

The Complete LWV x TCC Toolkit:

How to activate and support
Student-Led Voter Registration
Drives in High Schools

Spring 2026



For more information:



TCC thecivicscenter.org



LWV lww.org/league-management

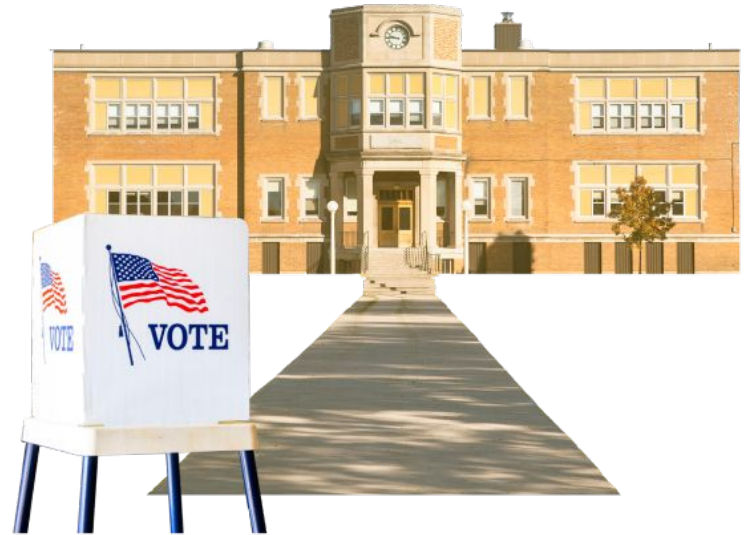


TCC email info@thecivicscenter.org

The Civics Center is a nonpartisan project of Community Partners, a 501(c)(3) organization.

“No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline.”

– **Former U.N. Secretary, General Kofi Annan**



Welcome, League Members! I am Laura W. Brill, CEO and Founder of The Civics Center, and I am delighted to share this toolkit with you.



At The Civics Center, our mission is to make voter registration part of every high school in America. For over 100 years, the League has been empowering voters and defending democracy. As trusted messengers with extensive experience working with students, you offer an entry point into a vital civic duty that fortifies the very foundation of our democracy.

If you've ever wondered about the obstacles that interfere with the ability of young people to register and vote, and if you have wanted to learn some practical tools for turning that around, this toolkit is for you.

This toolkit is designed to provide Leagues with everything you need to support your students in this important endeavor. From step-by-step instructions to practical resources and

inspiring case studies, you will find comprehensive support to make student-led voter registration drives successful in your school environment. Whether this is your first time facilitating such an event or you are looking to enhance your existing efforts, we are here to help.

Thank you for joining us and for your unwavering commitment to fostering civic engagement among young people. By encouraging students to participate in voter registration, you are instilling a sense of responsibility, empowerment, and community that will resonate throughout their lives. Together, we can ensure that every student understands the power of their voice and their vote, strengthening our democracy one school, one educator, and one student at a time.



Laura Brill
CEO & Founder



Instructions:

This toolkit has been designed to give you the tools and information you need to empower and support a successful **student-led** voter registration drive in **high schools**.

**For additional resources on running your own drive in alternative settings, explore these [LWV materials](#).*

1. **LWV x TCC: How to Activate and Support a Student-Led Voter Registration Drive** provides the steps and general tips on how to facilitate a student-led drive in high schools
2. **Run a Drive Workbook** provides the facts and the necessary worksheets to aid in organization



Keep an eye out for **Student Checkpoints** along the way

Voter registration and drives are subject to different rules in different states. Specifics can change from time to time. This guide is meant to be general and informational. We encourage you and your students to reach out to local elections officials before you get started.

**HAVE
QUESTIONS?**

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



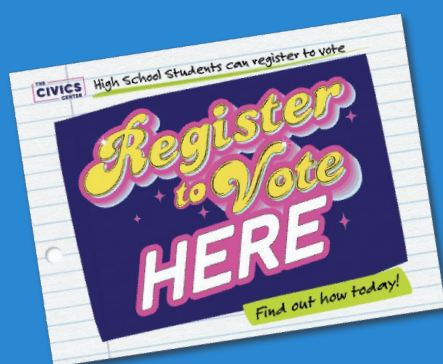
[Link](#)



Materials

The Civics Center

When students sign up voter registration drive with us, we will send our **Democracy in a Box** with everything you need to hold a successful event.



