

## **Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) Teach In (60 minutes)**

### **Facilitator Guide**

(Prepared by Community Votes 4/24)

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** This guide provides a template for anyone interested in organizing a GOTV Teach In to help educate fellow New Yorkers about the importance of voting in the upcoming election. There are instructions for delivering the teach-in with access to the internet and without internet access.

#### **SET UP RESOURCES:**

1. PowerPoint Projector OR PowerPoint Slides Handouts
2. Internet Connection
3. Flip Chart Paper, Markers and Post-its
4. Pledge Cards
5. Voter Registration Forms
6. Election FAQs
7. Sign-In Sheets

#### **PREPARATION STEPS:**

1. Refer to [https://ballotpedia.org/Sample\\_Ballot\\_Lookup](https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup) to see if there is a primary election in your catchment area
2. Note which slides to skip if there is no internet access
3. Label three Flip Charts: Why Voting is Important, Why People don't Vote and Important Issues
4. Put these Flip Charts around the Room
5. After a person signs in, give them three post its and five commitment cards.  
Instruct them to use each post it to write:
  - One reason they think voting is important
  - One reason they think people don't vote
  - One issue about City life they care about
6. Have them put their post its on the corresponding flip charts

Below are talking points, suggested time frames and links to use with the PowerPoint slides.

Topic + Time	Points to Cover	Slides and Documents
<p><b>Introduce the Session &amp; Facilitators</b></p> <p>2 minutes</p>	<p><u>Key Points to Cover</u>            Introduce yourself and affiliation and explain the teach-in will focus on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Why voting is important for NYC communities</li> <li>2) How NYC has voted in the past</li> <li>3) The when &amp; where of voting</li> <li>4) What actions to take to get-the-vote-out</li> </ol>	<p><b>SLIDE 1-</b> Teach In</p> <p><b>SLIDE 2</b> Agenda Topics</p>
<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>4 minutes</p>	<p>Ask each person to share their name and the approximate number of people of voting age they know – remind them to think of your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues and the number of contacts in their cell phone</p> <p>If there is a large group – have 3-4 people introduce themselves and then have each group share the total number of potential voters they reach</p> <p>If there is a small group - everyone can introduce themselves to the large group</p> <p>Record the number of contacts on one flip chart and total the number</p> <p><u>Key Point</u></p> <p>Look at how many potential voters people in this room know. That is powerful. Everyone in this room has friends, family, colleagues and neighbors who are eligible to vote. This is significant because voting research shows that a VERY effective way to get someone to vote is to have one-on-one conversations with a trusted person such as everyone in this room.</p> <p>Reminder: If you haven't already, please write your answers to these questions and post them on the flip charts</p> <p>TRANSITION: Now talk briefly about what makes this upcoming election different from other elections</p>	<p><b>SLIDE 3</b> Introduction Questions</p> <p><b>SLIDE 4</b> Activity</p>
<p><b>NY Elections</b></p> <p>1 minute</p>	<p>For this election, we will have (or had) two primaries. One in April to vote on a nominee for President and one in June to vote for candidates for the U.S. Senate &amp; House of Representatives and State Senate and Assembly.</p>	<p><b>SLIDE 5</b> NY Elections</p>

	<p>TRANSITION: Before we talk about the job description for these offices, we are going to review the history of voting.</p>	
<p><b>History of Voting</b></p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>The right to vote did not happen without a fight Show the history of voting video (<a href="#">Rock the Vote</a> - 3 minutes -</p> <p>Share the missing facts</p> <p>If no internet access, show the timeline</p> <p><b>1776</b> –COMMENT - America declares independence and males over 21 who were overwhelming white and Christian. Only 6% of Americans were eligible to vote in for George Washington</p> <p><b>1870</b> – COMMENT- African American men granted right to vote with passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment BUT – Laws passed to enforce racial segregation and to discourage voting by requiring literacy tests and poll taxes. This lasted until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.</p> <p><b>1920</b> – Women win the right to vote with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment</p> <p><b>MISSING 1924</b> – Native Americans allowed to vote with the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act</p> <p><b>MISSING 1943</b>- Chinese immigrants are given the right to vote by the passage of the Magnuson Act</p> <p><b>MISSING 1961</b> – DC residents get to vote for President and Vice President with the passage of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment COMMENT: DC residents do not vote for US Congress: Senate or Representative – They have license plates Taxation without Representation</p> <p><b>1965</b> – Voting Rights Act passed barring literacy tests and other barriers to voting</p> <p><b>1971</b> – Voting age lowered from 21 to 18 COMMENT: Young people protest slogan: Young enough to fight we are young enough to vote. This was during the Vietnam War.</p>	<p><b>Slide 6</b> History of Voting <b>Slide 7</b> Missing History</p> <p><b>OR Skip Slide 7 and Use Slide 22</b> at the end of the deck</p>

