



State of Vermont

Office of the Secretary of State

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James C. Condos, Secretary of State

Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary

September 6, 2016

Contact: Liz Ryder, 802-828-2148

Dear School Administrator,

I would like to encourage students, teachers, and parents within your school to participate in the **2016 National Student/Parent Mock Election**. Through participation in the mock election, students will learn the duties of citizenship, the importance of democratic participation, and develop an understanding of the electoral process.

The National Student/Parent Mock Election is one of the nation's oldest and largest civic education projects. This non-partisan nonprofit works to expose students, teachers, and parents to the democratic process and teach them the importance of their vote by providing a mock form of democratic participation. This year, the program will make it possible for students to vote electronically on laptops, tablets, and other devices. Teachers will even be able to stream the results in real time with their students.

As Secretary of State, I am committed to teaching students the importance of voting and civic education. I have spent the last six years visiting schools throughout Vermont and am inspired by our students' engagement and intelligence. I encourage all Vermont schools to participate in the 2016 National Mock Election.

To find out more information about the 2016 National Student/Parent Mock Election please visit: <http://nationalmockelection.org/>

If your school wishes to participate, please fill out the attached form and return it to nspme@aol.com. Someone will be in touch with more information and curriculum materials to get you started.

I appreciate your help in getting students involved in the democratic process. Participation in the national mock election is a wonderful way to build lifelong civic engagement within Vermont students and inspire them to exercise their right to vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Condos".

Jim Condos
Vermont Secretary of State