



# Voter Registration & Education in Kentucky

## How can you get engaged?

Thank you for your interest in holding a voter registration drive! Last year, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association and Inspire U.S. registered and pledged to vote over 1,600 high school students. This year, we are aiming to register 2,000 more and not only will your event help Kentucky reach this goal, but schools that register 75-100% of their eligible seniors and juniors can qualify for the **KY Secretary of State's [Georgia Davis Powers Award](#)**. The KY YMCA in collaboration with Inspire U.S. helps provide all of the resources, data management, and follow up to help your voter registration drive be successful.

**In order to receive Student Y points and qualify for the Georgia Davis Powers Award you MUST hold your drive through Inspire U.S. and the KY YMCA.** Your local KY voter registration support person is KY YMCA Program Coordinator, Mariama Lockington ([mariama@kymca.org](mailto:mariama@kymca.org)), and she can help you with whatever you need.

In the meantime, here are some things to consider and get you started:

### **1. Host a Voter Registration Drive at Your School**

- a. **Library Drives--** this works great for larger schools. Drive leaders can set up a voter reg drive in the school library or resource center, and have teachers bring classrooms of students to the library throughout the day to register students [online here](#) or via the paper Pledge to Vote card.
- b. **Classroom presentations—** Schedule and lead 15-30 minutes classroom presentations where eligible seniors and juniors can register and learn about Kentucky voter laws.
  - i. [Best Practices: Think about a class that ALL seniors must take, like social studies or homeroom. Try to work with the teachers in to organize all classroom presentations to occur in one week.](#)
- c. **Library Drive—** Set-up a voter registration station in your library, then have teachers bring their classes to you at assigned times throughout the day.
  - i. [If your library has computers, even better, do online voter registration: \[www.inspire-usa.org/register\]\(http://www.inspire-usa.org/register\)](#)
- d. **Senior Assemblies—** Work with your principal to hold a school-wide drive, and present to your full senior and junior classes

- i. **Best Practices:** Staple the pledge to vote cards onto the voter registrations forms and hand them out to EVERY student as they walk into the assembly. Be organized and make sure you check every voter reg form as students turn them into you.
- e. **Online/Text voter registration event**— Plan and promote a digital voter drive, where students are encouraged to text-to-register or online register on the same day.
  - i. **Best Practices:** Present to a captive audience and walk them through the online voter registration form.
  - ii. Text REGISTER to (760) 354-8999

### **To get started:**

1. Register your HS school via Inspire KY: [REGISTER HERE TO HOLD A DRIVE](#).
2. Once registered, you'll get a next steps email from KY YMCA Program Coordinator Mariama Lockington ([mariama@kyyymca.org](mailto:mariama@kyyymca.org)). She will help you plan, implement, and track your drive.
3. **Pro tip:** Make sure you're registering your HS with Inspire U.S. at least 2 weeks before you want to hold your drive, so we have time to get you all your materials!

### **2. Apply for the Georgia Davis Powers Award**

Did you hold a voter drive and get 75-100% of eligible junior and seniors registered or pledged to vote? You may qualify for the [Georgia Davis Powers Award](#) and a visit from Kentucky's Secretary of State, Alison Grimes. This award is given to high schools with outstanding effort to register students to vote. Schools are awarded one of three award tiers and you will be recognized for your leadership in this effort by the Secretary of State:

- Gold Award: 100% of eligible students registered to vote
- Silver Award: 90% of eligible students registered to vote
- Bronze Award: 75% of eligible students registered to vote

To apply for the award visit: <https://app.sos.ky.gov/georgiadavispowersaward/>  
**Applications are due March 2019, exact date TBD.**

### **3. Get registered students to "Plan to Vote".**

**General Election is November 6, 2018-** your vote counts! Now that you've registered students at your school to vote, we need to help them be informed and prepared VOTERS- help them Make a Plan to Vote.

**Best Practices:** Use sites like [GoVoteKY.com](#) and [ballotready.org](#) to get informed. Make announcements, use social media. #GoVoteKY #inspirevote

## **IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES FOR KENTUCKY VOTERS**

- **September 25, 2018-** National Voter Registration Day!
- **October 9, 2018**— Last day to register to be eligible to vote in the General Election
  - **November 6, 2018**— General Election Day, polls open 6am-6pm
- **March 2019**—Georgia Davis Powers Award Application Due, exact date TBD

### **FAQs**

#### **How old do I need to be to register to vote?**

If you will be 18 yrs old by November 6, 2018, you are eligible to register to vote now.