	<p><u>Key Point:</u> Our goal is to honor this history and get people out to vote on Election Day.</p> <p>TRANSITION: Now we will play a civics game.</p>	
<p><b>CIVICS JEOPARDY</b></p> <p>9 minutes</p>	<p>We are going to play civics jeopardy to both test your know-how and share information about the election. Ask for volunteers to pick one category. After they answer, show and read the answers below to re-enforce the answer or to provide the correct answer.</p> <p>Instructions: If there is internet access, open the Game. If not, use the PP slide. After the person answers the question,</p> <p><b>Definitions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. What is a primary election? 100 points</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> An election used to narrow the field of candidates, think basketball or soccer playoff games which decide which team plays in the final.</li> <li><b>2. What is a closed primary? 200 points</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> Only registered party members can participate in a political party's primary election.</li> </ol> <p>Eligibility to vote in a primary is determined by each state and New York has closed primaries. The winner of a primary election for a statewide or federal election is the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes, even if he or she does not win more than 50 percent of votes cast. For NYC primary elections ranked choice voting is used - this voting method requires the winner to earn 50% +1 of the votes cast.</p> <p>General elections are open to all registered voters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3. What is pre-registration? 300 points</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> In NYS citizens 16 and 17 can pre-register to vote and the Board of Elections will automatically register them when they turn 18.</li> </ol> <p><b>POLITICIANS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Who are New York's two senators? 100 points</b>  <b>ANSWER</b> Chuck Schumer. He has been in office for over 20 years. He is up for re-election this year (2024). Kirsten Gillibrand. She has been in office for over 10 years. Her term ends in 2025. They are both Democrats.</li> <li><b>2. How many U.S. representatives does NYS have? 200 points</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>SLIDE 8</b></p> <p>Internet Access  - Link to <a href="https://jeopardylabs.com/play/civics-jeopardy-6">https://jeopardylabs.com/play/civics-jeopardy-6</a>  <u>15</u></p> <p>No Internet  Read the Questions</p>

	<p><b>ANSWER 26:</b> 16 Democrats and 10 Republicans</p> <p><b>3. Who represents me? 300 points</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> Answers vary. It depends on where you live. Go to Ballotpedia.org Who Represents Me? To find out.</p> <p><b>ELECTIONS</b></p> <p><b>1. What offices will people be voting for in 2024?</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> Federal: President, Senators and House Representatives and State Assembly and Senate. To get nonpartisan information about the candidates, Ballotpedia: Information about Elections, Elected Officials and Candidates: <a href="http://ballotpedia.org">ballotpedia.org</a>, League of Women Voters Candidate Guide: <a href="http://vote411.org">vote411.org</a> and New York City Campaign Finance Board Candidate Guide: <a href="http://nyccfb.info">nyccfb.info</a></p> <p><b>2. What is early voting?</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> Instead of having just one day to vote, voters get to vote over 10 days. To find out where your polling site is, visit <a href="http://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov">voterlookup.elections.ny.gov</a></p> <p><b>3. When is New York’s primary election?</b>  <b>ANSWER:</b> There are two! The first is April 2 - this is to vote for the party’s nominee for President. The second is June 25 - this is to vote for the party’s nominees for the U.S. Senate, U.S. Houses of Representatives AND for State Senate and State Assembly.</p> <p>TRANSITION: Now that we know some basic info about voting and elections, we are going to turn our attention to this year’s election.</p>	
<p><b>NYC VOTING</b></p> <p>1 minute</p>	<p>We want to close the gap between the % of people who vote in general elections and the % that vote in primary elections AND we want to close the gap between the % of people who vote from different neighborhoods</p> <p><u>Key Point</u>  Some people say their votes don’t matter. But in primary elections when turnout is so low, increasing turnout by even a little bit can make a difference in who wins.</p> <p>For example, in 2019 the Queens District Attorney primary race was decided by 60 votes/ The winner went on to win the general by almost 100,000 votes.</p> <p>Turnout also makes a difference in swing states during a Presidential election. But, it matters in all states because the winner of the popular vote also makes a statement.</p>	<p><b>Slide 9 &amp; 10</b>  Stop the Drop</p> <p><b>Slide 11</b>  All Votes Matter</p>

