

How to Encourage Student Voting: Faculty Options

Emory Votes Initiative | Fall 2020

If you have 10 minutes in class

- Before class starts, display the EVI [webpage](#) or TurboVote [video still](#) on your screen.
- During class, keeping it nonpartisan, express the importance of students' making their generation's voice heard through voting.
- Give one reason voting is relevant to this class or subject. For ideas, see the table and guide in EVI's [Faculty Toolkit](#) tying policy issues to academic disciplines.
- Together, **watch EVI's five-minute tutorial [video](#) about signing up for TurboVote.**
- Direct all students in your class who are eligible to vote to emory.turbovote.org to sign up and register to vote on their own time. Consider offering extra credit as an incentive, with an alternative for those not eligible.

If you have 15–20 minutes

- All of the above, *plus* . . .
- Allow time for students to **[sign up for TurboVote during class.](#)**
- For guidance, see TurboVote Signup Tips in [EVI's Faculty Toolkit](#). It includes details on what to expect, addresses, who can register or reregister where, and other FAQ.
- See ways to get involved in civic life beyond voting—by participating in civic life on campus and volunteering around elections, in the Opportunities for Engagement in [EVI's Faculty Toolkit](#). Most work for nonvoters as well as voters.

If you have 30 minutes or more

- All the above, *plus* . . .
- Choose from the ideas below.

In class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced discussion of why voting matters.• Discuss in more depth why elections matter for course topics. For ideas, see Reasons to Vote: Issues and Resources by Field in the Faculty Toolkit.• Invite a relevant guest speaker from, e.g., the CDC, a chamber of commerce, a union, the state legislature, a nonprofit such as CARE, or the Task Force for Global Health.• Show that voting can be festive. Suggest posting selfies as they vote or receive or return paperwork (without displaying a voted ballot), tagging friends and using the hashtag #emoryvotes.• Discuss the funding source of assigned reading material.• Not all politics is national. Discuss the role of local and state officials. Differentiate primary elections, general elections, and runoff elections.
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Syllabus/ assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List important dates on Canvas (National Voter Registration Day 9/22, Georgia voter registration deadline 10/4, Georgia early voting 10/12+, National Vote Early Day 10/24, general election and Georgia absentee ballots due 11/3) • Give extra credit for signing up with TurboVote and other milestones. Examples: If you are eligible to vote: Register to vote or confirm that you are registered at emory.turbovote.org. Take a screenshot of the text or email they send you. Attach that as your submission. / If you are not eligible to vote: Talk to three fellow students about TurboVote. Name them here. / If you grew up in another country: In three sentences describe what voting is like there. • Incorporate registering or voting as service learning and reflections • Assign a final project to design a civics-based syllabus. Example: Final assignment is to write a civics syllabus of roughly five pages reflecting what you think high school students and/or college freshmen ought to know about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic community. The syllabus should explain the significance and objectives of the syllabus, identify 10 weekly topics, provide and briefly justify two reading assignments (articles or book chapters) for each topic, and suggest 2–3 discussion questions for each week.
Extracurricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can create an EVI flyer to be shared on social media, posted on bulletin boards, and distributed by RAs

Follow up!

Registering is only the beginning. Students can't vote if they get stuck partway down the path. It will boost voter turnout when you **check in a few times in September and October**.

- Did you finish registering? Have you double-checked your status?
- Have you requested your absentee ballot? Has it arrived? Have you returned it in time for your state's deadline, allowing for slow mail?
- Do you need help locating a stamp, or early voting details, or your polling place?

Colleagues

Finally, please **encourage your colleagues to do the same** in their classrooms. Make an announcement in a faculty meeting or send a letter to all faculty explaining EVI and TurboVote. Together we can build a lasting culture of civic engagement across the Emory campus.

#emoryvotes