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Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

January 13, 2021

() Action RequiredDue date: January 15, 2021(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 002-21 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents School District Superintendents School District Business Managers Social Studies Educators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

CONTACT: Jerry Price, Social Studies Program Supervisor 360-725-6428, jerry.price@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day is a unique, statewide annual event that promotes civic education and engagement. On this day, high school seniors are given the opportunity to register to vote or enroll in the Future Voter program during their social studies classes. This school year, Temperance and Good Citizenship Day is Friday, January 15.

Washington State Legislature enacted the Future Voter program in 2018, which was put into effect in 2019 to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to sign up as future voters and be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18.

To support our teachers and encourage future-voter participation, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Office of the Secretary of State are offering several resources, including classroom guides, lesson plans, videos, and webcasts. All this and more can be found at <u>oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/72597/overview</u>. Additional information is available at <u>sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx</u>.

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.

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More Washingtonians voted in the 2020 General Election than in any election in our state's history. Whether it's our secure and accessible vote-by-mail system, a more engaged and energized electorate, or a growing wave of younger voters, nearly 4.12 million people in Washington exercised their right to vote and made their voices heard.

Together, we can empower more future voters to exercise this important right and responsibility.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jerry Price, Social Studies Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6351 or email <u>jerry.price@k12.wa.us</u>. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the **Bulletins** page of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT Deputy Superintendent

Kathe Taylor, Ph.D. Assistant Superintendent Learning and Teaching

CR:kt

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