Tips for Conducting a Successful High School Voter Registration Drive

☐ Decide date and time for registration drive.

☐ Since teens respond best to other young people, it makes sense to encourage a student-led voter registration drive. Perhaps the drive can become a project of a club or leadership group. Whatever the case, make sure that student leaders are involved in the drive.

☐ Advertise, Advertise, Advertise: Have your student leaders create and post flyers. Publicity flyers are available on the Louisiana Secretary of State Website, www.GeauxVote.com. Make sure to place the flyers in strategic locations and in classrooms throughout the school.

☐ At least one week prior to the registration drive during the school daily announcements, have a public service message reminding students who are at least seventeen years of age that they will have the opportunity to register to vote.

☐ Emphasize that voting is a right and RESPONSIBILITY. Registering is the easy part. What is important is actually voting, and even more important is being an informed voter.

☐ Ensure that you have ample registration forms and pens, preferably black ink. Alternatively, you may choose to register students online via the Louisiana Secretary of State Website, www.GeauxVote.com. Designate a single computer, multiple computers, or a computer lab as your registration location.

☐ On the day of the registration drive, make sure that the location designated for registration is inviting. Red, white, and blue balloons always add a nice touch.

☐ Make sure students are aware they will need to know the information below in order to complete the registration application. Sponsors should verify that the information is completed on each application submitted.
  - Box 2: Last Name, First Name
  - Box 3: residence address – must be an in-state address – if they put an out-of-state address, they are not eligible to register and vote in Louisiana.
  - Box 4: date of birth
  - Box 5*: social security no.
  - Box 6: sex
  - Box 8: party affiliation – if you do not complete this item, your party affiliation will be listed as ‘none’, unless you are presently registered with a party affiliation and no change is being made today. If you are not registering with a political party, circle ‘none’. The recognized political parties are Democrat, Green, Libertarian, Reform and Republican or you may specify any other party affiliation.
  - Box 9: applicant’s place of birth - must fill out at least the city and state so the registrar can tell if they are foreign born
  - Box 10: mother’s maiden name
  - Box 13*: LA driver’s license no.
  - Box 18: date and sign in box
  * Last four digits is required if no LA driver’s license issued

☐ Registering to vote for the first time is a big deal, since it paves the way for future civic participation. Celebrate after the registration. Publicize the number of new voters registered during the drive.

☐ Recruit enough help to make sure that the registration occurs without any glitches. Planning is the key to success.

☐ Once the registration drive is complete, forms should be addressed and mailed or hand-delivered to the appropriate Registrar of Voters in the parish in which you are registering. Refer to the back of this page for contact information. DO NOT mail or otherwise send Voter Registration forms to the Secretary of State Elections Division office - deadlines requiring receipt in the registrar’s office may be missed. You are to be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that particular election.

IMPORTANT: Under the provisions of R.S. 18:1461A(23), all completed voter registration applications received by a third party voter registration drive must be turned into the parish registrar of voters’ office within 30 days. Violators of this provision shall be fined not more than $2,000 or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.
For additional information, contact our office at 225.342.4479 or your parish registrar of voters.