

# CIVIC ED. IN THE NEWS

Sixty-three percent of 18- to 29-year-olds plan to vote this year, according to **Harvard Youth Poll**. While this number is larger than in previous cycles, young voters still need support getting to the polls. **CDF-TX's** September newsletter provided resources for youth voter & civic education.

The **Texas Secretary of State** announced that 16.9 million Texans are registered to vote - 1.8 million more than in the last general election. Voter registration slowed down when COVID-19 hit Texas, exacerbated by the lack of an option to register online, but creative registration efforts contributed to the growth. A new University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll finds that 63 percent of likely Texas voters support online voter registration.

A bipartisan federal bill proposes \$1 billion in federal funding for civic and history education. The "Educating for Democracy Act" would allow the Secretary of Education to give grants to states, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education to support elementary and secondary school civics. Priority would be given to programs serving marginalized students and communities.

A federal judge ruled against Rhode Island students in a landmark lawsuit that asked the court to recognize a constitutional right to civics education. While the judge dismissed the lawsuit, he noted the "cry for help from a generation of young people who are destined to inherit a country which we — the generation currently in charge — are not stewarding well." Students plan to appeal the case.



## TX CIVIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2020

Welcome to the October edition of the Children's Defense Fund's civic education newsletter! As early voting kicks off in Texas, tune into this month's announcements.

- 1. October 13th** marked the first day of Early Voting in Texas! The Texas Secretary of State has compiled an official list of early polling sites, including hours of operation. **Find your nearest polling site here.**
- 2.** Make a voting plan with **CDF-TX!** Check out our guide at [https://bit.ly/YourPlanToVote\\_CDFTX](https://bit.ly/YourPlanToVote_CDFTX).
- 3.** Use the **League of Women Voters' Vote411.org** to compare candidates and get ready to vote, or check out their free, in-depth voter guides for the **Austin, Houston, DFW,** and **San Antonio** metropolitan areas (available in multiple languages). The nonpartisan **El Paso Matters** has also created a **local voter guide** for the El Paso-metro. Remember to print your sample ballot or write down your choices - you won't be able to use your phone at the polls.
- 4.** **CDF-TX** and **Young Invincibles** are hosting an Advocacy 101 Training on **October 20th & 21st!** Young Texans can **register here** to learn more about speaking up and creating change.

Click [here](#) to add someone to or unsubscribe from our mailing list. Want to see your announcement in next month's newsletter? Contact **Maggie Stern** at [mstern@childrensdefense.org](mailto:mstern@childrensdefense.org).

# LEADING THROUGH A CRISIS

We continue highlighting young people across the world who are doing well beyond their part to cultivate hope and solidarity.

## McAllen, Texas

Young people across the **Rio Grande Valley** have been leading organizing efforts. The **RGV Free Fridge in McAllen Food Park** was the product of two college activists at UTRGV who sought to get food to anyone and everyone in need, free of charge. Though the project was (controversially) ended by the City of McAllen, other projects like the **RGV Mutual Aid Fund are still operational**, and signify the growing voice of the valley's youth.

## Bemidji, Minnesota

**Ojibwe youth organizers celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day** with an event urging young Native Americans to embrace their heritage and work to create change. **7th Generation** is an organization founded on the principle that today's leaders must act on behalf of seven generations in the future.

## U.S.

**Student journalists are breaking stories** in college newspapers across the country, ensuring that their peers and communities stay informed even as local newspapers struggle during the pandemic. Youth reporting - often focused on COVID-19 cases and consequences - has been credited in professional outlets while online readership is skyrocketing.