	TRANSITION: We will now look at the positions on the ballot in 2024.	
<p><b>The Jobs</b></p> <p>9 minutes</p>	<p><b><i>What are people voting for? What is their job description?</i></b></p> <p>Review each description.</p> <p>Ask the group for examples of what this looks like. Elected representatives made decisions about priorities and the distribution of resources – how tax dollars are spent.</p> <p>For example, the largest portion of the state’s budget goes to education – so elected officials decide on funding for public schools and community college. They also decide how much people and businesses pay in taxes.</p> <p>The same is true for the federal budget – Senators and Representatives decide how our tax dollars are spent. Federal and state funding flows down to NYC which are used for many programs available for young people - including workforce development and afterschool programs.</p> <p>The President picks Supreme Court justices who decide key issues like abortion and the regulation of guns. The President also deals with international issues – like immigration and wars.</p>	<p><b>Slides 12-14</b> Job Descriptions</p>
<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>INSTRUCTIONS: Refer to the important issues posted on the flip chart. Pick a few and discuss which of the offices up for election have influence over these issues.</p> <p>NOTE: there may be some issues in which one or more of the offices has influence. And, some issues may be impacted by local elected officials which is why it is important to vote in all elections.</p> <p><u>Key Point:</u> The people elected this year will make many decisions - policy and budget that impact so many of the issues people care about.</p> <p>TRANSITION: Sometimes people don’t vote because they don’t know how politicians influence issues they care about. But sometimes they don’t vote because they don’t have basic info about the election.</p> <p>INSTRUCTION: Invite someone to read one of the post it from the flip chart titled why people don’t vote. Ask someone else to read a post it from the flip chart titled why voting matters. Ask one or two people from the audience to share why they vote.</p> <p><u>Key Point:</u> When you talk to people, share why voting is important to you. It can make a difference.</p>	<p><b>Slides 15 &amp; 16</b> Reflection</p>

	TRANSITION: Another way to get people out to the polls is to share basic information about the election	
<b>Election Info &amp; Nonpartisan</b>  5 minutes	<p>INSTRUCTION: Ask everyone to look at their pledge card. Have people scan the QR code.</p> <p><u>Key Point:</u> Many people don't know this information - when the election is – how to register to vote - where their polling site it and how to vote by mail. So spreading the word is one way to get people out to vote.</p> <p><b>Share where people find out who is on their ballot?</b></p> <p>share these nonpartisan resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballotpedia: Information about Elections, Elected Officials and Candidates: <a href="http://ballotpedia.org">ballotpedia.org</a></li> <li>• League of Women Voters Candidate Guide: <a href="http://vote411.org">vote411.org</a></li> <li>• New York City Campaign Finance Board Candidate Guide: <a href="http://nyccfb.info">nyccfb.info</a></li> </ul> <p><b>ALSO</b></p> <p>Ask the group where else someone can find out about the candidates? Solicit ideas from the group and then also suggest – from their friends and family who are political nerds, from the websites of candidates, from newspaper articles, .....</p> <p><u>Key Point:</u> Remind everyone this GOTV Campaign is a Nonpartisan Effort - We can share the what, when, where <i>and how of voting BUT can not talk about who to vote for. In fact, it is easiest to never say the name of either an elected official or a candidate. For example, instead of the name of a candidate refer to them by the District they represent.</i></p> <p>TRANSITION: In addition to sharing basic information about the election, it is important to let people know their rights.</p>	<b>Slide 17 - 20</b> Election Deadlines & Info Discussion
<b>Actions</b>  4 minutes	<p>INSTRUCTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have people scan the QR code to check their VR status, find their polling site and/or apply to vote by mail</li> <li>2. Have people sign the pledge card or fill out the registration form</li> <li>3. Have everyone write the names of 5 people to give the pledge cards to</li> <li>4. Share link sign-up sheet for a GOTV action</li> </ol>	<b>Slides 21 and 22</b>
<b>Closing</b>  1 minute	<p>Collect the pledge cards and registration forms</p> <p>Collect the sign-up sheets for the phone/text</p> <p>Ask everyone to give themselves a round of applause.</p>	