



YWEVOTE

CALIFORNIA YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



75TH MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT
2022-2023



DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

For 75 years, California YMCA Youth & Government has been empowering youth and providing them with the tools to be lifelong advocates for themselves and their communities. Participants in our model government programs write policy, develop and present impassioned arguments for their causes, and they vote.

Programs like ours, educational and civic institutions, political groups, and government entities have made real gains in increasing youth civic engagement, but young people are still underrepresented at the polls, and our youngest voters continue to have the lowest turnout rates. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, young adults (18–34) make up 32% of California's population, but only 24% of likely voters. When asked by the Pew Charitable Trust, young adults listed "never asked to register" as a primary reason for not being registered to vote, and 10% of Americans reported that they have never been asked to register to vote at school or as part of a class.

In 2017, 16 and 17 year olds in California became eligible to pre-register to vote. Pre-registration numbers grew until 2020 and are recovering from the pandemic, but remain low. As of September 2021, only 12% of eligible teens were pre-registered.



YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION

California YMCA Youth & Government seeks to empower youth to become changemakers in their communities through experiential learning in civic engagement and the development of core leadership competencies.

We build values-based leadership skills and civic engagement in our teens, strengthening them, our communities, and our democratic process.

Since 1948, our program has served more than 100,000 teens from all over the State of California. Y&G continues to evolve, staying relevant thanks to the leadership of our youth.





OUR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

CIVIC KNOWLEDGE

Participants understand the structure, function and procedures of the California Legislature, including bill development.

CIVIC AWARENESS

Participants can identify the major issues facing their communities.

CIVIC ACTION

Participants are equipped with the tools to make changes in their communities and can identify the importance of mutual respect, personal responsibility, and active listening in group settings.

MOVING FORWARD

As we return to in-person programming, we've renewed our focus on:

GREATER ACCESS

so every interested teen is able to participate and cost is never a barrier to entry.

AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

that mirrors the diversity of our state and creates equitable pathways for all

IMPACT

beyond program years, where alumni use the leadership skills, civic awareness, and advocacy experience they gain in Y&G to create change throughout their lives.





2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS



1,500+ high school students



40+ local delegations representing San Diego to Gold County



Six months of weekly meetings & two in-person statewide conferences

75

Unprecedented engagement of alumni, volunteers, & elected officials as we celebrate California YMCA Youth & Government's 75th year

PROGRAM FEES & COSTS



\$2,000 – cost to the Y per delegate

\$100 to \$1,400 – program fee per delegate, depending on need

\$500,000 – LA Y's fundraising goal for providing scholarship assistance this year



Y WE VOTE

A YOUTH VOTER EDUCATION, REGISTRATION, & ACTIVATION CAMPAIGN FROM CALIFORNIA YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

We're building on our foundation of experiential civic learning with the Y WE VOTE campaign.

Our youth will follow an expanded curriculum with a focus on the electoral process and voting behavior, and built-in opportunities to engage in the real-world electoral process.

To extend that impact beyond program participants we're providing training and resources for youth to advocate for voting in their families, schools, and wider communities; and amplifying their voices.

LEVERAGING THE UNIQUE POSITION OF THE Y

As the newest branch of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, California YMCA Youth & Government has unprecedented resources to grow our statewide impact. With 140+ years of service in Los Angeles; over a half a million members; weekly contact with thousands of community members at produce distributions, community health fairs, our New American Welcome Centers, and more; cross-sector partnerships; and collaborations with Y's across California and the world – the Los Angeles Y has earned the trust of families of all backgrounds.

This breadth of work and legacy of trust uniquely position us to reach potential voters – teens, their families, and their communities across the state.





Y WE VOTE DETAILS

Program registration is underway, and local delegations will start meeting regularly during the month of September. As the program year begins and the midterm elections approach, we're launching the Y We Vote Campaign with the following focus areas and activities:

BUILDING VOTING HABITS	EMPOWERING YOUTH ADVOCATES	AMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE
Incorporating voter education curriculum throughout Y&G programming.	Planning days of action around upcoming civic holidays & midterm election deadlines.	Creating communications assets to elevate delegate voter engagement efforts & share #ywevote.
Launching a voter registration pledge program for delegates of all ages.	Sharing resources for delegates who want to encourage family members to register to vote.	Learning from & building partnerships with elected officials & key civic stakeholders.
Offering voter preregistration & registration at delegation meetings & conferences.	Training delegates to host community registration drives, serve as student poll workers, & advocate for voter education in their schools.	Advocating for the creation of a California Youth Voter Registration Award.



GOALS & IMPACT

Here's what we want to accomplish before the 75th Model Legislature & Court officially adjourns in February 2023:

100%

OF DELEGATES (ESTIMATED 1,500) RECEIVED VOTER EDUCATION THROUGH THE Y

90%

OF 16- AND 17-YEAR-OLD DELEGATES ARE PREREGISTERED TO VOTE

50

VOTER PREREGISTRATION AND/OR REGISTRATION DRIVES HOSTED

500,000

CALIFORNIANS REACHED THROUGH EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND #YWEVOTE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

75,000

CALIFORNIA VOTERS PRE-REGISTERED OR REGISTERED TO VOTE, IN HONOR OF OUR 75TH YEAR

SAVE THESE DATES

SEPTEMBER

9/19–23: High School Voter Registration Week

9/20: National Voter Registration Day

OCTOBER

10/10: Vote-by-mail ballots are mailed

Early Voting & ballot drop-off locations open

10/24: Last day to register to vote

(same day conditional registration is still available)

10/28: National Vote Early Day

NOVEMBER

11/7: Election Hero Day

11/8: Election Day

11/11–14: Youth & Government Training Conference

DECEMBER

WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

TRIVIA: On January 7, 1954, in his State of the Union address, President Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first President to publicly support lowering the voting age to 18.

1/21: Virtual program area workshop

FEBRUARY

2/10–13: 75th Model Legislature & Court



THANK YOU!

For general information visit www.ymcala.org/yg.

For social updates follow along on Instagram [@cayouthgov](https://www.instagram.com/cayouthgov).

For advocacy and community partnership information, reach out to Mario Valenzuela, Senior Vice President of Equity, Inclusion & Social Impact, at MarioValenzuela@ymcala.org.

For program questions and all other inquiries reach out to Mari Bassel, Executive Director, at MariBassel@ymcala.org.

