

Message for Parents

YOU are the most important influence on how your child views community engagement and voting. The biggest indicator of whether or not a child will grow up to be an engaged and informed voter is not race, gender, or education level; it is whether or not a trusted adult in their life valued voting and shared that with them while they were young. According to the Constitutional Rights Foundation, “Parents are crucial in helping their children develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with effective citizenship.”

We encourage you not only to be involved in the elections yourself, but to share that engagement with your child. Here are some tips:

- **Talk politics at the dinner table.** Use this candidate guide to spark conversations about the issues and candidates not only in the Presidential election but in NC State and local Durham races as well. What issues are most important to your family? **How do national, state, and local government affect your daily lives?**
- **Engage in the elections together.** Take your child to meet the candidates at a community forum or event. Encourage others to vote: throw a **family voting celebration** or have a **get-out-the vote** drive with tips from kidsvotingdurham.org/parents.
- **Go beyond the elections.** Talk with your kids about who won the elections and about how to hold the candidates accountable for their election promises and getting input from all those affected by their decision-making. Get involved in local government or volunteer together with a group that works on one of the issues that is most important to your family. Write a family letter to the County Commissioners or the Durham Youth Commission about an issue you'd like to see them address.

Get more tips on being involved in elections as a family by signing up for KVD's **[“Countdown to Election Day 2020”](#)**, containing weekly election activities, resources, and pointers for all ages. Kids Voting Durham is excited to work with you to inspire a lifetime of civic engagement and informed voting for your child.

Happy voting!