

Title: Who are NY State Voters and can you get them to the Polls?

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Rationale: New Yorkers have a tendency to have a cultural and geographic lens on what New Yorkers value. This lesson is designed to expose students to voter trends in New York in an attempt to clarify the diversity of the voters in New York and hone in on their own districts. Students will research necessary voter information for their Congressional District to access when needed, and create a voter guide to share in an attempt to increase voter turnout.

Lesson Outcomes:

- Analyze New York state voter data and summarize 10 points to define the diversity of the New York voter
- Research voter information for your congressional district including; registration process, districting, where to find elected officials, elections date calendars, sample ballots, and political parties to create a quick guide to share with others (paper, digital file, video, etc.)
- Create voter information publication for distribution
- Extension Activity: Examine New York state voter turnout numbers and create civic action plan to improve turnout in your area.

Alignment to New York State Framework:

12.G4 Political and Civic Participation: There are numerous avenues for engagement in the political process, from exercising the power of the vote, to affiliating with political parties, to engaging in other forms of civic participation. Citizens leverage both electoral and non-electoral means to participate in the political process.

12.G4b Allowing citizens to vote does not ensure that a system is a democracy. Open, safe, and honest elections are essential to a democratic system. Engaged and informed citizens should know the mechanics associated with voting, including when major local, state, and national elections are held, how to register to vote, who currently holds each office, who is running for office, and what the central issues are pertaining to that election.

Alignment to New York State Practices:

Gathering, Interpreting and Using Evidence- Identify, describe, and evaluate evidence about events from diverse sources (including written documents, works of art, photographs, charts and graphs, artifacts, oral histories, and other primary and secondary sources).

Comparison and Contextualization- Identify a region by describing a characteristic common to places within it. Identify similar and different geographic regions across historical time periods, and relate differences in geography to different historical events and outcomes

Geographic Reasoning- Analyze how characteristics (cultural, economic, and physical environmental) of regions affect the history of communities, civilizations, and nations.

Civic Participation- Identify situations in which social actions are required and determine an appropriate course of action.

Lesson Scenario:

You got it! The final internship for your Policy program is with the Board of Elections. You have to increase voter turnout in the district of your university. There are a couple of small problems, one is that your major is health administration and the second is you are from Hawaii and you don't know much about NYS. You will need to familiarize yourself with the diversity of NY state voters and their values, analyze voting behaviors in recent national elections, create a voter profile for the district you are working in and create a quick voter guide to distribute to the community. Better get moving, you graduate in 3 months!

Step 1: Familiarize yourself with some voters from across the state by watching [NYS Voter video](#)

Step 2: Analyze party enrollment data, election results, and exit polls to create a "cheat sheet" listing 10 characteristics of the NY State Voter. All sources are included on cheat sheet.

Step 3: Narrow in the data to create a quick profile (p.3) of the district you are working in to include in quick voter guide for the district including.

Step 4: Create a voter guide to include: registration deadlines, upcoming elections, how to find your voting place, access to a sample ballot, informing citizens about "Time off to Vote," and [why we should vote](#). Voter guide preparation instructions can be found at this link.

Step 5: (optional, but will likely get you the honors rope at graduation): Analyze the reasons New Yorkers have poor voter turnout and organize a public outreach campaign to improve voter turnout!

Materials:

- Video: [LWVNYS Voter lesson launch video](#)
- Appendix A: Board of Elections Internship Project - assignment directions
- Appendix B: Characteristics of a NYS Voter "cheat sheet" including step 3 on back
- Appendix C: Voter Information Publication Assignment and research guide
- Appendix D: Voter Information Publication scoring tool
- Handout:
- [New York State Voter data 2016 election](#)
- Extension:
 - [Politifact NY Voter Participation Rate](#)
 - [LWV Increasing Voter Participation PPT](#)
 - [LWV Increasing Voter Participation Publication](#)

Check for Understanding:

- Students summarize voter data for NYS Voter Cheat Sheet
- Voter Information Publication

