



# *My Vote, My Voice* Nevada Student Mock Election

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# My Vote, My Voice

## 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election



August 16, 2018

Dear Educator,

The Office of the Nevada Secretary of State and the Nevada Department of Education are excited to present the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election. The goal of this program is to help students better understand the value of voting and how their ideas can be expressed in a democratic society. We invite and encourage you to participate in this year's program.

Please use the following dates to help plan and prepare for participation in the November Election.

- Available now – register at [YouthVote.NV.gov](http://YouthVote.NV.gov)
- August – availability of educator resources and activities
- September through November – weekly mock election activities
- October 22 through October 31 – Early Voting
- **Thursday, November 1 – Student Mock Election Day**

In light of recent threats and implications that leading to designation of election infrastructure as Critical Infrastructure, this year's program will highlight auditing and cybersecurity measures in the voting process. More information about specific activities will be available prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Additional references and resources are available at [YouthVote.nv.gov](http://YouthVote.nv.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinators at [MockElection@sos.nv.gov](mailto:MockElection@sos.nv.gov).

We hope you will join us in supporting the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election. Thank you in advance for conveying to students the importance of voting and civic engagement in our democratic process.

Barbara K. Cegavske  
Secretary of State



Brian Sandoval  
Governor



Steve Canavero, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction



**My Vote, My Voice 2018 Nevada  
Student Mock Election**

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Project Partners

Nevada Department of Education



Website

***My Vote, My Voice***

[YouthVote.NV.gov](http://YouthVote.NV.gov)

***Front cover design***

*Intraform*

# My Service, My Citizenship 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election

## Educator Resources and Projects

### *Use and Purpose of this Guide*

This program and curriculum guide has been developed exclusively for Nevada teachers and students who are interested in participating in the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election. This user friendly guide is designed to provide much of the information and resources needed to be successful for participation in the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election Project. The guidelines established in this guide are intended as recommendations for implementing a successful program. We encourage schools, teachers, and students to be creative in their methods of implementing the proposed activities.

In addition to the overview provided below, we have included several appendices that include lesson plans developed by the Youth Leadership Initiative, ideas to incorporate students in the Election Day process, as well as supplemental material on the electoral process in Nevada, the Electoral College and much more.

### *Goals of the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election*

The purpose of the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election is to promote the importance of an individual's right to vote and to stimulate enthusiasm for future electoral participation.

The 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election:

- Encourages informed participation in the democratic process among students, parents, teachers, and community members;
- Develops students' critical interpersonal skills through speaking, listening, and collaborative teamwork;
- Advances students' knowledge of American history and government necessary to function in a democratic society; and
- Encourages the development of civic participation.

### *The 5 "W's" of the Nevada Student Mock Election*

Q. Who can be involved in the Nevada Student Mock Election?

A. All students and teachers Kindergarten through Twelfth grade, including public, charter, private and homeschool students



Q. What is the Nevada Student Mock Election?

A. The Nevada Student Mock Election is a comprehensive, interactive, cross-curricular program designed to educate Nevada students about the electoral process in the State of Nevada. The Nevada Student Mock Election is designed to instill in students an interest in the electoral process by allowing them to participate in a simulated election.

National Voter Registration Day (September 25)

*My Vote, My Voice...* Campaign (begins week of September 22<sup>th</sup>)

Nevada Student Mock Election Day: The Nevada Student Mock Election is an opportunity for students to cast their votes for the candidates in federal and statewide races and on ballot initiatives facing the voters of the State of Nevada. Under the supervision of participating teachers, students assume the roles of “local election officials,” such as voter registrars, poll workers, or members of the election tabulation team. Participating schools may choose how they want to conduct their election.

Q: When does everything happen for the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election?

A: Timeline for the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election



Q: Where does the Nevada Student Mock Election take place?

A: The 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election will take place primarily online; we will utilize an online voting system. However there are several in person components, Voter Registration Drives (for high schools) as well as, the best part, the teaching of our National Electoral Process.

Q: Why do I want to participate in the Nevada Student Mock Election?

