

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO 33

Introduced by Senator Benjamin Allen

October 1, 2025

An act to increase voter pre-registration and civic participation among students in public schools and universities in California

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 33, as introduced, Allen. (Co-sponsored by Senators Blakespear, Richardson, Weiner, McGuire, Menjivar, Sasha Pérez, Padilla) Student Voter Empowerment Act.

Existing law allows 16 and 17 year olds in California to pre-register to vote, and requires the Secretary of State to oversee student voter registration efforts.

This bill requires all California public high schools to give 16 and 17 year old students the chance to pre-register to vote during the school's annual enrollment. It also states that the California State University system shall host at least one nonpartisan Student Voting day, and requests the University of California system to do the same.

Under this bill, school districts and universities have the ability to implement nonpartisan organizations and partnerships in civic duties. It requires that civic education programs also be held during these Student Voting Days.

Vote: Majority Appropriation: No Fiscal Committee: No Local Program: Yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Student Voter Empowerment Act.

**SEC. 2.** High School Pre-Registration

(a) All California public high schools shall provide voter pre-registration forms to students aged 16 and 17 during annual student enrollment.

(b) Participation shall be voluntary and nonpartisan.

(c) Local school districts shall be flexible to determine what is the best way to distribute and collect the forms.

(d) Schools may use existing staff to implement this requirement or may partner with county election officials or nonpartisan civic organizations.

**SEC. 3.** Student Voting in Higher Education

- (a) Each California State University campus shall host a Student Voting Day once each semester.
- (b) The University of California is requested to adopt the same policy.
- (c) Community colleges are encouraged to host Student Voting Days in partnership with county election officials.
- (d) Student Voting Day activities shall include:
  - (1) Opportunities for students to register and pre-register to vote.
  - (2) Nonpartisan civic education programming on elections and government.
  - (3) Give out non-artisan voter materials, which are reviewed and provided by election officials representing both major political parties.
  - (4) Partnerships with nonpartisan community organizations such as registrars of voters or civic groups.

**SEC. 4.** In collaboration with county election officials, the Secretary of State must prioritize voter outreach and assistance to disadvantaged schools and rural communities with historically low voter turnout, ensuring there is equal access to pre-registration and civic education opportunities.

**SEC. 5.** Oversight and privacy

- (a) The Secretary of State shall provide schools and universities with nonpartisan educational materials and voter registration forms.
- (b) Any student information collected under this act shall be used solely for official election purposes and may not be shared with commercial or partisan entities.
- (c) The Secretary of State shall publish an annual public report that includes:
  - (1) The number of students pre-registered statewide.
  - (2) The number of schools and campuses hosting Student Voting Days.
  - (3) Participation data by district and region, including disadvantaged and rural communities.