

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

The Kids Voting program:

Kids Voting Buncombe County partners with schools and elections officials to offer students a wide range of opportunities for civic learning. The program is unique because it combines learn-by-doing classroom activities with an authentic voting experience that reflects the adult process.

- creates an informed electorate
- develops lifetime citizenship and voting habits in youth
- increases adult voter turnout in KVUSA communities between 3% and 5%

Kids Voting classroom civics activities introduce students to the concepts of citizenship in the earliest grades and continue throughout their school years. This ongoing education develops skills and habits for living in a democracy. Kids Voting classroom materials are not an "add-on" to an already full teaching schedule. These activities are tools to help teachers meet the standards outlined in the North Carolina curriculum standard.

After classroom preparation, students take part in a voting experience using a ballot that mirrors that of the adults with the same candidates and issues. This "real life" practice dispels the mysteries of the voting process and reinforces the knowledge and skills gained through Kids Voting classroom activities.

The combination of classroom instruction, family dialogue and an authentic voting experience makes Kids Voting a powerful strategy for achieving long-term change in voting behavior.

Does the kid vote count?

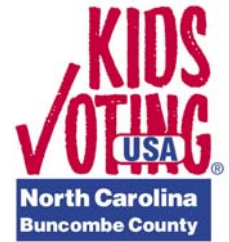
Not in deciding who wins the election, but we do tabulate Kids Voting results. Sometimes the results reflect the adult vote, and sometimes they are very different. Log on to www.kidsvotingbc.org to see how the kids voted.

What does Kids Voting do the rest of the year?

The Kids Voting curriculum is used year-round in the schools. We also sponsor civic awareness events, leadership skills training for teens, voter registration drives at the high schools, as well as Kids Voting fundraising events.

Get Involved

Please encourage your child to participate in the excellent hands-on educational opportunity of going to the real polls to vote on real people on November 3, 2009. At the polling place, there will be a Kids Voting area where students may cast their own ballots in this year's election. Elementary and Middle School students should be accompanied to the polls by an adult, high school students are welcome unaccompanied. On Tuesday, November 3, both Kids Voting and adult polls will be open from 6:30am–7:30pm. Early voting will also be available to students at the following early voting sites:



Board of Elections Office

8am - 6pm, Weekdays, starting October 15, 2009

10am - 6pm, Saturday October 24, 2009

8am - 1pm, ending Saturday, October 31, 2009

Remote Locations

North Asheville Branch Library

South Buncombe Branch Library

Parks & Recreation Building, 70 Gashes Creek Rd.

West Asheville Branch Library

10am - 6pm starting Saturday, October 24 – 30, 2009

8am -1pm ending Saturday, October 31, 2009

Kids Voting volunteers help students vote on Election Day at the Kids Voting Booths using paper Kids Voting Ballots. You are welcome to help! If interested please contact us at:

Kids Voting Buncombe County

828-775-5673

www.kidsvotingbc.org

info@kidsvotingbc.org

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