Posters

T-Shirts



Clipboard & Pens



Voter ID Cards

Identification rules for your state



Tote bags



Stickers

Register here:



<https://thecivicscenter.fillout.com/drivesignup>



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Leagues can find LWV and VOTE411-branded materials on the League Management Site

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management>



THE CIVICS CENTER x LWV

How to Run a Drive: Volunteer Edition

The Civics Center helps civic leaders like the League of Women Voters, educators, and their students run voter registration drives in school. We have seen through our work that peer-to-peer voter registration, especially among teens, is most effective. But adult support is key to success. **What do we mean by that? Who does what?**



LWV Volunteers:

- **Identify and Activate** local schools
- **Build** community and administrative support
- **Connect** students to TCC for free trainings on running voter registration drives
- **Provide** in-person support on the day of the drive



STUDENTS:

- **Attend** free virtual trainings
- **Collaborate** with adults and peers to organize and promote their voter registration drive
- **Activate** peers by connecting voting to the issues that they care about
- **Register** their friends and classmates



THE CIVICS CENTER:

- **Provides** free training delivered by seasoned educators
- **Provides** free materials with our "Democracy in a Box" toolkit
- **Supports** students and volunteers as they plan, execute, and conclude their voter registration drives

Follow our tried-and-true steps ahead to run a successful drive in your high school!

1 Team up with Local Schools



HEY! Want to run a voter registration drive in school?

1. Identify Schools

Choose schools you have a personal connection to, such as...

- Teachers/Administrators you know
- Schools you attended
- Schools your family attends

2. Get Admin Support

A school's administration is an essential partner! Work with them to identify the method(s) and date(s) that will ensure your drive is a success.



To

Subject

Dear **[Administrator's Name]**

The League of Women Voters of [NAME] is working with [Student Group] to bring a student-led voter registration drive to your school. We are excited to bring this opportunity to our community because registering to vote is the first step to becoming an active and engaged citizen.

In partnership with The Civics Center, we can provide most of the materials and training required to conduct a nonpartisan drive. Before we start the planning process, we wanted to get permission and ask for any additional information about school or district policies that we need to be aware of.

Thank you for supporting our students as they engage in civic life and provide an important resource to our community.

Best, **[Name]** (Local League's President of Voter Services Chair)

EMAIL
TEMPLATES
HERE



[Linkz](#)



The Power of Collaboration

Claremont High School

"We incorporated [our drive] into lesson form with the help of the school administrators.... We also got support and funding from the Mt. Baldy League of Women Voters... We often forget that there are so many supportive people out there who are willing to help and make your drive more successful."



STUDENT CHECKPOINT #1

Attend a 1-hour → Run a Drive Workshop

Students will learn how to design a drive that fits your school structure and schedule.

- Learn **best practices** for school drives
- Study **examples of strategies** used at schools across the country
- Receive support in developing the **team and timeline** to accomplish the drive
- Gain **access to helpful materials** including a free Democracy in a Box toolkit, custom URL for online voter registration and more

**Run a Drive Workshop:
Bring Voter Registration to
your High School**



Register here! →



[Linkz](#)

**HAVE
QUESTIONS?**

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



[Linkz](#)



2 Start Planning



STUDENT CHECKPOINT #2

REQUEST HERE →



[Link ↗](#)



→ Request Materials, Strategize, Set a Date

Make sure students check “LWV” when asked how they heard about us on the materials form

What is a common timeline for planning and executing a drive?

The timeline for organizing a voter registration drive will vary based on the context, upcoming elections and infrastructure of the school you're working with. Here's a timeline that TCC has found is a helpful place to start:

One Month Out

- Approach schools & get administrator/teacher buy-in
- Help student leaders with their [Drive Action Plan](#)
- Set a date and [request materials](#) from The Civics Center and your local League
- Contact local municipal clerks/election officials to obtain forms and troubleshoot

Two Weeks Out

- Check in with schools - make sure students are on-track with their tasks and promotion strategy
- Troubleshoot challenges

One Week Out

- Confirm with school that you will be attending and what your role will be
- Gather necessary materials for the day of the drive

Anticipating Needs

Before checking in with a school, identify the challenging aspects of voter registration work, planning an event and running a drive.



