

News Release

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections
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Kids, Take Your Parents to Vote!

When you go to vote on Election Day, don't be surprised if there is a 10-year-old at the polls contemplating some of the same issues.

The Santa Cruz County Clerk-Elections Department has partnered with the 4th through 8th grade classes at Tierra Pacifica Charter School in Live Oak for the November 6, 2018 General Election to offer kids in grades K – 12 a chance to vote on real issues with real ballots. Tierra Pacifica Charter School Teacher Justin Trinh-Halperin is the coordinator of Kids Vote 2018 and students have been studying the election. The classes have assembled Kids Vote packets for each of the 144 voting precincts in Santa Cruz County and will tally the kids' votes after Election Day.

Young people in Kindergarten through 12th grade will have the opportunity to cast their vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and United States Senator. The candidates' names, party affiliations, and pictures are provided on the ballot to assist in the selection process.

Other issues on the Kids Vote 2018 ballot, which are separated into age-appropriate categories, include 6 of the 11 state propositions on the ballot.

"The goal of the program is to make voting a family experience," County Clerk Gail Pellerin said. "It is also a great way to teach young people about the importance of voting."

Students do not need to register prior to going to the polls to vote. Kids Vote Ballots are now available at the County Clerk/Elections Department and the City Clerks Offices in Santa Cruz, Capitola, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville. Kids Vote ballots will also be at all the Santa Cruz County polling places on Election Day. The students must be accompanied by an adult to vote. The adult who accompanies the child does not have to be a registered voter.

Results of Kids Vote will be posted by Tuesday, November 13 on the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department's website at www.votescount.com and are kept separate from the county's official certified vote totals. For more information, please call the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department at 831-454-2060 or visit our website at www.votescount.com

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