

WHAT IS SVRD?

Student Voter Registration Day is a nonpartisan initiative to increase youth voter registration, and it has an accompanying curriculum taught in schools and/or youth programs.

WHO WE ARE

Originally piloted in 2015 under the vision of Council Member Helen Rosenthal, SVRD 2016 is managed by NYC Votes, a program of the Campaign Finance Board, a NYC government agency. NYC Votes promotes civic engagement through community outreach, voter registration, engagement programs, and educational resources.

2016 SVRD is made possible by the NYC City Council, the Department of Education, the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), and countless community groups across NYC.

WHY IS SVRD IMPORTANT?

NYS ranks 46th in voter participation nationwide. Youth voting turnout is incredibly low across the United States, with less than 20% of youth voters going to the polls for the 2014 midterm elections. SVRD is a program intended not just to register new youth voters, but to help them become civic participants who are involved in their communities. SVRD hopes to encourage young voters to educate themselves about the issues and get involved in the ones that matter to them, both in their communities and on the ballot.

HOW WILL SVRD WORK?

The NYC Council Members have suggested schools in their districts to host SVRD, along with community-based organizations (CBOs) that can help each school in its hosting duties. NYC Votes and NYIC will select and vet CBOs who fit the needs of each school and train them to be ready to help each school hold a successful SVRD. The CBOs will be responsible for decorating the auditorium you provide for us, and helping the students register to vote if they are eligible. The CBOs will also facilitate the people speaking and aid in any audiovisual components for the day.

We will invite one or two guest speakers, a New York City Councilmember or one of our Youth Poet Laureate Ambassadors. We would love to hear some words from your principal (or a relevant teacher) and/or a student involved in student government.

OUTCOMES OF SVRD

We hope that each student will come away from SVRD having registered to vote (if eligible) and become part of building a culture of voting and civic engagement in NYC. For more information, contact NYC Votes at 212-409-1736.

