civic education events, and more. This joint effort allows us to more sustainably and effectively uplift underrepresented communities and voices.

Why is Civic Education Important?

The [CivXNow coalition](#), of which the League of Women Voters of the United States is a member, outlines that: “Civic education covers the study of the rights and obligations of citizens in society by teaching politics, law, American history, and closely related subjects and disciplines.” Civic education provides individuals with the knowledge and confidence to participate fully in our democracy; it is a tool of empowerment for historically marginalized populations. By making civic learning accessible and engaging, even outside the classroom, DST and LWV can help foster habits of civic participation that shape a more informed and equitable society.

Start the Conversation

Local League Locator

Use the League of Women Voters’ [League Locator](#) to find a League near you and initiate contact.

DST Chapter Locator

Use Delta Sigma Theta’s [Chapter Locator](#) to find a chapter near you and initiate contact.

How to Start the Conversation

Once using the League/chapter locator, reach out to the listed email address of the President or Civic/Community Coordinator of their organization. Begin with an introduction of who you are,



who your organization is, and a feel for whether they would like to collaborate on a project! Some project ideas are listed below; feel free to tailor them or create new ideas to best suit your collaboration and goals.

Partnership Ideas

Share VOTE411 | <https://www.vote411.org/DeltaSigmaTheta>

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund in 2006, VOTE411.org is voters' one-stop shop for nationwide election-related information, and millions of voters have used VOTE411 to prepare for elections. With its voter registration tools and personalized ballot information, VOTE411 is one of the most visited nationwide election information sites, and one of the few providing information in both English and Spanish. LWV also produces nonpartisan voter guides on VOTE411 designed to help voters understand where candidates stand on the issues they care about. To make the voter guides, LWV asks candidates questions, and candidates answer in their own words, facilitating a fully nonpartisan process to help voters research what will be on their ballots.

Delta Sigma Theta has partnered with VOTE411 to provide information on voting and elections. Share this link showing Delta's branded Vote411 page with your community for them to find all the election information they need, in one place: <https://www.vote411.org/DeltaSigmaTheta>. Please use this link for DST-hosted and DST-related VOTE411 content—this will help us measure impact!

Cohost Events

Hosting events together is a great way to combine resources and manpower to help your shared community. From hosting civic education speaker events or passing out pamphlets with voting information, your joint efforts can encourage people to become more civically engaged. For example, you can co-host:

- A voter registration drive at schools, churches, community centers, etc. to register new voters
 - o Particularly in states with gubernatorial elections and state legislative elections like Virginia and New Jersey; Mayoral elections like New York City and Boston (examples include: virtual voter registration volunteer training in partnership with the Harford County Board of Elections and hosted by the Harford County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the League of Women Voters of Harford County (MD))



- Create a ballot-breakdown workshop to explain confusing ballot initiatives to the community
- Organize an issue forum, particularly around an issue of shared concern or impact in your community
- Lead a youth leadership summit for local middle and high school students
- Host a candidate forum (examples include School Board of Education candidates' forum between the League of Women Voters of Frederick, Maryland and the Frederick County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.)
- Mis/Dis/Mal-information training
- Rallies/activations
- Social Action Luncheons: "The Power of Advocacy" (example: The League of Women Voters Bay Area chapters, the Delta San Francisco-Peninsula Foundation, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and the San Mateo County Chapter of the NAACP joined forces to host a panel discussion on issues impacting the community, identifying strategies for empowerment, and fostering advocacy among all citizens)
- Why We Vote Town Halls (example: The League of Women Voters of the Greater New Brunswick Area, the New Brunswick Area Branch of the NAACP, the Social Action Committee of the Central Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Apha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. (Theta Psi Lambda Chapter), and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (Omega Mu Zeta Chapter) hosted an important conversation with an expert panel on why voting matters, why local elections matter along with an in-person voter registration effort at the end of each town hall)
- Legislative session debriefings (example: The League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida, the NAACP of Lee County, The Equal Ground Initiative, the Ft. Myers Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and Friendship Baptist Church hosted a debrief for participants to get updates on legislative sessions, hear from state Legislators, and other community leaders to identify opportunities to discover ways to stay engaged and fight for issues that matter to the community)
- Souls to the Polls events (example: Deltas on the Move event to establish a voting plan, stroll to the polls and encourage early voting the League of Women Voters of Kent in partnership with the NAACP Portage County Branch and the United Church of Christ)
- Voting 101 webinars- educational webinar featuring information on how, when, and where to vote, and why your vote matters (info sourced via VOTE411), information on ballot propositions, and interactive Q&A and audience polling (examples include a