Getting/returning forms, understanding the rules and communicating with parents are common issues that students may ask for support on.



What type of Drive can students do?

There are many ways to run voter registration events in high schools. As a volunteer, you're perfectly positioned to help students and teachers examine their context and decide on the right strategy for their school.

Classroom Presentations:

Help students identify classes with eligible students and develop brief presentations.

Use the templates in this [folder](#) as a guide to create your own, school-specific slide deck.

Pro: *easiest way to reach every eligible student*

Con: *getting ALL teachers on board, students often miss this period, sometimes mixed grade level, time is limited*

School-Wide Events:

Set up tables in the library, lunchroom, sports events, plays, and events surrounding graduation with the materials and support students need to register.

Coach students on creating eligibility signs and other materials to make their table inviting and exciting.

Pro: *easiest to organize, can feel celebratory*

Con: *less methodical way to reach all eligible students, time of contact is shorter*



STUDENT CHECKPOINT #3

ONLINE WORKSHEET →



[Link](#)



Help Students Submit → Drive Action Plan

So we can better support your students along the way

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



[Link](#)



3 Put it in Action



With your Drive Action Plan completed and drive registered, now it's time to put it in action. Use these checkpoints to ensure a smooth roll out.

TWO WEEKS OUT

1. Check in with School

Encourage students to utilize their strengths and assets so their drive is successful. Regardless of their skill or interest there is a role for each student. Some student leadership roles TCC has found meaningful are:



Director of Communication:

- Get the word out!
 - Social media
 - Post fliers
 - Morning announcements
- Trust students when it comes to advertising, they are experts!*



Logistics Director:

- Have materials ready 3 days before the drive
- Ensure participants know what their roles are
- Develop Schedule
- Collect materials at the end of the drive and submit to election officials
- Submit post-drive report



Lead Community Organizer:

- Recruit student volunteers
- Point of contact with LWV & TCC
- Communicate with faculty advisor and administration

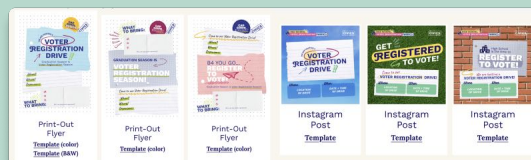
2. Gather/Create Support Materials and Prepare Students for the Event

Work with students to develop a script they can use when approaching peers, flyers with eligibility/ID requirements and posters to draw attention to their events. Remind students to never ask about a student's legal status or history.



STUDENT CHECKPOINT #4

Posters/Insta Templates



→ **Promote Drives with**
TCC & LWV templates

DAY OF DRIVE

1. Gather Materials + Consider Logistics

By registering their drive, students can request The Civics Center's Democracy in a Box which includes materials to support the drive: stickers, candy, clipboards, pens, flyers, posters, Voter ID info cards.

The Civics Center provides school specific URLs for online voter registration, allowing drive organizers to track how many of their peers register to vote online.

League members may be asked to provide paper voter registration forms which can often be downloaded or ordered from official state or local agencies. You can find additional LWV guidance and resources on voter registration [here](#).

2. Review student vs. League roles

Students:

- Set up the event materials
- Engage with peers
- Answer student questions, when able
- Handout stickers and other goodies

Students should take the lead on drive day, but they may have questions!

League Members:

- Return forms to local elections offices
- Answer student questions on rules
- Troubleshoot issues that occur throughout the day

Remember, League members are supporting youth civic action. Let them take the lead!

How can we ensure that our drive is accessible for all students?

Reach out to the Special Education and Multilingual/ESL departments in schools to gauge the specific needs of your community. Check out thecivicscenter.org/accessibility for general guidance on accessible voter registration drives.



Drive Day(s)!

Remember to:

- Count Registrations
- Take Photos + Video
- Have fun :)

**HAVE
QUESTIONS?**

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



[Linkz](#)



4 Report Back



STUDENT CHECKPOINT #4

FORM HERE →



[Link ↗](#)



Complete your → Post Drive Report

Get credit for your drive! Upload photos from your drive, leave advice for future students running a drive, and submit a request for Community Service Certificates within one week after your drive. Remember to return completed forms to election officials

Congratulations! You facilitated a voter registration drive! What's next?

