

2022 Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) Instructions for Educators

The LWVOR Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) is intended to offer students as realistic a voting experience as possible. We selected three state and national races for which all students can vote: Governor, US Senator, and Ballot Measure 114 (gun safety). Counties have the option of requesting the addition of one or two other local election items to their ballot, which might be a local candidate race or ballot measure. After the election, LWVOR will distribute the statewide mock election results.

Teachers need to:

1. Plan to use whichever parts of the LWVOR OSME lesson plan work for you.
2. Decide how much time you will spend with your students on the voting experience.
3. Plan to have students research candidates and ballot measures to make sure they can make educated voting decisions. (See the lesson plan for ideas on how to assist students in this part of their education.)
4. Print your ballot, 2-sided, one for each of your students.
5. Make sure your students know the candidates' views and the meaning of their ballot measure(s) votes.
6. **Early voting can begin now and continue through Student Mock Election Day, Oct 18, 2022.** Have students read both sides of the ballot. The second page explains the mechanics of voting.
7. Make sure students understand how to mark their ballots correctly. Make sure they use only blue or black ink – no markers.
8. Remind students that their vote is private. They should NOT put their name on the ballot.
9. Oregon voters must put their ballots in an envelope and sign the outside. This is optional for your students but could be accomplished with a simple letter-sized envelope for each student. The signed envelopes would also provide a paper trail and a way to ensure that students only vote once.
10. Collect your students' ballots.
11. Open and count your students' votes. Optional: You might want students to help tabulate and report the votes. You could also have "poll watchers" who witness opening envelopes to ensure election security.
12. Report your students' votes using the LWVOR GoogleForm* that correlates with the ballot your students used. We will collect and organize the data so it can be reported back to participating schools and the media. **The last day to submit your voting results is Oct 25, 2022.**
13. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENTS HAVE VOTED ONLY ONCE.** We are relying on you to ensure that the voting is valid. If other teachers in your school are participating, please coordinate with them to make sure student voting is not duplicated.
14. Optional: For students in Clackamas, Deschutes, and Multnomah counties, we have an optional version of the mock ballot that includes a local contest.*

*Click for the correct data-entry GoogleForm: [Oregon](#), [Clackamas](#), [Deschutes](#), [Multnomah](#). If your county is not listed here, use the [Oregon](#) ballot for Governor, US Senator, and Ballot Measure 114 (gun safety). If you have questions contact us at mockelection@lwvor.org.

2022 Oregon Student Mock Election - Lesson Plan

Lesson Goal: Students will become aware of voting as a civic responsibility and practice voting in a student mock election. This LWVOR Student Mock Election Day is **October 18**, with reporting by Oct 25, 2022.

Materials: LWVOR Student Mock Election ballots to print – one per student. Optional: A “secure” ballot box; One letter-sized envelope for each voting student; Internet access for students to do research*; Electronic or paper copies of the November 2022 [LWVOR Voters’ Guides](#).

[* Some suggested sites for both teachers and students: [Vote411.org](#); our free, ready to use [Civics Education Curriculum](#); and [LWVOR Election Resources](#), which include campaign websites for candidates and ballot measures. Also, check out the LWVUS site: "[How To Judge a Candidate](#), [SoS Voting & Elections pages](#), [Oregon County Elections info](#), and youth voting sites, such as [18BY Vote](#).]

Time Required: This lesson can be one, two or more class periods, depending on how deeply you want to dig into state and local elections with your students.

Learning Objective: Students will learn how to cast an informed vote.

Every ballot will include [US Senator](#), [OR Governor](#), and [Ballot Measure 114](#) (gun safety). [NOTE: The links provided above are just a few of many to research candidate positions and ballot measure information, chosen because they offer nonpartisan views and links to the candidates’ campaign websites.] **For more information, students can access the [LWVOR Voters’ Guide](#).**

Structure/Activities: Students should research the ballot measures and candidates before voting. To prepare for voting, students can do their own research and represent a candidate or take a side on a ballot measure in a class “forum.” Activities might also include writing an essay on the privilege of voting and/or voting rights, a research paper on a topic related to voting, or holding a class discussion about voting as a civic responsibility.

Students might also be interested in researching other voting-related topics, such as the [history of the League of Women Voters](#), the [Voting Rights Act](#), the [history of voting in the United States](#), the [different possible electoral systems](#), or a [comparison of voting systems around the world](#).

Assessment: Voting in the mock election should be the culminating activity for this lesson.

Activities can be used as formal or informal assessments. As a follow-up, participating schools will be notified with the statewide mock election results to share with their voting students.

NOTES:

- This lesson is appropriate for students from **grades 6 to 12** but adaptable for younger students to gain an early interest in the act of voting and become a source of information for voting family members.
- Anyone with an Oregon driver’s license (16 years minimum) is automatically registered to vote. Students who are going to be 18 on or before Election Day (Nov 8, 2022) are qualified to vote.
- Eligible voters can easily check their voter registration status on [Vote411.org](#). The last day to update or register to vote in Oregon is Oct 18, 2022. [Younger registered voters (16 to 18) can check their registration status with their local county elections office.]