webinar in partnership with the Delta Sigma Theta chapter Upsilon Omega (California State University-San Marcos) and the League of Women Voters of North County San Diego)

- Community Days: Unity through Community: From Advocacy to Engagement (examples include: The Frederick County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the League of Women Voters, The YMCA, and Good Health Wins) featuring voter registration, health and wellness screenings, education/ career information, financial planning resources, food trucks, clothing and household goods donation drive, giveaways, fun activities for kids etc.
- Joint voter registration and candidate forum event (example include The League of Women Voters of Dallas in partnership with the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Our Vote, Our Voice, and the Poor People's Campaign live-streamed a forum via the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Facebook page (federal elections, Dallas County Commissioners forum and Dallas-based legislative districts)

Grassroots Partners

Various Delta Sigma Theta chapters across the country have partnered with a diverse range of democracy-aligned and community-centered organizations. The most fruitful events, engagements, and activities have been in partnership with grassroots organizations like the NAACP, The Links, Inc., local faith-based organizations, and additional chapters of member organizations of the National PanHellenic Council. We encourage both Leagues and Delta chapters to partner with local BIPOC-led and centered grassroots organizations.

Partner on Civic Holidays

Partnering on tabling events for civic holidays would encourage greater awareness of the importance of these holidays and broaden the impact of them. Being intentional about whose voices we are uplifting and which communities we are going into is key to supporting those who we would like to uplift

National Voter Registration Day (Sept 16, 2025) | <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

- Pop-up registration tables at community centers, colleges, grocery stores, etc.
- Registration tables at faith-based institutions

National Voter Education Week (Oct 6-10, 2025) | <https://nationalvotereducationweek.org/>



- Ballot literacy handouts
- QR codes with relevant issues, candidates, and practices

Vote Early Day (Oct 28, 2025) | <https://voteearlyday.org/>

- Offer a ride to the polls service
- Partner with local businesses to provide discounts to those with early voting stickers

Election Hero Day (Nov 3, 2025) | <https://www.electionheroday.org/>

- Deliver care packages to election workers
- Set up a thank-you card table for people to show their appreciation for election workers

Volunteer at the Polls

Advocating for a joint effort to supply democracy integrity observers at elections or combining forces to power the polls are great ways to ensure that our democracy continues to function at the most basic level: the polling place!

- Election Observer Program | <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/voter-services/election-observation-toolkit>
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- Power the Polls | <https://www.powerthepolls.org/lwv>

An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League. By attending public meetings of governmental bodies, agencies, and committees, observers learn more about what their government is doing.

Best Practices

To build a meaningful and lasting relationship, be sure to

- 1) Start with shared values
- 2) Be inclusive and intersectional
- 3) Start small and, then, scale up the work
- 4) Communicate regularly and empathically
- 5) Highlight each other's strengths
- 6) Measure and celebrate impact



Call to Action

We are stronger together. Reach out today to your local DST chapter or League to begin discussing how to collaborate. Your joint efforts can help strengthen our democracy, especially in such precarious times.

We encourage you to:

- Connect with a partner organization using the League Locator or DST Chapter Contact Form.
- Choose one civic holiday or election milestone to collaborate on.
- Share the VOTE411 DST link widely to ensure your community is informed.
- Volunteer together at the polls or serve as democracy observers.

Photos:









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