



2011 Wrap Up Newsletter

December 2011

Kids Voting Buncombe County is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to securing the future of democracy by educating and involving youth in the election process today. Our goal is to educate students in Grades K-12 on the rights and responsibilities of voting to stimulate the critical thinking skills necessary for making informed decisions as voters.



We Voted! Did You?

YWCA After-School Program students Olivia, Trevion and Tristan on Election Day

Dear Kids Voting Supporter,

Voting empowers even the youngest citizens! It just takes one look at these proud faces to understand the mission of Kids Voting Buncombe County.

Providing meaningful civics education is the responsibility of all adults. Kids Voting BC provides the resources but it is the inspired

work of many individuals using these resources that accomplishes the mission of educating today's students to become informed, engaged citizens.

As 2011 comes to a close, Kids Voting BC concludes our 12th year of service to the students of Buncombe County. In addition to our core activities of facilitating the use of our Civics Alive! Curriculum and offering a "real life" voting experience, our focus this year has been on adapting our curricular activities for after-school programs, enhancing family resources and providing high school students with a "behind the scenes" look at the election process.

Our partnerships with the two local public school systems, area private schools, the Board of Elections, dedicated teachers, program providers, community organizations and families are invaluable.

These collaborations enable us to

accomplish our goals and we are greatly indebted to them.

2012: The year of Active Citizenship: We'd like to take this opportunity to issue a call to action. In this Presidential election year we will need volunteers to captain and staff 80+ polling locations on Kids Voting Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

Kids Voting needs your vote of support to accomplish our planned enhanced activities to take advantage of the increased civic interest during the Presidential campaign year.

We trust that you will support our mission generously with your time and resources.

Look at the picture again, it's very rewarding work.

Happy Holidays!

Trena Parker, Chair & the KVBC Board of Directors

THE 2011 VOTE:

Kids Voting provided a "real life" voting opportunity to Buncombe County students with paper ballots at Kids Voting booths during the Early Voting period at all Early Voting locations culminating on Kids Voting Day, November 5. Additionally, on-line and paper ballots were available from Oct. 21 through Nov. 8 for use in schools, after-school programs and homes. Many teachers provided an in-school voting opportunity for their students.

Student votes cast were a 14% increase over the comparable 2007 Election participation. Public/charter school students comprised 87% of voters, private/parochial students 11% and home school students 4%. Of the students reporting 34% were in Elementary School; 53% were in Middle School; and 13% were in High School.

Of those responding: 80% of student voters discussed the election in class, 31% discussed the election with their families and 20% discussed the election with their friends.

Complete results are available at kidsvotingbc.org



YWCA After-School Program students voting on Election Day.

Election 2012: Cast your ballot for Kids Voting BC

Our work for the 2012 Presidential Election has begun. Kids Voting BC anticipates providing our "real life" voting experience on Election Day, November 6, 2012, in all 80+ Buncombe County precincts. Our

volunteer recruitment efforts will be substantial and we will need the Buncombe County community's help.

Please contact us if you, your family or a

group you represent would like to help provide this important civic experience for our students. We have speakers ready to discuss this community service opportunity with you and your organization.

We ask that you cast your ballot for Kids Voting Buncombe County in deed and dollars by using the enclosed envelope or visiting kidsvotingbc.org.

KVBC High School Forum produces Informed Citizens



Some of Buncombe County's most election - informed citizens are ineligible to vote. They're not old enough yet.

On Thursday, September 29, area students, teachers and administrators attended the Kids Voting 2011 High School Forum hosted by the Buncombe County Board of Elections. Both Buncombe County public school systems were well represented.

Groups from area high schools participated in interactive discussions with Board of Elections' personnel on the nuts and bolts of the election process from the perspective of candidate, voter and election official. Attendees learned how students can participate even if they are under voting age.

Participants were trained to conduct New Voter Registration drives at their schools and learned about the opportunity to become paid poll workers for the 2012 Presidential Election.

Students were told of volunteer opportunities with Kids Voting Buncombe County for the upcoming Municipal Election and on Kids Voting Day.

Participants also learned about the referendum process and heard guest speakers Dr. Dennis King from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community

College and Robert Malt from S.T.O.P. (Sales Tax Opposition Partnership) discuss the pros and cons of the upcoming 2011 ballot's County Sales and Use Tax Referendum. The debate about the proposed referendum was lively and provided the attendees with a good example of polite discourse. Students followed up with many thoughtful questions.

This was a great opportunity for students to network with other area students as well as gain valuable volunteer experience and community service credit.

Why Vote for Kids Voting?

The Kids Voting program is important because it creates an informed electorate and develops lifetime citizenship and voting habits in youth.

Kids Voting Buncombe County partners with schools, youth organizations, after-school programs, parents, community members and election officials to offer students a wide range of opportunities for civic learning:

- **A K-12 Civics Curriculum** that introduces students to the concepts of citizenship in the earliest grades and continues throughout their school years. This ongoing education develops skills and habits for living in a democracy.
- **Civics activities** that are tools to help teachers meet the standards outlined in the North Carolina curriculum standard and can be fully integrated into the current classroom curriculum.
- After preparation students take part in a **voting experience** in school, on-line and in designated adult polling places using a ballot adapted from the adult ballot with the same candidates and issues This practice voting reinforces the knowledge and skills gained through Kids Voting classroom activities.
- Kids Voting offers a community service opportunity for High School Students. As part of our **KV High School Forum**, students raise election awareness, facilitate in-school voting, promote voter registration to students turning 18, encourage participation in the KV election and advise Kids Voting-Buncombe County on student issues. They are trained as KV precinct captains and volunteers and can earn community service credit.

Our resources are available to all public and private school teachers, after school programs and home school families throughout Buncombe County for students in grades K-12. This combination of classroom instruction, a practice voting experience and family dialogue makes Kids Voting a powerful strategy for achieving long-term voting behavior.

Kids Voting North Buncombe County
Website: www.kidsvotingbc.org
Email: info@kidsvotingbc.org

35 Woodfin Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801
Phone: 828-775-5673
Fax: 828-654-0704

Contact Person:
Kathi Ballard, Director