



KIDS VOTING ELECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM/SCHOOL

*Thank you for helping Durham's students make their voices heard and learn about the important role they have as active citizens and informed voters!
And thank you for the many other things you do for our community's children!*

Each year, Kids Voting Durham allows K-12 students to vote on the same candidates and issues as adults. In 2019, students will be voicing their vote for Durham Mayor & City Council. Students prepare a Candidate Guide and hold their own Youth Candidate Forum, so they cast an informed vote. With this guide you can learn how to hold 2019 Durham City Council and Mayor elections in your school or classroom.

WHAT KIDS VOTING PROVIDES

- ★ KVD ballots (paper ballots or electronic)
- ★ *I Voted* stickers
- ★ KVD Candidate Guides
- ★ Cardboard Voting Booths & ballot boxes (optional)
- ★ Training for the individuals who will run your site.
- ★ KVD lessons on elections & voting leveled by grade
- ★ Link to google drive with promotional handouts including:
 - ★ Student volunteer opportunities handout
 - ★ KVD parent letter
 - ★ Posters

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: IT'S EASY!

1. SIGN UP FOR ELECTIONS

Go to www.kidsvotingdurham.org/elections and click "Sign My School or Organization Up" or contact Kids Voting Durham Program Director at 919-560-7321; info@kidsvotingdurham.org

2. MAKE AN ELECTION PLAN

You can customize the election plan to fit your school needs and timeframe. Use this guide to look at what other schools have done decide the who, what, when, and where of your school's elections!

3. PREPARE FOR ELECTIONS

You can do as little or as much as you want to prepare your students for elections – from teaching about the office to be elected and issues in the election, to holding get-out-the-vote campaigns and other activities

4. HOLD ELECTIONS

On the day of your choice. A short warm-up activity and voting take only about 20 minutes.

5. GO OVER THE RESULTS WITH YOUR STUDENTS

Kids Voting will have results the morning after elections and you can use your teacher login to view and download them online. Kids Voting's materials will include some after-election discussion questions and activities for your class.

<p>721 Foster St. Durham, NC 27701</p> <p>919.560.7321</p>	<p>info@kidsvotingdurham.org</p> <p>kidsvotingdurham.org</p>	<p>@kidsvotingdurha</p> <p>@kidsvotingdurham</p> <p>@kidsvotingdurham</p> <p>kids voting durham</p>
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MAKING AN ELECTION PLAN

WHO WILL VOTE?

- ★ Whole school
- ★ Individual Classes
- ★ Individual students who choose to

WHO WILL FACILITATE THE ELECTION?

- ★ Older students or a classroom
- ★ Teachers
- ★ PTA
- ★ Administration
- ★ Student Organizations
- ★ Administration
- ★ Student Organizations

WHEN WILL ELECTIONS BE HELD?

- ★ Schools can hold elections any days or times starting October 16th, 2019 through Election Day is November 5th, 2019
- ★ By 5 pm on Election Day, November 5, all completed paper ballots must be delivered to our offices at 721 Foster St. and all online ballots must be completed to be included in the Kids Voting count.

WHERE WILL ELECTIONS BE HELD?

- ★ In the classroom
- ★ In a central voting location accessible to the entire school like a library,

WHAT BALLOT WILL YOU USE

- ★ Schools can choose to use an online ballot, a paper ballot, or a combination of both

WHAT BALLOT WILL YOU USE?

ALL BALLOTS

- Access to online results morning after elections.
- Have a similar look with the same candidates and issues
- Come with an "I Voted" sticker

ONLINE BALLOT

- Requires internet and device
- Schools can get vote breakdown by grade
- No need to worry about bubbling correctly
- May appeal more to older students and prepare them for the future of voting
- Can have technical difficulties

PAPER BALLOTS

- Students learn how to use paper ballots, which are currently used in actual elections
- Easier for younger and less literate students
- All information must be "bubbled correctly to register; may need to pre bubble sections for younger grades
- Cannot reproduce Scantron ballots onsite if run out

PROFILES OF SCHOOL VOTING – 3 MODELS

Pearson Elementary

- Held in school library transformed into precinct for all classes on Election Day using paper ballots for a real election feel
- PTA decorated as precinct & bubbled ballots, teachers did classroom and family prep, 5th grade classes acted as election officials & ran site



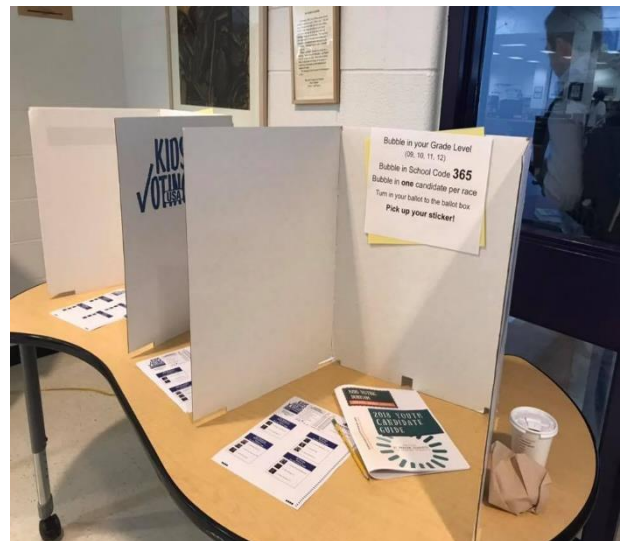
Immaculata Middle

- Held in individual classrooms with online voting for the entire class period at various time week before election
- In week before elections, classes discussed election issues and why voting is important.
- On voting day, teachers projected KVD candidate guide and candidate website to review candidates



Riverside High School

- Held in school library with media center staff, school's Activism Club for all students that chose to vote
- Activism Club did an election presentation for each homeroom class in the weeks before early voting
- Students could vote any time during the media center open hours during all of early voting and on Election Day but had to make the decision and effort to cast their vote on their own time – just like adults!



GETTING READY FOR ELECTIONS (optional activities)

STUDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- ★ Encourage middle and high school students to attend the [Mayor and City Council Candidate KVD Youth Forum at Riverside High School](#) on **October 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm** for a chance to question the candidates in person.
- ★ Have students and families earn service hours by volunteering to be involved with Kids Voting elections. Contact info@kidsvotingdurham.org or 919.560.7321 for information on current volunteer opportunities.








GET THE WORD OUT

- ★ Send home the Letter to Parents from KVD and encourage families to discuss the elections at home
- ★ Hang KVD customizable posters or make your own that announce your upcoming elections and get students revved up for making their voice heard!
- ★ You can take extra initiative and conduct your own Get-out-the Vote campaign for students, parents, or any group you want with activities ideas from Kids Voting Durham.
- ★ Challenge older students or student groups to come up with election information and ideas for other students. If you want more student leadership, train student groups to run elections and how to serve as election officials with Kids Voting's help.

TEACH TO THE BALLOT

- ★ Use the online or print Kids Voting Durham Youth Candidate Guide to help your students get to know the candidates and issues in the election. Written by youth, for youth, your students can explore the guide as a class or you can assign it as homework to be discussed with their family.
- ★ Teach about the issues and voting using Kids Voting Durham's Durham-specific lesson plans or another lesson from its database of other teacher resources.

HOWEVER YOU CHOOSE TO CUSTOMIZE KVD FOR YOUR CLASS, VOTE, HAVE FUN, & HAVE YOUR STUDENTS FEEL PROUD OF USING THEIR VOTE AS THEIR VOICE IN THIS ELECTIONS

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