LWV High School Voter Registration

We can make a difference.

Why Focus on High School Voter Registration?

- Building a powerful democracy starts with empowering young voters, and voter registration is critical to spurring young people to get and stay involved.

- Registration and education are key to unlocking the potential for millions of young voters.

- High school registration can trickle down to other family members.

- The League of Women Voters believes we all have a role to play in inspiring and empowering young Americans to register and vote.

High School Voter Registration Potential

- 8 million Americans will turn 18 between Nov. 2022 and Nov. 2024
- High schools provide a structure and recurring educational cycle that facilitates the development of a long-term voter registration program.
- High schools represent a singular, untapped opportunity to reach our youngest voters, particularly the 40% who do not attend college.
- Virtually all high school students are eligible to register before their 18th birthday.
- Only 6% of young people report they were asked to register to vote in high school.
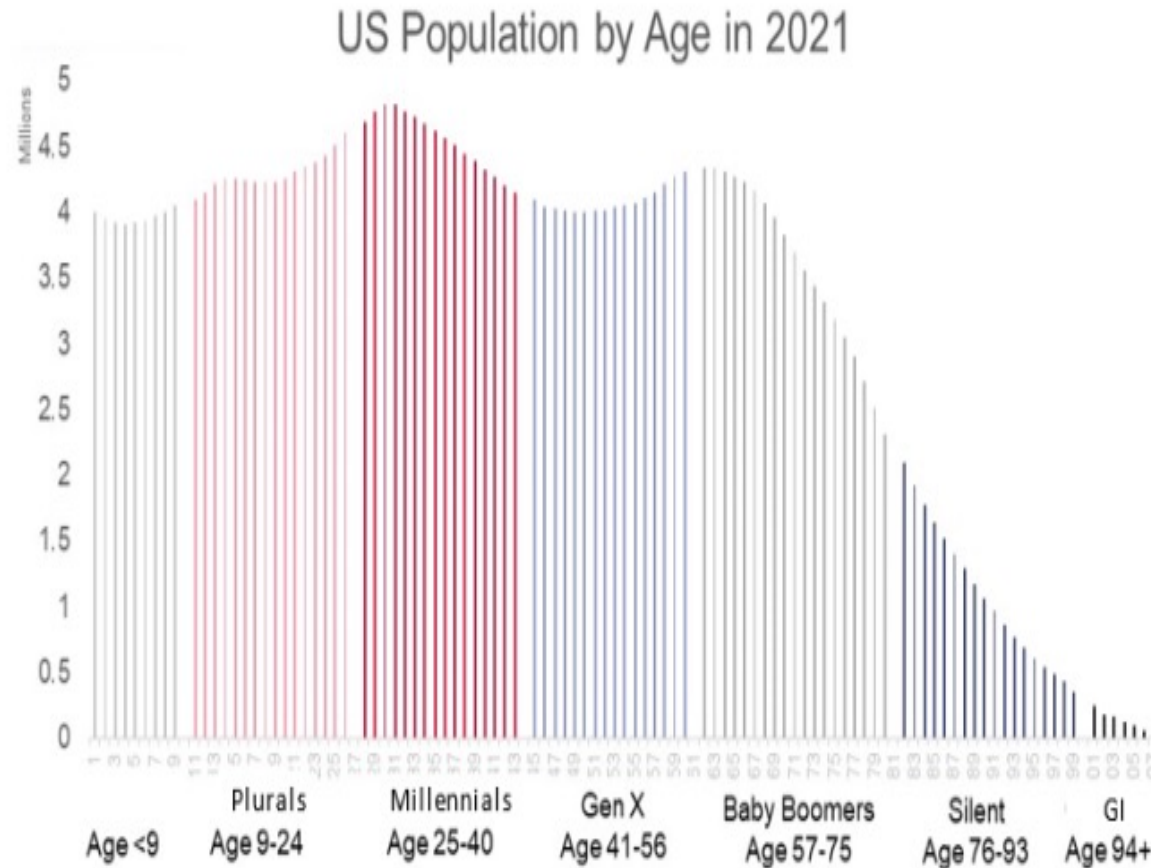
When Young People Are Registered They Show Up

In the 2020 general election, only 60% of youth ages 18-24 were registered to vote, and only 51% made it to the polls.

