

# CIVIC ED. IN THE NEWS

As of October 30th, **US Election Project** reports that over 85 million voters have already cast their ballots, shattering the 2016 election cycle's early voting total. Young voters have been leading the way, with 7 million voters under the age of 30 casting a ballot in-person or absentee so far, according to **CIRCLE**.

Despite being named the most difficult state in which to vote, Texas has thus far led the nation in voter turnout, with a record-breaking 9 million Texans -- and over 1 million Texans below the age of 30 -- voting by the end of the early voting period. The **Texas Tribune** is tracking Texas turnout numbers statewide and by county.

Government and civics teachers around the country "are feeling way more vulnerable and way more under attack this election season than ever before," says the chief education officer for iCivics. As bipartisan support for civic education rises, **CDF-Texas** invites educators to use the September 2020 #DIYDemocracy guide to help plan lessons and encourage civic participation.

The School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at **Arizona State University** has released an app designed to bring "comprehensive civic education resources" to the hands of young people on campus and beyond. The app, named **CivEd**, is available for free on the Apple and Google Play stores. The app includes study guides, flashcards, and a virtual guide to the Civic Classics Collection.



## TX CIVIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

NOV. 2020

Tomorrow, November 3rd, is Election Day – the last day that registered voters can cast their ballots. As local election officials across the country do their jobs to ensure that every eligible vote is counted accurately in the days and weeks following, CDF-Texas reminds you to share verified and accurate information with your networks. Read on for more resources and stories of young people leading their communities.

- 1. Haven't voted yet?** Use our guide to make your voting plan, research what's on your ballot, and head to your polling place to join the record-breaking number of Texans who are making their voices heard. Remember to call 866-OUR-VOTE for any help.
- 2. Already voted?** Check in with your friends to help them get to the polls, head to a nearby polling place to distribute water or snacks to any voters in line, and remind your networks that it will take time to count every vote, just as it always has.
- 3. COVID-19** has exacerbated many of the stresses that often accompany an election cycle. **Remember to give yourself time to breathe, process, check in with your friends, and take care of yourself too!**

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.

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## California

In cities including **Berkeley, Oakland, and Culver City**, young people are pushing their local and state governments to **lower the voting age.**

**Valentine Barrett** of Oakland is one of many youth activists who argue that 16- and 17-year-olds should be able to vote in primaries and local elections, commenting that, "Providing a taste of civic engagement to teens before they have access to larger elections...would give them a hands-on lesson on the voting process."

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## United States

Youth across the country heard the call for younger poll workers this election cycle, and stepped up to the plate. **Vogue** has profiled eight young women who are **first-time poll workers** to hear what motivated them to sign up - from college courses to organizing work to wanting to protect older poll workers from COVID-19.

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## Guilin, China

The conversation surrounding youth climate activism often highlights white, Western activists at the expense of organizers of color around the world. In Guilin, China, **Howey Ou is leading school strikes for climate.** Inspired by Greta Thunberg, the 17-year-old has been organizing for two years to demand that the Chinese government prioritize the climate.