

OREGON STUDENT MOCK ELECTION (OSME) LESSON PLAN FOR EDUCATORS

League of Women Voters of Oregon MockElection@lwvor.org

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) offers students as realistic a voting experience as possible. In each Oregon election, voters will decide the candidates who will represent us and local, county, and state ballot measures. For each election, this lesson plan will be updated with specific ballot information. To accommodate school and student scheduling needs, educators will be able to use a voting window of about 2 weeks.

General Lesson Information

Lesson Goal: Students will become aware of voting as a civic responsibility and practice voting in a realistic student mock election.

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

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

Materials: PDF version of the Student Mock Election ballot will be provided for you to print – one per student.

NOTE: The ballots will include active hyperlinks to the ballot measures and voter guides.

Optional: A box to use as a “secure” ballot drop box; One letter-sized envelope for each voting student; Internet access for students to do research on the ballot measures.

Structure/Activities: Students should research the ballot measures before voting. To prepare for voting, students might do their own research and 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. For more ideas, see our free, ready to use, [Civics Education curriculum](#).

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 of 1965](#), the [history of voting in the United States](#), the [different possible electoral systems](#), or [a comparison of voting systems around the world](#). More currently, you might find your students are interested in learning more about [abolishing the Electoral College](#), [open primaries in Oregon](#), [campaign finance reform](#), [gerrymandering](#), or [redistricting maps](#).

Assessment: Voting in the mock election should be the culminating activity for this lesson. Lesson activities can be used as formal or informal assessments. After the mock election results are in, LWVPDX will present the results to the public and to registered educators to share with their students.

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Here are some instructions and suggestions as to how you can prepare your students to be educated voters:

1. Plan to use whichever parts of this lesson plan that work for you.
2. Decide how much time you will spend with your students on the voting experience.
3. Plan to have students research the candidates and ballot measures to ensure informed decisions about how to vote. (See our [Civics Education curriculum](#) for ideas on how to assist students in this part of their education.)
4. Print one 2-sided ballot for each student. If printing costs or a virtual classroom require using a GoogleForm to vote, please let us know and we will provide one. Be sure to emphasize to your students that actual Oregon elections are not held electronically for reasons of election integrity. [NOTE: For your convenience, the PDF ballots include active hyperlinks to the actual measures.]
5. Make sure students know the consequences for a yes or no vote on ballot measure(s). Complete ballot measure information will be available on Vote411.org after the current information has been uploaded. [NOTE: A simple Google search of the measures will offer many sources of information. Remind students that there is a difference between opinion and fact. Voter information reliability cannot necessarily be determined by tabulating the number of sources or opinions on each side of a proposition. There are often valid opposing arguments for issues, or for and against a candidate. Students should assess the logical and persuasive weight of each pro and con argument for candidates and measures. Students should always consider the source and recognize the difference between opinion and fact.]
6. Voting should take place during a 2-week period. Make sure students have an opportunity to read both sides of the ballot before voting. The second page explains the mechanics of voting and the ballot.
7. Make sure students understand how to mark their ballots correctly. They should use only blue or black ink – no markers or pencil.
8. Remind students that their vote is private and that 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 voted once.
10. Collect students' ballots. Optional: The actual voting experience includes mailing completed ballots to elections offices or delivering to secure drop boxes. Using a school ballot drop box is a good way to collect student ballots. You might use a simple box with a slot in the lid into which they can put the signed and sealed "privacy envelope."

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11. Open and count students' votes. Optional: Encourage students to help tabulate and report the votes, and act as "poll watchers" to witness opening of the envelopes and verify tabulation for election security.

12. GoogleForms will be provided to submit your students' voting results. We will collect and organize the data so it can be reported back to the educators, schools, and to the media.

13. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENTS HAVE VOTED ONLY ONCE. We are relying on you to ensure voting is valid. If other teachers in your school are participating, please coordinate with them to make sure student votes are not duplicated.

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

The links provided throughout this lesson plan are just a few of many you might use to research candidate positions and ballot measure information. We selected these because they offer nonpartisan views and links to the candidates' campaign websites.

