

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER *Lt. Governor*

TAHESHA WAY
Acting Secretary of State

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of State

Date: April 20, 2022

To: Local Educational Agencies, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

Route to: High School Principals

From: Tahesha Way, Acting Secretary of State

Call for High Schools to Conduct Student Voter Registration Activities during *High School Voter Registration Week* from April 25 through April 29

The Office of the Secretary of State is launching *High School Voter Registration Week*, taking place from April 25-29 that invites all eligible 17 and 18 year olds to register to vote through their schools. The Department of State wants to encourage collaborative civic engagement with a focus on youth, and a key part of civic engagement is registering to vote.

Please take advantage of this effort to reach out to your eligible 17 and 18 year old students. Below is a letter from Acting Secretary Way that contains information on how to participate in High School Voter Registration Week. More information about voting in New Jersey is also available at wote.nj.gov.

Dear Colleagues,

We are conducting *High School Voter Registration Week* in New Jersey during the week of April 25-29, as a part of our broader effort to foster ongoing civic participation, particularly among our youth.

Many of you graciously helped our Census outreach in 2020 and I am writing to ask you again for your help with our Department of State initiative to register eligible 17 and 18 year old high school students in anticipation of the voter registration deadline on May 17th for the upcoming Primary Election 2022.

As the chief election official in our state, I oversee the implementing of various non-partisan initiatives to increase civic engagement and voter participation in New Jersey. This project is part of our *Jersey Civic Engage* effort to foster ongoing civic participation in communities throughout New Jersey, because a healthy democracy needs active and engaged citizens. When people have a stake in their communities they are more likely to involve others and have a reason to vote.

To support participants, we have provided links to activity guidance and related materials. These include:

- A High School Voter Registration Week Video from me to view and share
- Information and a signup link for a webinar designed for students about <u>How To Become An Informed Voter in New Jersey</u> that will be held on April 26th.
- <u>Guidance for participating schools</u>, which includes suggestions for easily conducting a brief voter registration activity
- A <u>sharable/printable event flyer</u> that includes a QR code to our Student Voter Registration page on our Voter Information Portal
- Our <u>Student Voter Registration page</u> on our Voter Information Portal

Please pass this on to the pertinent people who will be involved in celebrating *High School Voter Registration Week*.

Thank you in advance for your help. For any questions about High School Voter Registration Week or the Jersey Civic Engage initiative, please contact Assistant Secretary of State Lauren Zyriek Enriquez or Eric Kipnis, Manager of Constituent Relations at NJDOS@sos.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Tahesha Way Acting Secretary of State