A: The Nevada Student Mock Election benefits students by providing opportunities to research, collaborate with peers, use primary sources, develop critical thinking and analysis skills, and have fun while learning about the electoral process. The Nevada Student Mock Election benefits teachers as well by providing professional development opportunities and assistance in the development of sound teaching practices, and assistance in the development of a school-wide learning activity. The Nevada Student Mock Election benefits the community by encouraging the next generation to develop passion for civic participation as well as assisting in the development of skills, such as critical evaluation of information that can be utilized throughout life.

Q: What is the Ballot Question program?

A: For the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election the Department of Education and the Secretary of State’s office is sponsoring a ballot question program where students across Nevada will be able to submit possible ballot questions and on those questions. Submissions are finalized by mid-September. being placed on the ballot on the NV

have students across the state vote due on September 7<sup>th</sup> and will be Teachers can find the final questions SOS office website.





## Student Mock Election Activities Guidelines

The Nevada Student Mock Election is an opportunity for students to cast their votes for the candidates in federal and statewide races and on ballot initiatives facing the voters of the State of Nevada. The schools may choose how they want to conduct their election. Under the supervision of participating teachers, students can also assume the roles of “local election officials,” such as voter registrars, poll workers, or members of the election tabulation team.

In order to participate in the Student Mock Election, you will need to register. Visit Nevada’s [Student Mock Election](#) webpage and click on Registration.

### *Teacher Responsibilities*

Teachers participating in the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election Project should plan to accomplish the following tasks:

- Ask staff members at your school to hang up the *My Vote, My Voice* posters in their office/classroom space and talk to students about why they vote.
- Visit Nevada’s [Student Mock Election](#) webpage to register.
- Find out who is running in your district, visit <http://silverstateelection.com> (you can also share this link with your students to watch the live poll results the night of the General Election)
- Set up polling places at your school site
- Manually enter tallied paper ballot results into the results page at the Student Mock Election web site
- Arrange for absentee ballots for students who will not be able to participate due to schedule conflicts or illness
- Complete evaluation materials and share photos and anecdotes from your school’s Student Mock Election by sending them to [MockElection@sos.nv.gov](mailto:MockElection@sos.nv.gov).

### *Setting Up Polling Places*

Teachers will be able to select the voting method that best meets the needs of their students. Following are recommendations that you can use to set up polling locations at your school:

**VOTE**

#### Computer lab vote centers

Computer labs and libraries make great polling places! As soon as possible, reserve a place for your students to vote. Planning well in advance will prevent scheduling conflicts and make the process run smoothly. It takes the average class about 15 minutes to vote in a computer lab. Following are some suggestions for making polling locations run smoothly:

- Schedule teachers every 15 to 20 minutes on Student Mock Election Day(s) to bring classes to the polling place to vote (don’t forget about grade levels that might not have a “social studies teacher”).
- Have the Voting Page ready to go on each computer before students arrive to vote.
- Make sure the Student Instructions for Voting Online are printed and set near each computer voting station.

#### Using the classroom as a polling location

If you opt to use your classroom as a polling location, ensure that students are able to vote privately. Have your students create their own privacy barriers or voting booths in the classroom.

Regardless of the method you choose to conduct your voting, it is a good idea to have at least two students working as Student Poll Workers at that location. Student Poll Workers can use the Student Mock Election Pollbook to verify that students voting in the Student Mock Election are registered to vote and have not voted during Early Voting or by Absentee Ballot (if applicable). Each registered voter appearing to vote on Student Mock Election Day will need to sign the Student Mock Election Pollbook and receive either their Student Mock Election Voter Registration Card or their Student Mock Election Paper Ballot. (This applies only if your school is using student poll workers and registering students to vote.)

### Casting Paper Ballots

To cast votes using paper ballots:

- Distribute one paper ballot per student.
- Make sure students cannot view the ballot of other students while voting.
- Make sure there is not any information written on the ballot that would identify who cast the ballot.
- Students should completely fill in the arrow next to the candidate or ballot initiative response of their choice.
  - If a student makes a mistake or changes their mind while voting on the paper ballot, have them place a large “X” over the arrow and cross out the name of the candidate they do not wish to vote for, and complete the arrow next to the name of the candidate they do wish to vote for.
  - If more than one selection is made per race (overvote), the vote cast on that ballot for that particular race will not be counted.
- When the ballot is completely filled out, have students fold ballot in half.
- Student Local Election Officials serving as Poll Workers should collect the ballots and place them in an envelope or folder clearly marked with the **teacher’s name** and **class period**.
- Voted paper ballots should be set aside by the Poll Workers and handed over to members of the Tabulation Team for tallying.
- Educators can upload paper ballot batch totals on the Student Mock Election website by going into the School Administrator dashboard on the [YouthVote.NV.gov](https://YouthVote.NV.gov) website.