NOTES:

- This lesson is appropriate for students from grades 6 through 12. Younger students will gain an interest in the act of voting and may become a source of information for voting family members.
- Anyone with an Oregon driver's license or ID (16 years minimum) is automatically pre-registered to vote. Students who are going to be 18 on or before Election Day are automatically qualified to vote.
- Eligible voters over the age of 18 can easily check their voter registration status on Vote411.org or the [Oregon Secretary of State MyVote website](#). The last day to register or update your registration to vote is 21 days before the election.
- Younger registered voters (ages 16 to 18) can check their pre-registration status with their local county elections office by phone or in person.
- Not all municipalities within the state have elections on this date. Please contact your local elections official for more information on elections happening in your area.

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This is how the 2-sided ballot looked for OSME 2022:

This is a Student Mock Election Ballot, to be used for educational purposes only.

LWVOR STUDENT MOCK ELECTION BALLOT
OREGON – OCTOBER 18, 2022

Instructions To Voter
Use A Pen (Blue or Black or Ink)

To ensure your vote counts, completely fill in the oval ☐ to the left of the response of your choice.

To add a candidate who is not on the ballot, fill in the oval to the left of the line above "OR Write-In on line above" and write the candidate name on the line.

Attention
Remember to inspect your ballot for mistakes! If you make a mistake or damage your ballot, call your County Elections Office to ask for assistance.

Check for Errors
If you vote for more options than allowed, your vote will not count for that candidate or measure.

National

US Senator
Vote for One

☐ **Jo Rae Perkins**
Republican

☐ **Dan Pulju**
Pacific Green

☐ **Ron Wyden**
Democrat/Independent

☐ **Chris Henry**
Progressive

State

Governor
Vote for One

☐ **Tina Kotek**
Democrat/Working Families

☐ **Donice Noelle Smith**
Constitution

☐ **R. Leon Noble**
Libertarian

☐ **Betsy Johnson**
Nonaffiliated

☐ **Christine Drazan**
Republican

Oregon Measure 114
Enacts a law outlining a procedure to apply for permit-to-purchase a firearm and prohibits ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds.

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

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Facts to Know about Voting and Elections

Who can register to vote in Oregon?

- You must be a United States citizen,
- A resident of Oregon,
- And at least 16 years old. You will get your first ballot in the mail once you are at least 18 years old.

You must register to vote at least 21 days before Election Day.

How can I register to vote?

- Online at [Oregonvotes.gov/register](https://oregonvotes.gov/register) or
- On a paper Oregon Voter Registration Card that can be picked up at an elections office, public library, or post office.

How does vote by mail work?

All elections in Oregon are conducted by the county elections office. The elections office mails ballots directly to voters. Voters complete their ballots, and then return them to the county elections office in the mail or by putting them into an official drop box.

Vote by mail in a few simple steps:

- 1) Register to Vote
- 2) Receive a Voter Notification Card
- 3) Receive a Voters' Pamphlet
- 4) Receive Your Ballot
- 5) Vote Your Ballot
- 6) Return Your Ballot

How do I vote my ballot?

Vote for One

☒ Candidate 1

☐ Candidate 2

☐ OR Write-in on line above

Find the candidate or measure response (YES or NO) of your choice. Completely darken the oval to the left of your choice with blue or black ink.

*** Do not use felt tip markers.

- Make sure you have correctly marked your choice for each contest.
- Your official ballot may have contests printed on both sides.
- Place the ballot in the return identification envelope. **You may use the optional secrecy sleeve.
- Read the Voter's Statement on the return envelope and sign on the signature line.
- Your ballot cannot be counted if you do not sign the return envelope.
- Every signature is checked against the registration signature on file. The signatures must match for the ballot to be counted.

If you vote for more candidates than allowed for an office or if you vote both Yes and No on a measure, it is called an overvote and your vote will not count for that contest.

If you make a mistake or change your mind while marking your ballot,

- You may correct it yourself. See example below.
- Make your choice obvious so that your intent is understood and your vote is counted correctly.

☒ Yes

☐ No This one

☐ Yes

☒ No

☒ Yes

☐ No Not this

☐ Yes

☒ No

- If you are unable to correct your ballot, you may request a replacement ballot from the elections office.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OREGON

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 102-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

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