



Jan. 10, 2023

Re: Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Dear Educators:

This year, Temperance and Good Citizenship Day celebrates its 100th anniversary. Enacted by the state Legislature in 1923, Temperance and Good Citizenship Day is a unique, statewide annual event that promotes civics education and peaceful citizen engagement.

More than 3.06 million Washington voters — or nearly 64% of the state's electorate — participated in the Nov. 8, 2022, General Election. Despite this encouraging number, however, only 39% of eligible voters ages 18 to 24 cast their ballot — nearly 45 percentage points below that of voters 65 and older.

The need to engage and educate young voters and the next generation of voters is paramount. In Washington, we have launched several initiatives to instill within young people the importance of lifelong civic participation. For example, the Future Voter program, enacted by the state Legislature in 2018, allows 16- and 17-year-olds to sign up as future voters and be automatically registered to vote when they become eligible. Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, part of Future Voter, gives high-school seniors the opportunity to register to vote during their social studies classes or enroll in the Future Voter program.

To support our teachers and their students, and encourage future-voter registration, the Office of the Secretary of State and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction are offering several resources, including classroom guides, lesson plans, videos, and webcasts. All this and more can be found at [sos.wa.gov/elections/civics/tgcd.aspx](https://sos.wa.gov/elections/civics/tgcd.aspx). Additional information is available at [k12.wa.us/futurevoter](https://k12.wa.us/futurevoter) and [sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx](https://sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx).

We are excited to offer these resources and encourage you to work with your school district, county elections official, and other educators to promote civic readiness and voter registration in your classrooms. Together, we can empower more future voters to exercise this important right and responsibility.

Sincerely,

Chris Reykdal  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Steve Hobbs  
Secretary of State

*(NOTE: There are circumstances in which some students cannot register to vote in your classrooms on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. Voter registration or enrollment in the Future Voter program is **voluntary**, and students are **not** required to participate or mail in their registration forms.)*