



## #BeOurVotePgh

### What is #BeOurVotePgh?

#BeOurVotePgh is a nonpartisan civic engagement initiative that educates Pittsburgh-area high school students about the importance of voting. The name “BeOurVote” was chosen because most of the participating students are not old enough to vote, so they are asking those who are to vote on their behalf.

### #BeOurVotePgh has four main components:

- *Voter Registration.* Students are trained how to register citizens to vote and are encouraged to register seniors in their respective high schools who will be old enough to vote prior to the November election. Students are also sent into the community to register adults in public venues, such as Cupples Stadium during high school football games.
- *Mock Election.* Students participate in a citywide mock election on the Friday prior to Election Tuesday. Totals are tallied and provided to social studies teachers as educational tools.
- *Curriculum.* BeOurVote partners work with the schools to make sure that civic engagement curriculum is in place leading up to the election.
- *Video.* We partner with the Mayor’s office and Pittsburgh Public Schools to create a short video on the importance of voting. The video includes a wide range of students from diverse backgrounds across the city and is shown in every social studies classroom to get students excited about the #BeOurVote initiative.

### History

#BeOurVotePgh was launched in 2016 around the Presidential Election. Created by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, original partners included the Pittsburgh Public Schools, the Black Political Empowerment Project, the City of Pittsburgh, and One Tree Media. In our first year we engaged 1,740 students in 13 high schools. Our goal is to reach 5,000 students in 2018.

### Get your high school, school district, or community organization get involved!

We are seeking schools, school districts, and community partners and organizations to help expand the reach of #BeOurVotePgh in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region. For more information, contact Josh Sayles to arrange a meeting, [jsayles@jfedpgh.org](mailto:jsayles@jfedpgh.org) or 412-992-5234.