

City of Toronto Public Education Program: Opportunities for Collaboration

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Civic Education: Why Now?

Providing opportunities to learn what local government is, how it works, and how to get involved helps address numerous challenges:

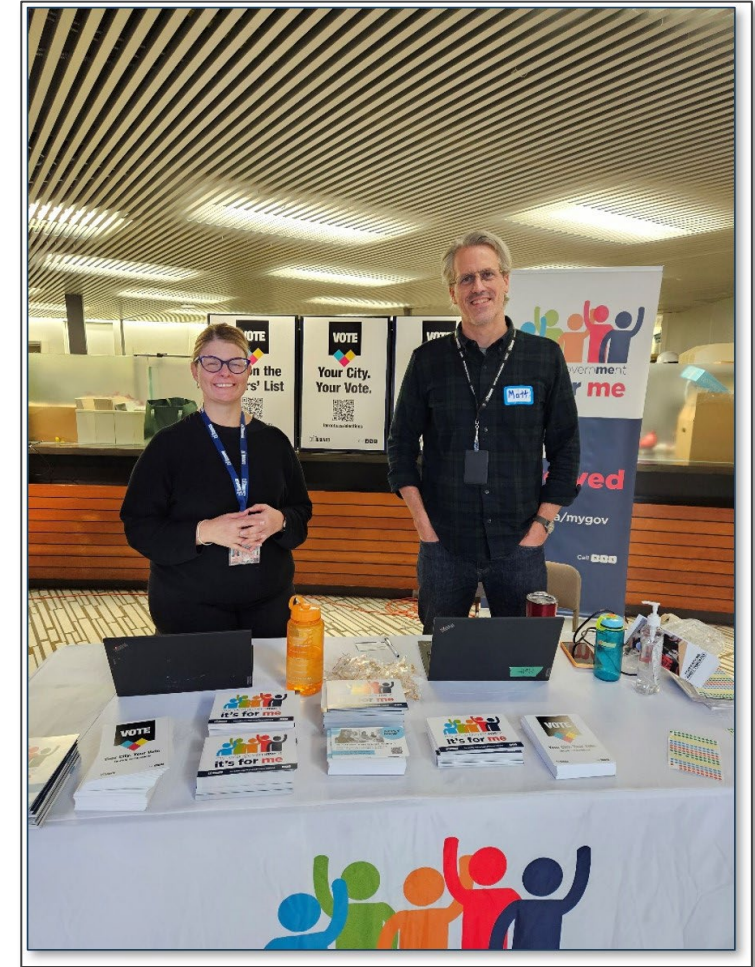
- Common misunderstandings of what local government does
- Lack of trust in government institutions
- Rise in misinformation, disinformation, and political polarization
- Impacts from the pandemic on civic engagement
- Creating a sense of belonging and civic pride
- The need to reflect and engage with Toronto residents

Program Goals

- **Engage teachers, students, and parents/caregivers** in meaningful educational programs, employment opportunities, and learning activities to develop life-long election participation habits in youth
- **Empower young people** to use knowledge about their rights, responsibilities and the workings of local government to push for fairness and equality in policies affecting all Torontonians, improving social cohesion and justice for marginalized and underrepresented groups
- **Create clear paths for youth** to get involved and participate in local government before they have the opportunity to vote.

Why the City Clerk's Office?

- Administer municipal elections
- Are at the centre of legislative meetings, decisions, and agendas
- Connect the public with decision-makers
- Manage information and keep it transparent and accessible
- Administer public appointments to local boards
- Manage records, information, and archives
- Host special events and ceremonies



How We Are Engaging



Online Resources



Tours of City Hall



Democracy & Election Engagement



Signature Events



Partnerships



School and Curriculum Connections

City Hall Tours

Goals

- Connect students to the physical space where decision-making happens, to information, and to Members of Council and staff who play key roles in our democratic processes.
- Establish new relationships with teachers, parents, and students, particularly in equity-deserving communities.

International Day of Democracy 2025

September 15 is internationally recognized as a day to commemorate, promote, and uphold the principles of democracy.

Goals

- Establish and maintain contact with Civics teachers.
- Leverage the Day of Democracy to offer a day of professional development on local government.
- Announce a Day of Democracy event in Jan / Feb 2026 for Student Council leaders.
- Pilot an event for Civics teachers – currently exploring a collaboration with City, Provincial and Federal government partners.

International Day of Democracy 2026

Goals

- Leverage Day of Democracy to generate interest in the 2026 municipal election.
- Educate and connect with voters about the election process, become familiar with ballots and tabulators, and learn how to get on the voters' list.
- Provide a call to action during the voters' list revision period.
- Highlight mis/dis-information, Kids Vote Weekend, the Register of Future Voters.
- Events at multiple locations to celebrate democracy.

Kids Vote Weekend

Goals

- Connect with students in grades 1 to 8; primary audience is Grade 5 Civics students.
- Ignite an early interest in elections and create lifelong voters.
- Demystify the voting process through a hands-on experience.
- Host a weekend event for kids during advance voting for the 2026 general municipal election.
- Mini voting stations within each standard voting place.
- Encourage eligible parents to vote with their kids.

Student Connect

Goals

- Provide students with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the democratic process through a paid work experience in a voting place on election day.
- Connect students with their communities through civic engagement.

Participating Schools

- Schools assign a school facilitator; facilitators confirm their school's participation.
- Facilitators share program details and identify eligible students

Next Steps

- **Build relationships** with school boards to further explore these opportunities.
- **Understand** how the City of Toronto can support local school boards in civics education.
- **Share information** with students, administrators and teachers about these initiatives and encourage participation.

Thank you

Find more information, contact
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