

Kids Voting



March 2009

KIDS VOTING USA

OVERVIEW...

Mission Statement

- Kids Voting USA is working to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged voters.

Kids Voting USA is a National Organization

- **52 affiliate programs in 27 states**
- **4 million students**
- **Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania**

Kids Voting USA is a Nonpartisan, Nonprofit Organization

- **Not aligned with a specific political party or position**
- **Not financed by political parties**



**Central Bucks School District
Holicong Middle School Wish Tree**

KIDS VOTING USA
IMPACT...

KIDS VOTING USA

Brings Civic Skills to Life

- **Students learn the importance of voting and being involved**
- **Students develop skills to be informed, participating citizens**

KIDS VOTING USA

Brings Civic Skills to Life

- **Students learn how to have a voice in the decision-making process**
- **Voting turnout for 18-year-old KIDS VOTING USA participants is 6 percentage points higher**

KIDS VOTING USA

Increases Adult Voter Turnout

- **3% - 5% increase in adult voting**
- **Kids impact their parents through the “trickle up” effect**



Central Bucks School District Cold Spring Elementary Voting Line

KIDS VOTING USA
EXPERIENCE...

Kids Voting USA Is Unique – Students “Learn by Doing”

- **Classroom activities provided for grades K-12**
- **Participate in an authentic voting experience using a ballot that replicates the adult ballot**
- **Lessons about citizenship and democracy reinforced several times before turning 18**

Family Interaction is Enhanced

- **Students are motivated to start political discussions at home**
- **Builds an increased sense of empowerment and self-esteem**
- **Voting and civic participation become a family affair**

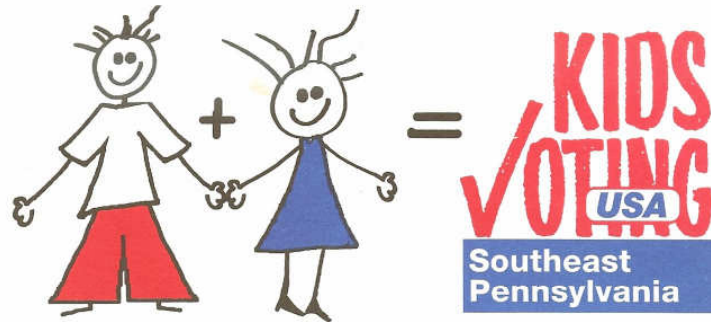
Kids Voting USA

Classroom Activities

- **Designed by educators with classroom experience**
- **Aligned with the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies as well as state standards**

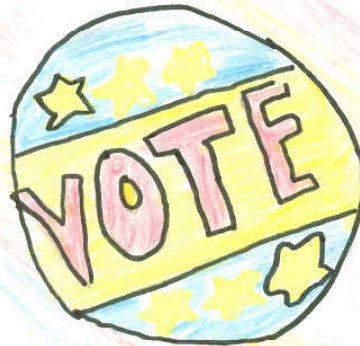
Election Day

- **Elementary students will go to the same polling place as their parents**
- **Students will vote on an official Kids Voting ballot**
- **The Kids Voting results appear in The Intelligencer and the Bucks County Courier Times the day after Election Day**



"Take Your Parents To Vote" Day November 7

"It's Your Job to Vote!"



Kelsey A.
Name

Groveland
School

5th
Grade

League of Women Voters of Bucks County

**KIDS VOTING USA
IN THE CLASSROOM...**

Kids Voting USA Classroom Activities

- **Students develop information-gathering and decision-making skills**
- **Students prepare for an authentic voting experience**

The Four Themes

- Within each grade level section, activities fall under one of four organizing themes:
 - Elections and Voting
 - Democracy
 - Suffrage/The Right to Vote
 - Active Citizenship

Each theme has...

- Introduction to Theme (including objective)
- General Activities
- Discussion Questions
- Literature Connection Activity
- Culminating Activity



KIDS VOTING

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2009...

Civics Education is Important Every Year

- **Kids Voters Guide in conjunction with the League of Women Voters**
- **Kids Voting Educator Workshop – August 2009**
- **Student Model Congress**

Civics Education is Important Every Year

- **Educator Advisory Council**
- **On the Web Site**
 - **Student Online Survey of the Month**
 - **Links to local candidate web sites**
 - **Kids Voting Educator Guide Lessons K-12**
 - **Listserv for teachers to share ideas**