Name _____

Board of Elections Internship Project



You got it! The final internship for your Policy program is with the Board of Elections. You have to increase voter turnout in the district of your university. There are a couple of small problems, one is that your major is health administration and the second is you are from Hawaii and you don't know much about NYS. You will need to familiarize yourself with the diversity of NY state voters and their values, analyze voting behaviors in recent national elections, create a voter profile for the district you are working in and create a quick voter guide to distribute to the community. Better get moving, you graduate in 3 months! Follow the steps below:

Step 1: Familiarize yourself with some voters from across the state by watching this [NYS Voter video](#)

Step 2: Analyze party enrollment data, election results, and exit polls to create a **“cheat sheet”** listing 10 characteristics of the NY State Voter. All sources are included on cheat sheet.

Step 3: Narrow in the data to create a **quick district/ county profile** (p.2) of the district you are working in to include in quick voter guide for the district including.

Step 4: Create a **voter guide** to include: registration deadlines, upcoming elections, how to find your voting place, access to a sample ballot, informing citizens about “Time off to Vote,” and [why we should vote](#). Check your work with the **rubric** to ensure optimal success.

Step 5: (optional, but will likely get you the honors rope at graduation): Analyze the reasons New Yorkers have poor voter turnout and organize a public outreach campaign to improve voter turnout!

Name _____

Characteristics of the New York State Voter

Cheat Sheet

Task: Analyze voter data to create a cheat sheet highlighting the diversity of New York Voters.

1. Summarize two pieces of data from each source and four from source D.

2. Research voter data from your county to create a county snapshot.

Source A: [Registered Voters by Party in NYS](#)

Source B: [2016 Federal Election Results NYS](#)

Source C: [2016 Federal Election Results NYS by county and separate NYC data](#)

Source D: [2016 Federal Election Exit Polls NYS](#)

1. Data Summary	Source

2. _____ County Snapshot

Percentage registered for each Political Party in county

Results of 2016 Presidential Election for this county

Visit <https://www.ny.gov/counties> (and possible external links). Decide on 3 “must knows” about this county when creating a voter profile (ex. Population, education, main industry, etc.)

4. Where to generate a sample ballot

5. "Time off to Vote"

Publication Guidelines:

1. Choose format; including, but not limited to: pamphlet, social media post, video, or poster. Format should be visually or gain attention using sound.
2. Publication must include:
 - a. A hashtag encouraging citizens to participate in voting this year and make it prominent on your publication (may be created by entire class)
 - b. Educate voters about their county by including County Voter Profile information from Voter Cheat Sheet
 - c. Include findings from research questions 1- 5 above.

Outline plan for distributing your publication:

a. How will you distribute?

b. Date of launch

Hashtag _____

Student Name _____

Voter Information Publication Scoring Tool

Appeal

_____ Overall appeal to voters

- Title or purpose clearly identified, draws senses to publication, and appears professional (1 pt)
- Lacks any of the above (0)

_____ Formatting

- Presents evidence student evaluated audience, decided on an appropriate format for audience, and presented in actual format of distribution (1pt)
- Lacks any of the above (0)

_____ Grammar, spelling, and punctuation

- Shows evidence students proofread, edited, and finalized publication.(1pt)
- Lacks any of the above (0)

_____ Plan of distribution

- Student has included a plan for distribution, including dates, needs for publication (webpace, copies, etc), and plan appears achievable by the student. (1pt)
- Lacks any of the above (0)

_____ Hashtag

- Hashtag is intuitive, easy to remember, simple (1pt)
- Lacks any of the above (0)

Content

_____ Accurate required information Included (each checked box = 1 point)

- Voting District, finding polling place, and what is needed to vote
- How to register to vote, registration deadlines, and how to check if you are registered
- Dates of upcoming elections (including local elections) and where to find candidate information
- Where to generate a sample ballot
- "Time off to Vote"

_____ Total points of 10

Comments