But the young people who were registered voted at high rates.

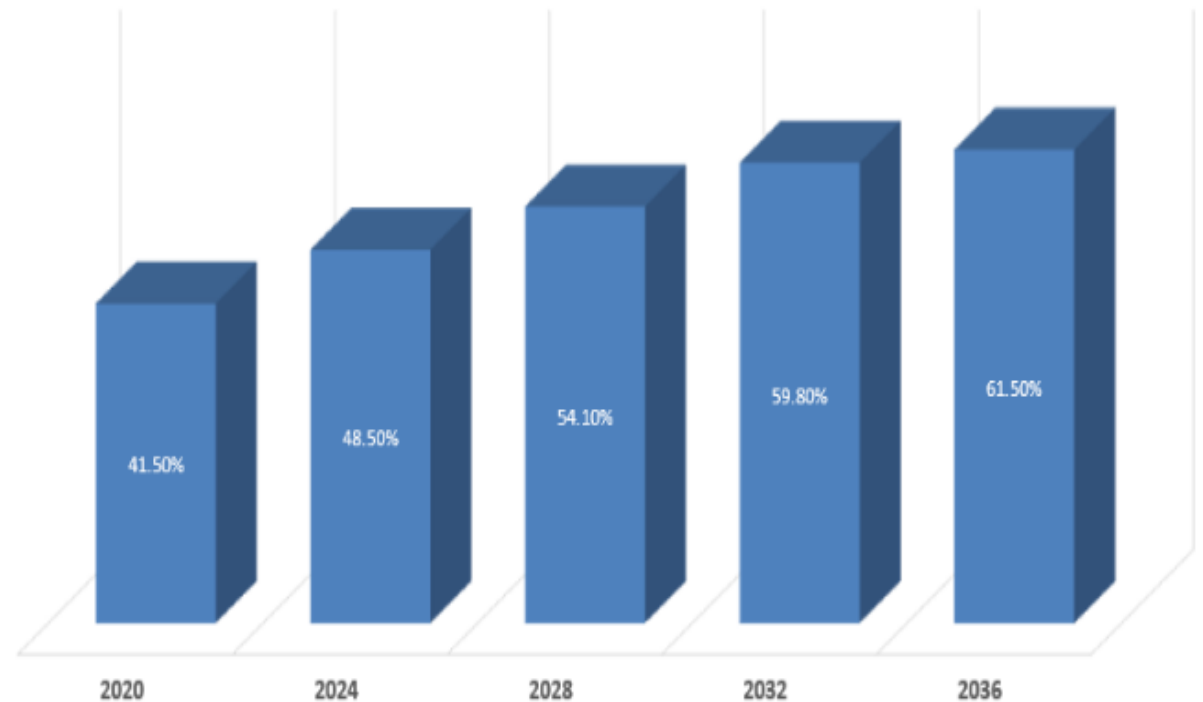**Among 18- to 24-year-olds who were registered, 86% voted.**

Registering the New Majority

Population of Current U.S. Generations

US Population by Age in 2021

Plurals Age 9-24 · Millennials Age 25-40 · Gen X Age 41-56 · Baby Boomers Age 57-75 · Silent Age 76-93 · GI Age 94+ · Age <9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, realtor.com

Millennials and Plurals Will Be a Majority of Potential Voters by 2028 — Over Sixty Percent by 2036

2020: 41.50%
2024: 48.50%
2028: 54.10%
2032: 59.80%
2036: 61.50%

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau 5-year population projections

The time to register Generation Z is when they are in high school.