1. Start planning the next one!

We suggest running a drive twice a year to ensure that all students who are eligible have an opportunity before they graduate. We have found that it is easiest to activate and engage students by registering in the fall, leading up to elections. And then in late spring to ensure those that are eligible have an opportunity to register before leaving high school.



High School Voter Registration Week

State voter registration deadlines can be as early as one month before Election Day. HSVRW falls before those deadlines, helping to build awareness of issues and candidates. It gives students an opportunity to plan drives and ensure their friends are registered and ready to make their voices heard on Election Day.



Cap, Gown, and Ballot

A nation-wide effort to make graduation season synonymous with voter registration season. The Cap, Gown & Ballot campaign will give eligible high school seniors the opportunity to register to vote before graduation. This is our last chance to easily reach the roughly 40% of seniors who will not go on to college before the 2024 election.

Non-partisanship and the role of voter registration in high school

The Civics Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. We do not support or oppose any candidate or party, and at the same time, we are part of the wider effort to fight voter suppression and support democracy, which includes meaningful civic engagement and participation from all youth. We support high school students and educators who run drives or host awareness-building events in their schools and who commit to nonpartisanship.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy. With active Leagues in all 50 states and more than 800 Leagues across the country, we engage in advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to protect every American's freedom to vote. The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Leagues should always refer to our [nonpartisan policy](#) when conducting voter registration work.

The US Department of Education has issued [official guidance promoting high school voter registration](#). The U.S. Constitution [protects freedom of speech](#), which includes talking about voting and registering to vote. Many [state constitutions](#) have similar protections. State and local social studies standards and curricular requirements generally support or require teaching students about voting, and how and why to participate in democracy. Voter registration is part of that. For more on what every educator needs to know about high school voter registration, click [here](#).

RESOURCES

Interested in staying up to date with the latest youth registration data?



Subscribe to our substack → substack.com/thecivicscenter

LWV

Review our resources on nonpartisanship and tabling for voter services events.

- [Guidance for Leagues About Nonpartisanship and Partnerships](#)
- [Nonpartisanship Messaging Guidance](#)
- [Voter Services Tabling Tips and Tricks](#)
- [Toolkit: Get Out the Vote](#)
- [How We Talk About Voters: Public Messaging Guidance](#)
- [Grant Media Toolkit](#)

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



[Linkz](#)



Support a Drive Workbook



Worksheets to aid in drive planning.

Contents:

Youth Vote Snapshot

The state of the youth vote nationwide

Registration Rules Worksheet

Find registration laws in your state to inform student drives

Drive Checklist Worksheet

A handy checklist to guide student planning

Drive Script Worksheet

Help students talk with one another by writing a script

Calendar Worksheet

Use your state's registration deadlines to plan their timeline

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

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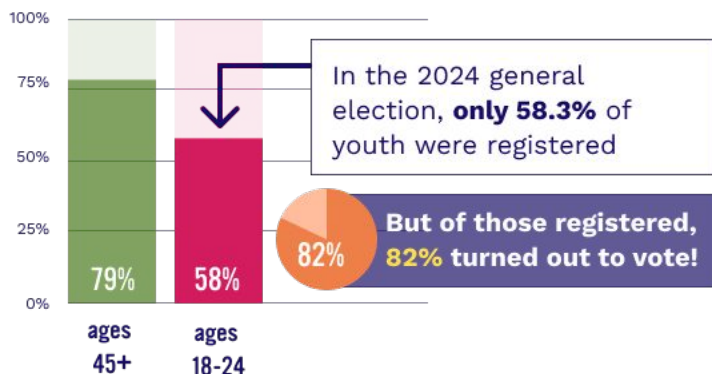


