

Polling Place Finder Activity & Voter Registration



Kids Voting Shakopee strives to provide an authentic voting experience for all students in grades 3-12. As part of preparing students for that authentic voting experience, Kids Voting asks that students learn to identify their home polling place, complete a Voter Registration Card and learn about the voter registration process. Learning to use available resources to determine how to register and where to vote is a skill students will use over and over in their lifetime.

Minnesota election laws require adults to register before they vote. Registration can be done online, by mail or at the polling place on Election Day. You must re-register each time you change address, change names or do not vote at least once during a four year period. You can also register to vote by checking a box on your driver's license application or renewal form. More information about registration eligibility and instructions may be found on the Secretary of State's website:

www.mnvotes.org

Teachers or Media Specialists should instruct students about the voter registration process, help them identify the location of their home polling place and complete a Voter Registration Card.

Identifying the Student's Home Polling Place

To accurately determine their home polling place, students will need to have access to the internet, as well as know their home zip code and address.

Screen shots of the following steps are provided on the school server (Shakopee Schools: Q Drive: District Services/Teaching and Learning/Curriculum/Kids Voting/Polling Place Finder Activity & Voter Registration; for SACS, check with the Kids Voting Lead Teacher)

1. To find your polling place, visit www.mnvotes.org
2. Enter your zip code
3. Enter your house number, then select your street
4. The Polling Place Finder gives you the address of your polling place, the date of the next election and the government jurisdictions for your address
5. To view a map to your polling place, click on the link: "Click Here for Maps to Polling Place"
6. Students can find a list of the candidates on their ballot by clicking on "My Ballot."

Completing the Kids Voting Voter Registration Card

1. Give each student a red Voter Registration Card and ask them to fill in their grade, school and full name.
2. Ask them to complete the information on the Voter Registration Card (grade, school, name, polling place and polling place address).
3. When students are finished collect the cards. You will return them the day before Election Day.
4. At the time the cards are returned, encourage students to bring their card with them when they vote. Kids Voting election volunteers will ask students for their registration card when they come to cast their ballot. If they forget their card, students will still be allowed to vote.

Classroom Activities to Reinforce the Voter Registration Process

Consider using the following grade level appropriate KVUSA Classroom Activity to reinforce the voter registration process. Copies of these activities can be found on the school server.

- Grades 3-5; Theme - Elections and Voting, Activity: [The Name Game](#)
- Grades 6-8; Theme - Elections and Voting, Activity: [Registration Simulation](#)
- Grades 9-12; Theme - Elections and The Voting Experience, Activity: [Registration Simulation](#)