Registering citizens as high school students is far more **effective** and **economical** than trying to find and convince them to register as adults.

- In high school we know where they are.
- We know they are unlikely to be registered.
- Most will register if asked.

HSVR programs are a crucial intervention that can significantly reduce the number of citizens who are not registered and do not vote.

Habit Formation

Voting can become a habit just like any other action.

Registering high school students increases the likelihood of developing lifelong voters and a generation that votes.

Best Practices

(Project Vote "Engaging American's Youth through High School Voter Registration Programs" Best Practices pages 10-14)   high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf (funderscommittee.org

- Reach out to schools and communicate often.

- In-person outreach opens doors better than emails.

- Conduct classroom visits.

- Actively involve teachers /administrators in planning.

- Connect voter registration programs with other events.

- Include a voter education component.

- Prepare presentations. Make them tight. Be respectful of time.

Plan Your High School VR Program
(LWV HSVR Training Manual)

Consider these questions:

- How many schools will we target?
- How will we identify our target schools?
  Not all will welcome you with open arms.
- How many volunteers—will we need, and how will we find them?
- What costs will we incur?
- Which community allies can we work with?
- What will best motivate students to register and vote in our community?

Map Out the Plan. Set Target Dates and Assign Responsibilities.

➢ Select Schools Strategically

➢ Consider How Many Schools You Can Realistically Serve

➢ Determine the Best Approach Based on Available Resources
  1. Classroom presentations
  2. Teacher/Educator directed
  3. Student lead registration

➢ Be sure to consult the school calendar when planning your HSVR.

Scheduling HSVR

- Government classes in IN are one semester. To include all eligible students, plan HSVR for both fall and spring.
- Fall registration will be less productive since many students will not be 18 by the November election.
- To increase the numbers in the fall, conduct your HSVR drive after the November election when the age requirement will be 18 by the following November election. (Consider Teacher-directed.)
- Spring HSVR will be the most productive. A majority of high school students meet the age requirement of 18 by the November election.

Build Relationships

❖ Contact schools well in advance. Developing a relationship with a school will take time but that relationship is key to a successful HSVR drive.

❖ Communicate with the building principal: Solicit support. Request permission.

❖ Meet with instructor to coordinate VR plans.

Maximize Personal Interactions

- LWV research indicates that where possible, individual classroom visits were up to 2 times more effective than large group assemblies.
- Setting up registration tables in cafeterias or school hallways is not usually effective unless the registration drive is led by students.
- Make sure the school prepares students by instructing them to bring state issued identification or to know the last four digits of their social security numbers
- Ask the school to publicize your visit through morning announcements, a school paper or TV/ radio show, bulletin board, or other means.

Make a Follow Up Plan

Studies show, simply helping young people register to vote is not enough to get them to vote.

- Stay engaged with the teacher. Follow-up with voting information: candidate list, early voting times and sites, election day information, voting from college, etc.
- Introduce VOTE411 as a tool for teachers and students to use.
- Share information about Hoosier Hall Pass to encourage students to be a poll worker. – It's a lot of money for them!

ELECTION
INFORMATION
YOU NEED

Scan me to visit
Vote411.org

For more information about what's on your ballot, visit **Vote411.org**

HELP AMERICA VOTE
BECOME
A POLL
WORKER
LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

HELP AMERICA
VOTE
NATIONAL POLL WORKER
RECRUITMENT DAY

Two Approaches

Teacher Directed:

LWV provides resources to a high school teacher who leads student voter register.

Class Presentations:

LWV Registration team visits school to register students directly.

Teacher Directed

- Establish a commitment from the teacher who will lead voter registration.
- Determine how students will register--online or paper or both.
- Agree on a timeline for executing voter registration.
- Prepare documents and resources the teacher needs to lead voter registration.