LWV

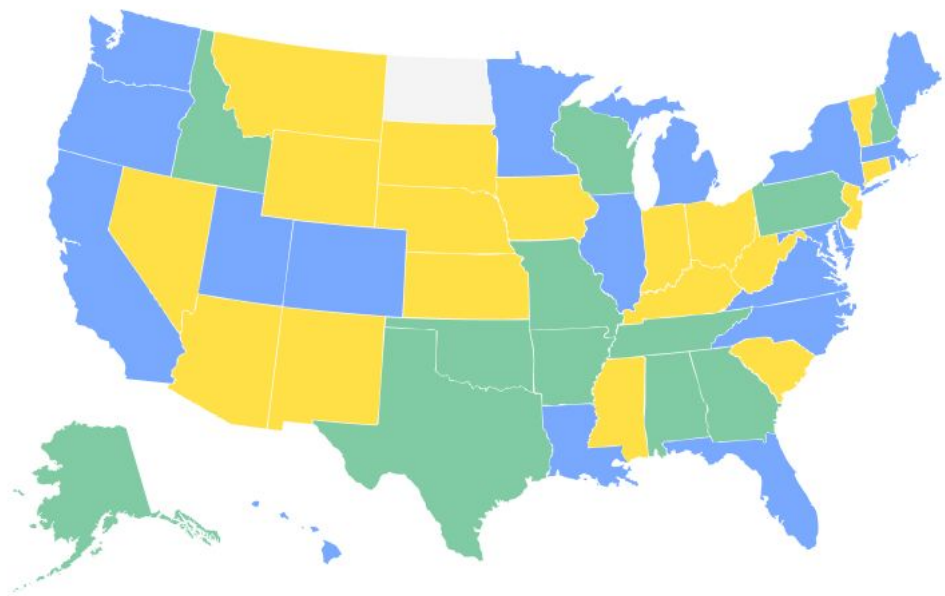
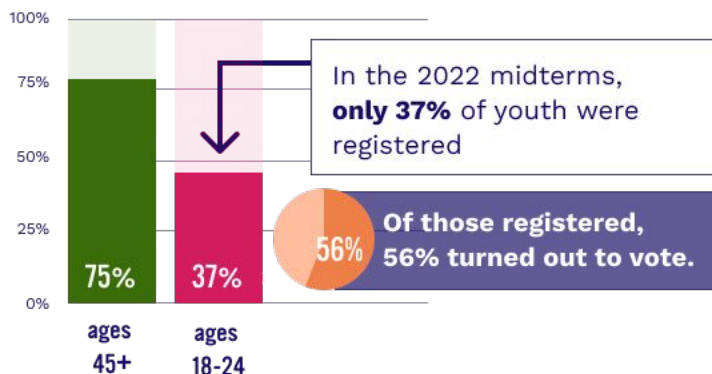
4,000,000

young people
turn 18 every year ¹

2024 General Election



2022 Midterm



When can Teens Register to Vote?

For registration rules in all 50 states, please visit [The Civics Center](#) (map and state summaries)

- 50% of U.S. teens:**
Preregistration starts at 16 or earlier
- 20% more teens:**
States that allow at least one year to register before the election but do not start at age 16
- Remaining 30%:**
States with shorter preregistration periods; most have time to register in senior year

An estimated

40%

of youth nationally do not have a driver's license. ^{1,2}

An estimated

78%

U.S. youth go to college in their home state. ^{1,2}

An estimated

40%

of youth nationally do not go to college. ^{1,2}



Worksheet

Registration Rules

Instructions: Research your state's voter registration laws + drive requirements. Fill out the fields below.



HOW TO FIND YOUR STATE'S REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Most information can be found on your **state or local election website**. For additional resources:

- Start with our **Pre-Registration Map** thecivicscenter.org/map
- For general rules and dates, Reference vote411.org/
- To connect with your **local election officials**, use VOTE411's [election official directory](#) to find contact information.



HOW TO FIND YOUR STATE'S DRIVE REQUIREMENTS:

There are also laws for the drive itself. For requirements and guidance on conducting a voter registration drive in your state:

- Use **Fair Elections Center's Voter Registration Drive Guides** fairelectionscenter.org/voter-registration-drive-guides/

WHO CAN REGISTER?

WHAT IS NEEDED TO REGISTER?

WHERE CAN YOU REGISTER?

Online? In-person? By mail? Automatic?

RULES FOR RUNNING A VR DRIVE

ADDITIONAL NOTES

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



[Linkz](#)

THE
CIVICS
CENTER

x LWV



Drive Checklist

Instructions: Use this checklist to set your drive up for success.

