

KATE BROWN  
SECRETARY OF STATE

ROBERT TAYLOR  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



SECRETARY OF STATE  
136 STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722  
PHONE 503-986-1523

Tuesday, September 09, 2014

Dear Educators,

As your Secretary of State and chief elections officer, I strongly encourage you and your students to participate in League of Women Voters' annual Mock Election, October 27-31.

The Mock Election is a non-partisan, education program that teaches students to share their perspectives and listen to others respectfully, as well as make informed decisions about issues that will affect the entire state. This year, the Oregon Mock Election ballot will include the election of all U.S. Representatives for Oregon's five districts, the U.S. Senator's race, and the Governor's race. Official state ballot measures will be included as well. So that students may cast an informed ballot, teachers are encouraged to lead students in a discussion that critically considers a variety of opinions about the civics choices that adults face.

In 2012, nearly 50,000 Oregon students participated in the Mock Election. By participating, your students will learn critical reading and decision-making skills. As well, schools that participate in the Mock Election will be able to fulfill the requirements of ORS 329.049, which requires K-12 schools to comply with the Secretary of State's office in making materials relating to voting and voter registration readily available to students.

My hope is that every Oregon student will graduate from high school ready to fully engage with their community and with a passion to do just that. To learn more, please visit the Mock Election website at [www.voteoregon.org](http://www.voteoregon.org).

Thank you for all of the work you do to teach our children the importance of civic engagement. Democracy isn't simply inherited—each new generation must learn and exercise their civic rights and responsibilities. It is our job to teach today's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Brown", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kate Brown  
Oregon Secretary of State