

TALKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT VOTING

This document provides messages that can be used to discuss voting restrictions with young people (under 30), and help encourage them to vote.

DISCUSSING VOTING RESTRICTIONS

When talking to young voters about restrictions, the following messages may be useful:

- As Americans, we believe that all men and women are “created equal.”
- Citizens have the responsibility to do their part and vote. It’s our right to vote. It’s our democracy. It’s important that our election laws are fair and equal.
- If America wants to live up to its promise to provide all citizens with the same freedoms, then we can’t pass laws that block some Americans from voting, and deny them the opportunity to participate equally in our democracy.
- That said, it’s important to stop voter fraud. But the real fraud happens when some politicians try to manipulate voting laws because they don’t like what the voters have to say.
- Politicians are deliberately trying to limit the voting rights of people who may not support them. It’s wrong to pass laws for political gain that take away the right to vote from millions of eligible citizens.

WHAT RESEARCH SHOWS

When surveyed, young voters say the top reasons to vote include:

- Civic duty
- To improve the future for my children and country
- Have a voice

Young Voters Support Voting as a Civic Responsibility: 83 percent agree with the statement that “As an American citizen, it is my responsibility to do my civic duty and vote.”

MOBILIZING VOTERS

Some messages that can be used to help mobilize young voters to get out to the polls include:

- People in our community are small business owners, creative thinkers, innovators, and contributing members of their communities. We represent the best of the American Dream, because we have seized opportunities and have worked hard.
- Voting makes me feel empowered, like I have some control over what happens to my family and my community.
- It's important to stand up for our rights and elect leaders who will lift up our country and our communities.
- Many are struggling these days, to find a job, pay a mortgage, or even worry their kids will go hungry, and I want to have a say about what we can do to solve these problems.
- America's future is our future, and we need to vote and make sure the politicians hear our voices and know we count and we matter.
- Voting is my civic duty, and it's something I do to show my country and my children that I am proud to be an American. Children learn from what they see, and I want my kids to see me being a good citizen.
- I want my children to see me going to the polls to exercise my right to vote and have a say in what happens in this country. I vote for my future, my children's future, and America's future.
- My one vote may not make a difference by itself, but I know that together Americans' voices count. If you don't vote, you can't complain.