CREATE A TEAM

- ☐ **Find a staff member** in your school to partner with.
- ☐ **Get permission** from a school administrator.
- ☐ **Find additional students** to help run the drive and assign roles

Staff Member: _____

School Administrator: _____

Student Organizer Roles:

Logistics Director: _____

Director of Communication: _____

Community Organizer: _____

Additional Students/Partner Clubs: _____

SCHEDULE YOUR DRIVE

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

TIP: Schools around the nation will be holding drives around graduation festivities this spring, during [Cap. Gown & Ballot](#)

- ☐ **When** will your drive be held?
- ☐ **Where** will your drive be held?

MAKE A PLAN (see [page 10](#) for detailed description of roles)

Logistics Director Tasks:

- ☐ **Identify** a Drive Strategy. Circle all that apply:

In-class Presentation

School-wide event

School day tabling

Field Trip

Other

- ☐ **Identify** students to attend “Run a Drive” Trainings
- ☐ **Work** with the Community Organizer to schedule a meeting with your local League of Women’s Voters to figure out the laws or schedule a meeting with your local election official.
- ☐ **Make** sure you have forms/laptops and tables

Director of Communication’s Tasks

- ☐ **Create** a plan to promote your drive. Circle all that apply:

Social Media

School Website

School-wide announcement

School Newspaper

In-class announcements

Other

- ☐ **Create** a plan to advertise the required identification so that all eligible students have the opportunity to register
- ☐ **Develop** a script for organizers to use on the day of the drive

Community Organizer Tasks

- ☐ **Create** a schedule so that there are students available to cover each part of the drive
- ☐ **Work** with the Logistics Director to consult with local election official or other trusted experts to clarify any questions about registration rules
- ☐ **Reach out** to partners (like the LWV & TCC) to get additional support

REPORT BACK

Who will fill out the Post Drive Report and return forms to election agencies? Name: _____



Worksheet

Drive Script

Instructions: Use your state's registration laws to inform your Drive Script. Walk through potential conversations you may encounter at your drive.

TIP: Practice with friends! Try to be prepared for all scenarios and questions.

WHO CAN REGISTER?

Jot down your state's eligibility requirements here! Use this as a starting point for your conversation.

► **Remember:** Never ask a student's citizenship status or legal history. Instead, point to the eligibility sign and accept their "yes" or "no" when asking if they'd like to register.

Are you eligible to **register** to vote?

No

Yes!

That's ok! There are multiple ways to be civically engaged, like connecting with your local elected officials on issues that matter to you, attending commission meetings, and more.

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

Email The Civics Center's programs team at education@thecivicscenter.org



Linkz





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
15 MARCH	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 APRIL	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	26
26	27	28	29	30	1 MAY	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 JUNE	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

Instructions: Use this calendar to map out your drive's timeline (see [page 9](#) for recommendations).

Note upcoming elections: Your state may have some this Spring! Be sure to add them here along with voter registration deadlines, and plan accordingly.

PRO TIP: Consider scheduling your drive to coincide with graduation activities, ensuring all Seniors are ready to vote before they move on. Picking up graduation gowns or signing yearbooks are a great opportunity to reach everyone!

IMPORTANT DATES

Same Day Registration? Y / N



HOW TO FIND YOUR STATE'S REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

- **League of Women Voters** election information website: [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)
- Official voter registration website for the US: [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov)

Acknowledgements & Scope

We gratefully acknowledge the donations and volunteer efforts of thousands of supporters across the country. Without them, this work would not be possible. We thank the many volunteers across the country who have trained with us and who have supported voter registration drives in their communities. This toolkit is a direct response to the questions they have posed and the needs they have expressed for resources to support their efforts.

Please note: The information contained herein is not legal advice and is for use only as a general guide. Voter registration and drives are subject to different rules in different states. Laws and interpretations change from time to time, and the summaries contained here are not intended to be comprehensive. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed legal professional, or state and local election officials familiar with voting and registration guidelines in your state. The Civics Center is not responsible for running or supervising your drive.

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

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Link



For more information:



TCC thecivicscenter.org



LWV lww.org/league-management



TCC email info@thecivicscenter.org

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