



December 2, 2019

(X) Action Required  
( ) Due Date: January 16, 2020  
( ) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 083-19 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
Social Studies Educators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: #FutureVoter Toolkit/Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

CONTACT: Jerry Price, Social Studies Program Supervisor  
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### **PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

Voting is a critical function of our democracy, yet as of 2018, only 56% of young adults aged 18–24 were registered to vote in Washington. In 2018, the Washington State Legislature created the Future Voter program in an effort to increase access to voter registration and recognize the importance of lifelong civic participation. In 2019, the Office of the Secretary of State implemented the program responsible for allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to sign up as future voters and be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18.

The law enacted in 2018 requires schools to provide high school seniors the opportunity to register to vote during social studies instructional time on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day in January.

To support this important legislation, the Office of the Secretary of State and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction collaborated to create a media campaign to provide voter registration materials, lesson plans, and digital media to encourage future voter registration on this Temperance and Good Citizenship Day—January 16, 2020.

### **Temperance and Good Citizenship Day #FutureVoter Toolkit**

A #FutureVoter is “a United States citizen and Washington state resident, age 16 or 17, who wishes to provide information related to voter registration to the appropriate state agencies.”

#FutureVoter requires that all schools provide seniors in high school the opportunity to register to vote during their social studies class.

Please visit [k12.wa.us/futurevoter](http://k12.wa.us/futurevoter) or [sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx](http://sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx) to download the #FutureVoter toolkit, including:

- A QR code and instructions directing students to the Secretary of State’s electronic voter registration page and printable voter registration forms for students who require paper copies.
- Elections Lesson Plans.
- Resources such as instructional webcasts, videos, and lessons about voter registration and elections, including the importance of voting and civic participation.

Districts and Educational Service Districts are encouraged to work with their county auditor and local community organizations to develop a plan to promote civic readiness and voter registration in classrooms.

Student safety is of paramount concern. There may be circumstances that make it impossible or unsafe for students to register to vote on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. #FutureVoter registration is voluntary. Students are not required to participate and teachers have no obligation to collect or mail registration forms. Paper registration forms are self-addressed to the Secretary of State’s office; students must return the forms no later than five days after completion for the forms to be valid.

### **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jerry Price, Social Studies Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6351 or email [jerry.price@k12.wa.us](mailto:jerry.price@k12.wa.us). You may also contact Katrina Osborn, Voter Education and Outreach Specialist, at 360-725-5791 or email [katrina.osborn@sos.wa.gov](mailto:katrina.osborn@sos.wa.gov). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins and Memos](#) page of the OSPI website.

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