

# 2010

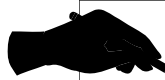
## OREGON STUDENT MOCK ELECTION



**What:** *Make students aware of the power of their ballot by actively involving them in a state and national mock election.*

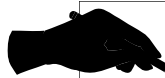
The National Student/Parent Mock Election program seeks to turn the sense of powerlessness that keeps young Americans and their parents from voting into a sense of the power of participation in our democracy. One of the most important ways to increase students' sense of significance - and power - is to use the Mock Election to give them an introduction to the real process.

Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) is a statewide program directly affiliated with the national organization. In Oregon, the Mock Election will be carried out in hundreds of public, private and home schools around the state. We will be voting on the candidates for Governor, Representatives in Congress, and Oregon Supreme Court, as well as on Oregon ballot measures and several national issues. We will join thousands of students around the country who will place their vote by the end of October. On Oregon Mock Election Day, October 27, Oregon's results will be announced at a special event.



**Why:** *America has the lowest rate of voter participation of any of the world's democracies.*

There are 70.2 million Americans under the age of 18 today, the largest generation of young people in our country's history. If present trends continue, most of these children and youth will not vote when they become eligible. Many citizens say they don't vote because they do not understand the voting process. **This program is needed more than ever so that we can teach our youth how to register to vote, how to cast a ballot, and how to make educated decisions about candidates and ballot measures.**



**How:** *Register your school and plan a program appropriate for your students.*

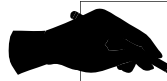
The first step is to choose a coordinator, who can be a student, teacher or staff member. The coordinator or teacher signs up via the online registration form at [www.nationalmockelection.org](http://www.nationalmockelection.org) **by October 1st**. Each school that has registered will receive information to guide the planning of activities for the Mock Election.

Schools can keep this as simple as they like, or can host a variety of events and activities to broaden students' learning experiences. Each school may participate in its own building, at a district-wide level or at a community level by holding public events in their communities.

Students from different schools across Oregon will be able to debate each other via video-conferencing. Debates may concern the state ballot measures, other state issues and/or national issues on the Mock Election ballots. Many excellent ideas can be found on the national web site. In addition, a suggested curriculum specifically for Oregon that meets social science standards, is available on the League of Women Voters web site ([www.lwvor.org/mockelection.htm](http://www.lwvor.org/mockelection.htm)).

At the end of October, students will cast their ballots. On Oregon Mock Election Day, students will announce the statewide mock election results at a special event. Schools may also choose to hold their own Mock Election Day events.

Starting planning now to include the Mock Election in your curriculum this fall!



**When:** *This fall thousands of middle and high schools across the nation will participate in this lesson in democracy.*

## Calendar:

Now—Choose a coordinator and register your school for the Mock Election  
[www.nationalmockelection.org](http://www.nationalmockelection.org)

August—Oregon curriculum available online at [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

Late Sept.—League of Women Voters' *Voters' Guide* available online at [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

### **Oct. 1—Registration deadline**

Oct. 21-27—Students vote in Mock Election

Oct. 28—Oregon Mock Election Day; Celebratory Events, and results announced at Student Press Conference

Nov. 2—General Election Day

## Coordinated by:

League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund

## Supported by:

Secretary of State

Oregon Department of Education

National Student/Parent Mock Election

For a list of national supporters, please connect to [www.nationalmockelection.org](http://www.nationalmockelection.org)

## Funded by:

Help America Vote Act/US Election Assistance Commission

Multnomah Bar Foundation

League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund

Members and friends of the League of Women Voters of Oregon

## For More Information

[www.lwvor.org/mockelection.htm](http://www.lwvor.org/mockelection.htm)

[www.nationalmockelection.org](http://www.nationalmockelection.org)

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