### Early Voting in the Student Mock Election

Early voting was created to allow Nevada voters to cast a ballot prior to Election Day, and is available to every voter. Voters can vote at any location in their respective county where early voting is offered. The early voting period begins the third Saturday preceding a primary or general election and extends through the Friday before Election Day, Sundays and holidays excepted. Early voting offers the following benefits:



- Makes voting more accessible to more citizens;
- Increases voter participation rates;
- Allows more accurate and efficient ballot counts;
- Reduces administrative costs to the taxpayer; and
- Creates a more informed and thoughtful electorate.

For the Student Mock Election, if your school opts to establish their own early voting period and allow students to cast their ballots online or by paper ballot, use the following procedures:

- Student Local Election Officials should give the student a paper ballot, with the words **EARLY VOTING BALLOT** written and highlighted on the top right-hand side of the paper ballot.
- The voter marks the ballot in secret, folds it, and inserts the completed ballot into a specific envelope or folder marked **COMPLETED EARLY VOTING BALLOTS**.
- The envelope for completed early voting ballots should be sealed and given to the members of the Student Mock Election Tabulation Team on Election Day to be counted with the other ballots after the polls close.

- Student Mock Election Early Voting Ballots should be tabulated separately from Absent Voting or Election Day paper ballots.

### *Tabulating and Reporting Student Mock Election Paper Ballot Results*

If your class or school opts to cast paper ballots in the Student Mock Election, you will need to tally the ballot results and input into the results page at the School Administrator page on the [YouthVote.NV.gov](https://YouthVote.NV.gov) website.

### *After the Student Mock Election*

Following the completion of your school's Student Mock Election, we would appreciate your feedback, please send photographs and a description of your Student Mock Election event to [MockElection@sos.nv.gov](mailto:MockElection@sos.nv.gov), to include:

- [View Results](#)
- Number of students registered to vote in the Student Mock Election
- Number of students who voted in the Student Mock Election (voter turnout)
- Number of student volunteers
- Method of voting (paper/electronic)
- Suggestions for improvement to the Nevada Student Mock Election for the future



# Nevada Student Mock Election

**Students!!!! Teachers!!!! Vote!!!!**

**Do you have a question for the ballot? Submit a question to be placed on the 2018 Nevada Student Mock Election**

**Submit your question by September 7th here: [MockElection@sos.nv.gov](mailto:MockElection@sos.nv.gov)**

## **Initiatives and Ballot Referenda**

Initiatives and referenda are processes that allow Nevada citizens to utilize a petition circulation process to propose new legislation, amend the Nevada Constitution or existing state statutes or approve or disapprove of existing laws. Initiatives are a device by which voters enact state or local laws. A referendum can only approve or disapprove a statute, resolution, or ordinance that was enacted by the State Legislature, Board of County Commissioners or City Council. They are both methods of involving voters directly in the legislative process of government.

The process and timelines are different depending on the type of petition, and they must be strictly complied with in order for the petition to succeed.

**SIGNATURES NEEDED:** Statewide petitions filed in 2018 require 112,544 valid signatures from registered Nevada voters including at least 26,136 signatures from each of the four Petition Districts. (NRS 293.127563(2)) In 2016, the requirements was 55,234 valid signatures from registered Nevada voters including at least 13,809!

