



Building Lifelong Civic Engagement

The California State PTA champions informed participation in democracy

As a nonpartisan organization, we neither endorse nor oppose candidates or political parties. Instead, we focus on the fundamental right to vote and encourage informed participation in democracy. We recognize that civic engagement and voting directly impacts the health, welfare, and education of all children, youth, and families.

TODAY: Family Activities That Build Civic Awareness

Lead by example: Demonstrate the importance of voting and civic participation.

- Attend community meetings together – City council, school board, or neighborhood association meetings show democracy in action
- Discuss local issues at home – Talk about how community decisions affect your family's daily life
- Volunteer together for community causes – Food drives, park cleanups, or local campaigns teach civic responsibility
- Make voting a family event – Bring children to polling places and explain the voting process

Get Started: Visit capta.org for family engagement resources.

TOMORROW: High School Student Civic Engagement

Research shows that voting habits established in adolescence often persist for a lifetime.

- Take leadership roles in PTAs – Promote civic participation among peers and younger students
- Participate in California's Student Mock Elections – Practice civic engagement
- Plan for High School Voter Education Weeks – Mark your calendars for September 15–26, 2025 & April 20–May 1, 2026
- Pre-register to vote at age 16 – Visit registertovote.ca.gov to secure your place in democracy
- Apply to be a Student Poll Worker – Gain real election experience while earning community service hours

Take Action: Find student civic engagement toolkits and applications at sos.ca.gov and The Civics Center.

TOGETHER: PTA Action Steps for Civic Engagement

We can be and build a generation of engaged citizens who understand their power to create positive change in their communities.

Year-Round Voter Registration

- Host voter registration drives – Set up booths at school events, parent nights, and community gatherings
- Plan a National Voter Registration Day event on September 16, 2025
- Partner with county elections officials – Bring professional registration support directly to your campus
- Remind families about registration maintenance – Help members update registrations after moves or name changes at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

Community Engagement

- Promote participation – Organize group attendance at school board and city council meetings
- Encourage informed participation – Share nonpartisan voter guides and issue information
- Host candidate forums – Provide neutral platforms for candidates to share their positions
- Create civic engagement committees – Establish ongoing PTA leadership for these initiatives

Get Resources: Visit capta.org for PTA-specific guidance on elections, candidate forum planning, ballot issues, current legislation and partnership contacts.

More Info



capta.org