

# **Student Vote 2008**

## **Delaware Student-Parent Mock Election**

### **October 27-29, 2008**



### **Extension Activities**

The following ideas are offered for those who wish to extend the activities planned for the Delaware Student/Parent Mock election.

1. \_\_\_ Publicize the Delaware Student/Parent Mock Election throughout the school. Energize the electorate!
2. \_\_\_ Organize and conduct a mock voter registration drive within your school during which students are given a chance to affiliate with one of the two major parties or remain “independent.” A mock voter registration form is available on this website ([www.ipa.udel.edu/democracy/mockelection](http://www.ipa.udel.edu/democracy/mockelection)) under “Classroom Extensions” (click on “Mock Registration Form”). Establish a deadline for students to register and notify them that only those who register will be able to vote. Set aside times (e.g., before school, at lunch) and places (cafeteria, lobby) where students may register. Recruit volunteers to staff voter registration tables and be responsible for maintaining a voter registration list. Save time by simply using existing homeroom lists that can be checked off as students register and vote. Use the list of registered voters to screen those who wish to vote on election day.
3. \_\_\_ Misconceptions often surface when students are asked to register for general elections. Be sure to note that, unlike primary elections, registering with one party will not restrict someone from voting for a candidate from a different party in a general election.

4. \_\_\_ Have students create posters or flyers promoting the mock election and encouraging students to register and vote. Decorate hallways and classrooms.
5. \_\_\_ Explain or have students research differences between the Democratic and Republican (and other?) parties so that they may be informed when registering. The Democratic Party Platform is available at [www.democrats.org/a/party/platform.html](http://www.democrats.org/a/party/platform.html). The Republican Party Platform is available at [www.gop.com/2008Platform](http://www.gop.com/2008Platform).
6. \_\_\_ Have students research the qualifications and positions of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates on major issues. Visit their websites at [www.johnmccain.com/About](http://www.johnmccain.com/About) and [www.barackobama.com/index.php](http://www.barackobama.com/index.php)
7. \_\_\_ Hold a structured debate between Democratic and Republican enthusiasts or between supporters of the various candidates.
8. \_\_\_ Allow students to select a candidate they wish to support, then have like-minded students work in teams to organize candidate campaigns and create campaign ads for candidates (e.g., posters, skits, media presentations). Hang posters around the school. Include information about candidates in school announcements.
9. \_\_\_ Have students compose and administer surveys of voting age relatives/guardians and classmates that probe areas such as do they plan to vote, for whom they plan to vote, why they plan to vote that way, etc. Compare and contrast results from relatives with students.
10. \_\_\_ Have students write and submit letters to the editor in support of preferred candidates. Letters should not exceed 200 words.
11. \_\_\_ Get homeroom or class lists that can be used to check off names as students register and vote. This will insure that only registered students vote only once.
12. \_\_\_ Select election monitors to sit at tables near voting sites to check off the names of students as they vote.
13. \_\_\_ Form a decoration committee to decorate the school's voting site.
14. \_\_\_ Have your students construct and analyze graphs illustrating school and statewide results.
15. \_\_\_ Calculate the percentages of students who

- a. were eligible to register and did or did not.
  - b. Registered Democrat, Republican, or Independent.
  - c. Registered but did not vote.
  - d. Compare and contrast school data with data that emerges from the actual election on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
16. \_\_\_ Work with the PTA or other staff members to organize an “election night” event at school or elsewhere on November 4<sup>th</sup> that brings together parents, students, and staff for the purpose of following election night returns. Invite local politicians to the event. Students can organize smaller scale events in their homes for students and friends who live nearby.
17. \_\_\_ Offer incentives (e.g., extra credit) for students who...
- a. go to the voting booths with their parents on election night.
  - b. students who convince an eligible voter to vote on election day.
  - c. students who volunteer to work on a candidate’s campaign.

**Keep Us Informed!**

Be sure to send us other ideas and share stories of what your school or students actually did. We will notify *The News Journal* of notable activities and encourage press coverage of especially notable events.

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