- Drop off the materials at the school or email the documents for the teacher to copy and distribute to students.
- Agree to a timely pick up of materials and completed voter registrations forms to assure they will be <u>submitted to the voter registration office within a few days after being signed.</u>

Documents

- Teachers & Student Guide
- Federal Voter Registration Forms—highlight

  (blue or black ink-no pencil; must be 18 by general election-must meet that requirement to file an application)

- Pledge to Vote Card
- Outline of Plan to Register with dates
- Stickers or token for registering (provide enough for all students whether they register or not).

  Visit lwvin.org (resources-voter services)

  jkwatson138@gmail.com

Classroom Presentation

- Prepare a 2-3 minute "motivate to register" presentation--- speech or prepared video or slide presentation.
- Take a team of at least 3: one to lead the presentation and 2 to answer questions and assist with registration.
- A background check will be required of all team members.
- Prepare for no driver's license or "I don't know my SSN."
- School announcements and teacher reminders help reduce the number of students w/o ID information.

- Plan for 10 minutes to register—start to finish.
- Online registration works well, but student MUST have a DL or state ID.   Fallback is the paper form.
- Check in advance to assure electronic registration is feasible. Note: Online registration takes a bit longer but results are immediate.
- Paper applications must be checked for accurate completion before leaving.
- Reward: "I Registered to Vote" sticker.

Leagues will need to decide soon whether they will or will not implement a high schools registration in the spring of 2024.

The 2024 election cycle is NOT far off. League HSVR teams need to engage with students in February 2024.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

If you commit your League to starting up a high school program – the VSCC will connect you with an experienced LEAGUE volunteer to provide support to your League's HSVR team.

Suggested Implementation Timeline

November-December: Local League members meet to plan or update their high school voter registration plan.

By January 19, 2024: Each League has a high school voter registration plan. Roles/responsibilities are assigned and a schedule is set to guide the process. Use the school's calendar to avoid conflicts with spring break and other school events.

January through February: Contact high schools. Seek administrative support and identify partners. Confirm a schedule for executing registration.

Feb.-Apr. 7: Implement the high school voter registration plan.

April 8, 2024 Last day to register before the Primary.

LWV High School Voter Registration Training Manual

➢ Comprehensive training manual.
➢ Provides a step-by-step guide to help you develop high school voter registration programs and encourage young people to register and vote.
➢ Includes a range of planning, training, and outreach tools to help you succeed.

See last slide for a screenshot of the appendix.

Working to make

VOTER
REGISTRATION

a part of every
high school in America

Resources

LWV *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow: Training Manual*

www.lwv.org/HSVRmanual

The Civics Center www.thecivicscenter.org

Ready to Vote Coalition — a network of national, statewide, and local organizations — to ensure that young people are ready to vote in their first election. Coalition members will seek to support student-led voter registration drives in high schools around the country.

My School Votes https://whenweallvote.org/takeaction/schools/

My School Votes (MSV) builds student-led voter registration clubs in high schools across the country. It provides training and resources to ensure every eligible student in school is registered and ready to vote each year, every year.

Toolkit to Building a high school voter registration program

This toolkit includes materials to assist policymakers and advocates in developing, passing, and implementing high school voter registration policies. • A model high school voter registration policy and model regulations, which provide school boards • Best practices for building comprehensive high school voter registration programs.

Best practices in high school voter registration

This report reviews current data on youth participation in elections and the potential impact high school voter registration programs could have.

Rock the Vote www.rockthevote.org

Youth voter invaluable resource

Rock the Vote *26 Amendment*: Explainer (18 year old vote)

www.rockthevote.org/explainers/the-26th-amendment-and-the-youth- vote

Excellent resource for planning a voter lesson

Hoosier Hall Pass   https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/voter-information/voters-rights/voting-systems-in-indiana/hoosier-hall-pass/

Indiana Schools with Voter Registration Information on School Website

Perry Township: www.perryschools.org/referendum/voter-registration/

Silver Creek: www.scsc.school/for-staff/voter-registration-   information

Appendix from LWV HSVR Training Manual