**Information Sources are listed below:**

**Sources on Referenda:**

[Filing a Referendum](#)

**Sources on Initiative**

[Filing a Constitutional Initiative](#)

[Filing a Statutory Initiative](#)

[Initiative and Referendum Guide](#)

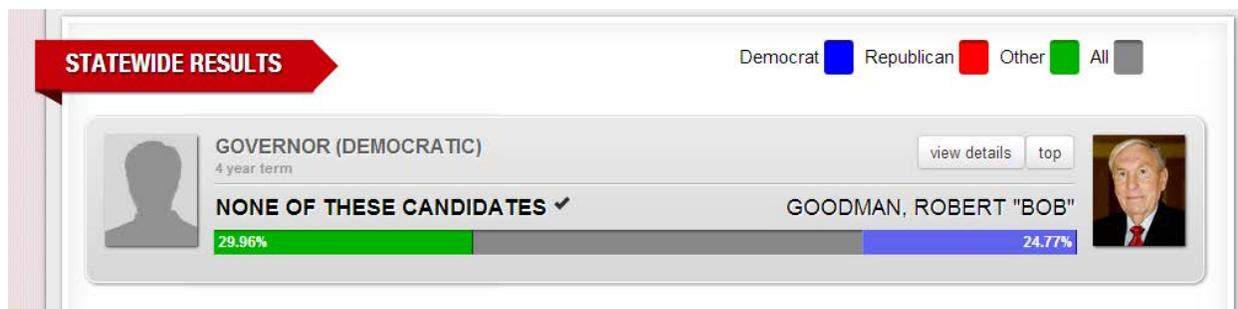
*Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.*  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*



# Nevada Student Mock Election

## SPECIAL BULLETIN: None of These Candidates

In the 2014 Democratic Primary Election for the office of Nevada State Governor, voters selected a unique option for their choice. They chose "None Of These Candidates", rather than a candidate. Robert Goodman who got the second highest number of votes will proceed to the general election.



None of These Candidates is a choice that must appear on Nevada’s ballots for statewide offices or President and Vice President of the United States.

Every ballot upon which appears the names of candidates for any statewide office or for President and Vice President of the United States shall contain for each office an additional line equivalent to the lines on which the candidates’ names appear and placed at the end of the group of lines containing the names of the candidates for that office. Each additional line shall contain a square in which the voter may express a choice of that line in the same manner as the voter would express a choice of a candidate, and the line shall read “None of these candidates.” ([NRS 293.269\(1\)](#))

(Added to NRS by 1975, 475)

*More information:*

[None of These Candidates – One Online Nevada Encyclopedia](#)

<http://www.mynews4.com/news/story/Secretary-of-State-weighs-in-on-atypical-election/7elxHEkBpEmt-t-FzY9bhQ.csp>

## **NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES**

By ROBERT ERICKSON  
*Former Research Director  
Legislative Counsel Bureau*

**T**HE 1975 Nevada Legislature approved a bill that gives voters the option of voting for "none of these candidates" for all public offices elected statewide. This option appears on both primary and general election ballots for the offices of United States President and Vice President, United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Controller and Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court.

State Assemblyman Don Mello sponsored the 1975 legislation to stimulate voter turnout by providing an alternative to voting for candidates who are either not popular or little known. Another goal of the measure is to allow voters to express dissatisfaction with the quality of candidates or the nature of election campaigns. Its provisions, which are found in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 293.269, require that the actual candidate receiving the most votes is elected or nominated, regardless of the number of votes cast for "none of these candidates." The winning candidate in an election with a high percentage of votes for "none of these candidates" is put on notice to work hard while in office or face a tough battle for reelection.

In general, the "none" line on the ballot has attracted greater support in primary than general elections. It has been suggested that voters may feel freer to cast such ballots in primary elections when candidates are being nominated rather than when offices are actually filled. For example, "none of these candidates" finished first, with 47.3 percent of the vote, against two candidates in the 1976 Republican primary for Representative in Congress, which was a statewide office at that time. In 1986, "none" again finished first, against five candidates, in the Democratic primary for State Treasurer.

Although "none of these candidates" has not been the top vote-getter for an office in the general election, it has been a popular option in certain races. In 1994, for example, "none" garnered 89,235 votes (24.1 percent of total) in the election for Supreme Court Justice, Seat C.

Although other states have expressed interest in the alternative of "none of these candidates," Nevada is the only state to have enacted it into law.

**Appendices can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State's Website ([nvsos.gov](https://nvsos.gov))**

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[Appendix C - Electoral College and Nevada Reapportionment Information](#)

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