



REGISTERING NEW VOTERS

(45 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students distribute voter registration information to adults who are not currently registered to vote.

MATERIALS

A local phone book; a student directory; writing paper; writing utensils.

GET READY

- ✓ Work with your local Board of Elections or voter registration office on this activity. They may have additional ideas about how to seek out those who are not currently registered to vote.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Ask students to brainstorm about how to find adults who are not registered to vote. In general, individuals who are younger or less educated are less likely to be registered to vote.
- ✓ Have students seek out high school students who are at least 18 years old and/or local college students.
- ✓ Have students prepare flyers to be given to individuals they find who are not currently registered to vote. The flyer could be designed by individual students, small groups, or the class as a whole. The flyer might include any of the following:

- ✓ How to register to vote (include several options)
- ✓ Why it is important to register to vote
- ✓ How your vote can make a difference
- ✓ Statistics about close votes, percentage of voters in certain age groups, etc.

- ✓ In addition to giving flyers to those who are not currently registered, students could post their flyers in public locations or mail flyers to relatives and friends in other states.

(If flyers are mailed out of state, make sure to check the voter registration guidelines for that state and send along the appropriate information in a cover letter to accompany the flyer.)

- ✓ Have students keep track of how many flyers they distribute as a class.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *If each of those who received flyers registered and then asked someone else to register to vote, how many new voters would we have?*
- ★ *Is this an effective way to get people to register? Why or why not?*

MORE!

Students can conduct a voter registration drive at the high school.