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California Teen Pre-registration Surged Before Last Election

But just 13% of 16- and 17-year-olds are pre-registered

Los Angeles, CA -- California experienced a surge in teen voter pre-registration in the month before the November 2018 election, but only 13% of 16- and 17-year-olds have taken advantage of this opportunity to register to vote before their 18th birthday, according to an analysis The Civics Center released today. [The Civics Center](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes voter registration, pre-registration and civic engagement in high schools.

Under California law, teens can pre-register to vote at the ages of 16 and 17, and the number of teens who had pre-registered rose a remarkable 30% between September and October 2018. In Riverside County, the number of pre-registered young people jumped more than 100%. Still, just 13 out of every 100 students who were 16 or 17 had pre-registered. In two other Western states with voter pre-registration, the rate is more than twice what it is in California: approximately 30% of 16- and 17-year olds are registered in Oregon and Colorado.

“While we are seeing improvement, we still have a long way to go to get young people pre-registered to vote,” said Laura W. Brill, founder and director of The Civics Center. She is also a practicing attorney and a former law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. “Pre-registering teens is vital to getting young people to vote and ensuring they have a say in the decisions their elected leaders are making. Parents, school leadership and the teens themselves can all help improve pre-registration rates and ensure more young people are engaged in civic life.”

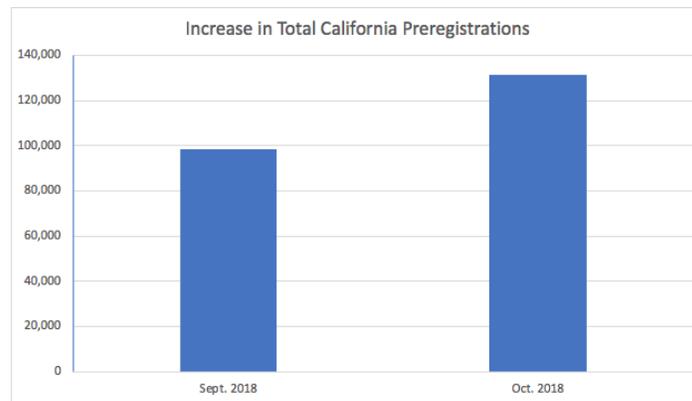
The Civics Center offers resources to high schools to promote voter registration, especially when those are led by the students themselves. It also encourages schools to help students appreciate the importance of citizenship by providing a structure for student-led voter registration efforts, including scheduling, training and oversight. In addition, it urges students to take a leading role by starting clubs that promote peer-to-peer registration.

About The Civics Center.

The Civics Center is dedicated to building the foundations of youth civic participation in high schools through education, research, advocacy, and volunteer organizing. The Civics Center is a project of Community Partners, a charitable 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, please visit www.TheCivicsCenter.org.



2018 Preregistration Data



State Preregistration Comparisons

State	Number of Preregistrations	Estimate of 16-17 year olds	Estimated % Preregistered
California	131,298	1,019,184	13%
Colorado	45,180	145,984	31%
Oregon	28,548	97,866	29%

California Preregistration by County

Alphabetical

California County	# preregistered as of 9/7/18	# preregistered as of 10/22/18	Estimated % preregistered as of 10/22/18
Alameda	4,283	6,958	0.19
Contra Costa	3,509	5,092	0.16
Fresno	2491	3,876	0.13
Kern	2098	2,750	0.10
Los Angeles	24907	29,592	0.12
Monterey	1770	1,881	0.16
Orange	9211	11,508	0.14
Riverside	5450	11,508	0.16
Sacramento	4218	4,565	0.12
San Bernardino	4182	6,768	0.11
San Diego	7677	11,052	0.14
San Francisco	1194	1,692	0.15
San Joaquin	2248	3,354	0.15
San Mateo	1987	2,601	0.15
Santa Barbara	1290	1,646	0.16
Santa Clara	5185	7,197	0.15
Sonoma	1301	1,570	0.13
Stanislaw	1658	2,144	0.13
Tulare	1279	1,398	0.09
Ventura	2390	3,844	0.17

Descending by percentage

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Based on data provided from California Secretary of State, KidsData, Oregon Secretary of State, Portland State University Department of Urban & Public Affairs Population Research Center, Colorado Secretary of State, and Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

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