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Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy (ACPD)
nvsos.gov

A Guide to Elections and Civic Participation in Nevada

**Everything you need to know about voting &
elections in Nevada**

Civics Education in Nevada

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Young people are our future. Yet, it seems that knowledge of our civic institutions and processes has declined with newer generations. The result is that until recently, younger people who attain voting age are not participating in the process.

For our young people to become knowledgeable in the governmental processes that directly and indirectly impact their daily lives as adults, civics education is critical. The [Nevada Department of Education¹](#) has standards of instruction for social studies (another name for civics) outlining the instructional metrics and outcomes from elementary school through high school.

As courses designed to prepare students for eventual careers (S.T.E.M) or in the trades, the role of government in those careers or trades and how decisions made by the various levels of government impact those professions, is not introduced. The result has been decreasing interest in government and low levels of participation. If this does not change, future generations will be at the mercy of older generations that may not reflect their values or needs.

Due to recent events involving topics youth find important; climate change, student debt, equality, gun violence, there is a growing interest in politics. Young people are becoming activists, testifying at legislative hearings, joining issue-based groups and running for office. Programs centered around civic engagement are growing in popularity. In 2018, younger voters (Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z) were the largest segment of voters. These voters are also abandoning political parties in greater numbers, choosing to register to vote as non-partisan.

As mentioned in [Participating in the Process](#) module, organizations such as The [Nevada Center for Civic Engagement²](#) play a vital role. [Strong Start Nevada³](#) conducts a “Kid Mayor” program where 4th and 5th grade students vote and the winner gets to meet local leaders and attend local government events.

The Secretary of State conducts a mock election⁴ for students to practice voting on the candidates and issues. The Secretary of State also presents the Helen J. Stewart Award⁵ annually to any high school with at least 85% of its seniors registered to vote.

Along with the Helen J. Stewart Award, the Secretary of State presents the Jean Ford Democracy Award⁶ to a student, teacher, public official, or community member who exemplifies community involvement in civics. During legislative sessions, many schools visit Carson City to expose students, first hand, to the process.

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More ways to help:

- Volunteer with an organization whose mission it is to engage young people in civics.
- Contact school officials to urge schools to participate in efforts to introduce students to civic events and activities.
- Talk to young people about civics and local government and how both impact their lives.
- Request that local government elected officials adopt programs that encourage civic participation of young people.
- Take your children to the polls when you go to vote and explain what you are doing and why it is important.

[Voter Registration Toolkit for Businesses and Community Groups](#)

[ACPD - Introduction](#)

[ACPD - Types of Elections](#)

[ACPD - Registering to Vote](#)

[ACPD - Ways to Vote](#)

[ACPD – Other Voting Methods](#)

[ACPD – The Electoral College](#)

[ACPD – Participating on the Process](#)

[ACPD - Civics Education in Nevada](#)

[ACPD - Citizen Legislature](#)

[ACPD - Other Governments](#)

[ACPD Contacting Election Officials](#)

[ACPD - Resources](#)

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APPENDIX

- 1- State of Nevada Department of Education:
[http://www.doe.nv.gov/Nevada Academic Standards/Social Studies/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Nevada_Academic_Standards/Social_Studies/)
- 2- Nevada Center for Civic Engagement:
<https://nvcce.org/>
- 3- Strong Start Nevada:
<https://strongstartnevada.org/en/about-us>
- 4- Mock Elections:
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/nevada-student-mock-election>
- 5- Helen J. Stewart Award:
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/helen-j-stewart-award>
- 6- Jean Ford Democracy Award:
<https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/voters/advisory-committee-on-participatory-democracy>