



IDEA Votes: Compliance One-Pager

IDEA Votes is our non-partisan, district-wide initiative to increase voter registration and participation by sharing the opportunity to register to vote with 100% of our community and building a culture of voting on 100% of our campuses and HQ. This document should guide all members of the IDEA Team & Family when talking about voting while wearing their “IDEA hat” - e.g. during the school or work day; while using IDEA email, phone, or other communications tools (Teams, BlueJeans); or when communicating with IDEA families.

Do’s and Don’ts for Talking About Voting in a Nonpartisan Context

As a 501(c)(3) – non-partisan, non-profit – and public school district, IDEA must follow strict laws surrounding engagement in elections. Follow the below *Do’s and Don’ts* to ensure you stay compliant. *Questions?* Contact Catharine Bellinger at catharine.bellinger@ideapublicschools.org or via Teams.

Context	Do	Don’t
Talking about voter registration	<p>Remind members of the IDEA community to register to vote</p> <p>Share information about where Team & Family can find eligibility information (vote.texas.gov or sos.la.gov)</p> <p>Distribute registration forms or information on how to register, as long as the registrant fills it out and turns it in him/herself</p> <p>Share information about upcoming deadlines</p> <p>Consider becoming a Volunteer Deputy Registrar to get trained on helping your community register to vote!</p>	<p>Express support for a specific candidate political party, or ballot measure with regard to registration, e.g. do NOT say “we need more people to register so that [Candidate X] can win”</p> <p>Help a staff member or parent fill out a registration form, or collect their registration form, unless you are a trained and certified Volunteer Deputy Registrar. (<i>*exception for Seniors – Texas schools may collect registration forms for Seniors – this is done in compliance with Texas state law and through our Social Studies Teachers – do not attempt to collect registration forms unless you have received explicit instructions from the Advocacy Team or Social Studies Curriculum Managers. This exception does not exist in Louisiana.</i>)</p> <p>Disparage a particular candidate, political party, or ballot measure, explicitly or implicitly, e.g. do NOT say “[Candidate X] doesn’t want people like us to register” or “Our government has been ignoring [X Issue]. Register now and vote.”</p>
Targeting registration efforts	<p>Encourage all members of the IDEA community to register to vote if they are eligible</p>	<p>Only send reminders about registration to people you think might vote a certain way</p>

	<p>Reach out 1:1 or broadly to colleagues who might have moved recently to ask them if they have updated their registration</p> <p>Target additional outreach to historically vulnerable populations within our IDEA community who might need additional assistance or bilingual reminders, e.g. our hourly Team & Family, CNP, manual trades</p> <p>Provide a computer or tablet for members of the community to self-register electronically (Louisiana website – www.geauxvote.com).</p>	<p>Target registration to certain populations or demographics because they might vote for a certain candidate, political party, or ballot measure</p> <p>Attempt to influence turnout for a particular candidate, political party, or ballot measure</p>
<p>Talking about voting and why voting matters</p>	<p>Use IDEA Votes talking points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting is the single most effective way to make your voice as a member of our society heard, so no one else can speak for you • When we all vote, we serve as role models for our students, so they become voters too. <p>Share your personal story about why you're a voter without mentioning specific candidates, parties, measures, partisan issues, or religious issues – e.g. "I'm a voter because it's how my voice is heard on issues that matter to me."</p> <p>Wear your "I Voted" or "Yo Voté" sticker</p>	<p>Share your personal story about why you're supporting a certain candidate or political party based on the issues they support, e.g. "I'm voting for candidates who will prioritize [X Issue]" or "I'm voting for the candidate who has pledged to do [X]"</p> <p>Name or imply the candidate you support, while wearing your "IDEA hat"</p> <p>Aim to sway others to support a particular candidate, political party, or ballot measure while in a work setting (wearing your "IDEA hat")</p>
<p>Getting out the vote</p>	<p>Remind your IDEA community (parents, teachers, seniors, alums, staff) to vote</p> <p>Use IDEA Votes talking points about why voting matters</p> <p>Organize free rides to the polls for your campus using personal vehicles or public transportation; organize a 'caravan to the polls' or day when your Team & Family will vote together</p> <p>Remind your IDEA community about key dates like Early Vote</p>	<p>Use IDEA technology or tools (email, Teams, Remind), work hours, or your "IDEA hat" to encourage people to vote for a candidate, political party, or ballot measures</p> <p>Endorse or even mention candidates, political parties, ballot measures, or partisan issues when asking the IDEA Team & Family to vote</p> <p>Use IDEA time or vehicles to transport students, staff, or families to the polls. Employees may be permitted to request PTO (if available and if approved) subject to leave policies.</p>

	Provide information to your Team & Family about how to find their polling place	
Using personal time and social media	<p>Feel comfortable using PERSONAL time (e.g. lunch break, weekends, evenings) and PERSONAL technology and networks to engage in elections, volunteer for a candidate, or donate to a candidate</p> <p>Feel comfortable using your PERSONAL social media accounts to share your political beliefs</p>	<p>Email or contact your colleagues using their work email addresses or phone numbers or using your IDEA technology about political topics (e.g. do NOT forward a “support Candidate X” email to a colleague)</p> <p>Donate to a candidate, political party, or other partisan political organization or sign up for their newsletter using your IDEA email address</p> <p>Identify your place of work in the same social media post where you talk about a candidate or political views (this could imply that you are wearing your “IDEA hat”), e.g. do NOT post a selfie wearing your IDEA uniform gear or on an IDEA campus with a caption that supports one candidate or another</p>