

Script for Teachers or Presenters

for the PowerPoint Presentation for Voter Registration of High School Students

by the League of Women Voters of Michigan

SLIDES

#1 - Your Voice, Your Vote

Today we're going to talk about Voting. Because most of you are going to be of the age to Vote soon, it's important for you to understand why you should exercise your right to vote and how to go about doing so.

#2 - Congratulations!

Raise your hand if you are already 18 yrs. old. Raise your hand if you're going to be turning 18 before November of this year. Raise your hand if you're 17 ½ right now. So, all of you who raised their hands are now of the legal age to vote, if 18 by Nov; or you are of the legal age to register, if 17 ½ right now.

#3 - Why is it important to Vote?

Call on a few who have raised hands. After discussion answering the question, you can say something like, "All of these are good reasons."

Then:

- Share a little history about who could vote in America. Have some discussion about how difficult it was for some Americans to gain the right to vote, i.e., women, black Americans. Some people were imprisoned, or killed for trying to gain the right to vote. Originally, it was only white land owners who were allowed to vote.
- Ask the students 'What are the problem issues you see in your community? What concerns do you have about jobs, education and the future of your community, state or country?' (If there's no responses, ask them about flooding, water quality, education issues or roads and infrastructure.) Ask them how voting for the right candidate, or political proposal, would make a difference? Point out that exercising their right to vote is the best way to be a part of the solution.
- The people we vote for on Election Day matter in almost every aspect of our lives. So, ask the question, 'How do we influence who they are and what they decide on our behalf?' We VOTE!

#4 - Your Vote Chooses Who and What Represents You

Read the low percentages of young people who voted and note the differences in those ages older than them who DID get out and vote. To help this hit home with them, get them out of their seats!

- Ask all of the students to stand up.
- Ask half of the room to sit down. They represent the almost 50% of the young people who didn't vote in 2020.

- Ask ¼ of the remaining standing students to sit. They represent young people who are registered but didn't vote.
- Those still standing are the only ones who have a say on the issues that matter most to everyone in the class. They decided for everyone else.
- Ask students, will staying home on Election Day help you make the changes you want to see in the world?

#5 - Voting in Michigan

Tell the students "You probably have questions about what you are supposed to do next." Read the questions in the slide. Don't worry, we will answer these questions in the next slides.

#6 - Who Is Eligible to Vote in Michigan?

It is likely that some of the students you encounter will not be US Citizens or will be unsure of their status. Or, they might just be reluctant or confused about filling out a registration form. Announce at this point, if any student does not think he/she is eligible, or doesn't want to fill out this form for any reason, they can return it blank or take it home with them. Be sensitive to some students who might not want their reason to be revealed in front of the other classmates.

#7 - What are the Ways to Register in Michigan?

Point out that in 2018, Michigan changed some of its voting laws to make it more convenient to vote. Registering to vote is easier than it ever has been in Michigan. Read the 3 ways listed on the slide.

#8 - How Do I Register?

Most of this slide is self-explanatory. Read through the list and answer any questions.

#9 - State of Michigan Voter Registration Application

Tell them, "We're going to go through the registration form that you have in front of you, either in paper form or online." The next slide goes through the registration step by step. Please follow along.

#10 - State of Michigan Voter Registration Application - Line By Line

Tell them that, as we stated before, you must be a US Citizen to fill out this form. Go through all 8 lines with them and answer any questions. They can fill out the form now if they have all of their information with them. If not, they can take the forms home to finish, but they must drop the registration application off at their City, Township or County Clerk's Office.

#11 - Automatic Voter Registration

Read the statements in the slide. Ask students who already have their Driver's License to raise their hands. All of those with raised hands will have to register to vote since the Automatic Registration happens when you APPLY for your Driver's License. Ask students to raise their hand if they don't have a DL. They will be automatically registered when they get their license. If they don't plan on getting their DL, they will need to register to vote either online or in paper form.

#12 - After Registering, You Will Receive Your Voter Identification Card in the Mail

When you receive your Voter Identification Card, it will have your Polling location on the card. Read the slide, it is self-explanatory.

#13 - Voting in Michigan is Now Easy & Convenient

Let them enjoy seeing other kids their age happy and excited about exercising their right to vote.

#14 - All Voters Can Now Vote Early

Get a conversation going about the statements in this slide. Ask students who will be living away from home (either for college, or an internship, etc.) and who might have difficulty getting a ride to the polls if they don't drive yet. Stress how great it is that it is now easier than ever to vote in Michigan. Some students might ask how does this all work? Segue into the next slide which explains everything.

#15 - Vote By Mail - Vote From Home

Absentee Ballot Voting is explained here in a 2 Step process. Read through **Step 1** and answer any questions.

#16 - Vote By Mail - Vote From Home

Read through **Step 2**. Emphasize that, when they request an Absentee Ballot, they first receive the blue and white envelope in the mail and then they fill out the ballot that is in the green and white envelope - **Complete it, Sign it & Submit it**. They can put it in the mail, take it to their City, Township or County Clerk's Office or the Clerk's drop box.

#17 - Official Drop Boxes Can Be Found in Your City or Town

Tell the students that they should do a little research if they plan to drop their ballot in an Official Drop Box. Their parents might already know how to steer them to the Official Drop Boxes or they can check at their local Clerk's Office.

#18 - Elections Are Safe & Secure

Read through the ways that Voting is Safe & Secure. I'm sure there will be students who think they can't trust elections. This is a good time to point out how many court decisions found there was no evidence of election fraud (There were 60 different law suits claiming fraud that were lost in the courts).

#19 - Who or What is On Your Ballot

Ask students, "So now you are registered, you know whether you're going to vote absentee or at your local poll. You might be asking, "Who and what am I voting for? What candidates and proposals are going to be on the ballot?" You will want to make yourself familiar with the candidates and proposals to make sure you will vote for the person or policy that most represents your views. The League of Women Voters of Michigan provides an online Voter

Guide. It is very easy to go onto Vote411.org and look up your state, city, township or county to find out who and what will be on the ballot.

#20 - Be Prepared and Make a Plan to Vote

Have a discussion with your students about how important it is to speak up, use your voice by voting. If you want solutions to the problem issues in your community, state or country, you need to put the people in power who will solve those problems. It is the one way you have as much say as anyone else in this country, no matter their age or status. It is a privilege!

Congratulations! You just completed the LWVMI PowerPoint Presentation for High School Student Voter Registration for Your Students!