

Resilience through the Youth Vote: A Practical Guide

Stephanie Fong Gomez, MD, MS
Margaret Stager, MD, FAAP
April 24, 2021

Go to PollEv.com/stephaniefon718 or text [stephaniefon718](tel:22333) to 22333 to join Poll Everywhere



We have no financial disclosures or interests.

★Objectives★

1. Recognize **unique aspects of youth civic participation**
2. Discuss **scripts and practical strategies** to engage adolescents and young adults around voting in medical settings
3. **Enhance your confidence and infrastructure** to build youth and family self-efficacy around civic participation starting on Monday morning!

When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/stephaniefon718

Text **STEPHANIEFON718** to **22333** once to join

How comfortable do you feel engaging youth and caretakers around voting?

So uncomfortable that my hands are sweaty

Uncomfortable

Unsure

Comfortable

Totally comfortable! I do it regularly.



Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

Voting
impacts
health

What is unique
about
young voters?

Developmental changes
present opportunity

★Adolescent Development★

Voting is a developmentally-appropriate milestone!



Cognitive

Concrete thinking

Emergence of abstract thinking

Ability to think hypothetically

Present-focused

Future-focused



Psychological

Confidence
Competence
Industry

Identity development (individual, relational, and social)

Increasing empathy

Rising autonomy

Heightened sense of morality and idealism



Social

Childhood

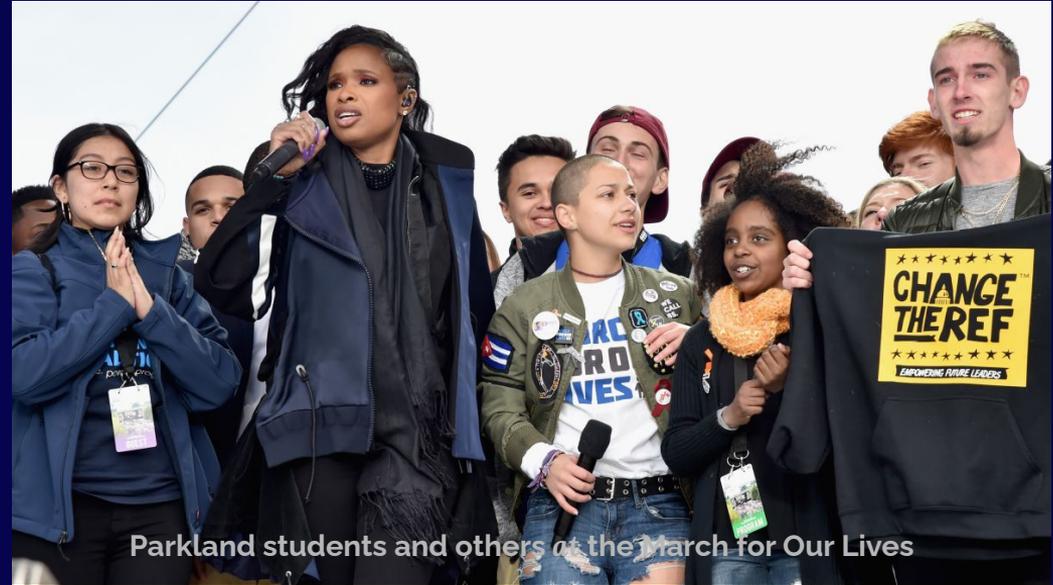
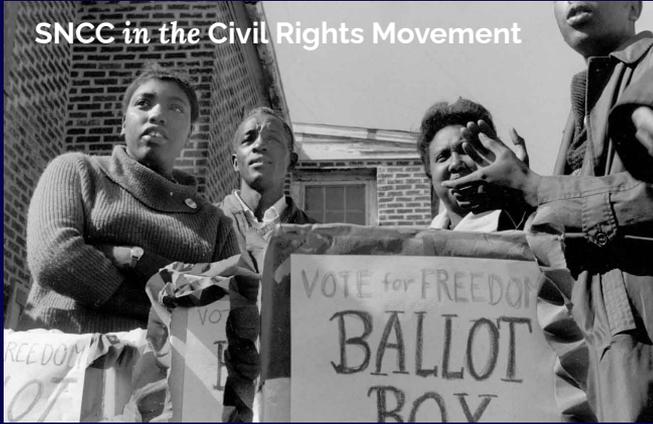
Early adolescence

Middle adolescence

Late adolescence

Youth *are*
powerful

SNCC in the Civil Rights Movement



Parkland students and others at the March for Our Lives



Little Miss Flint



Oakland Tech students for BLM

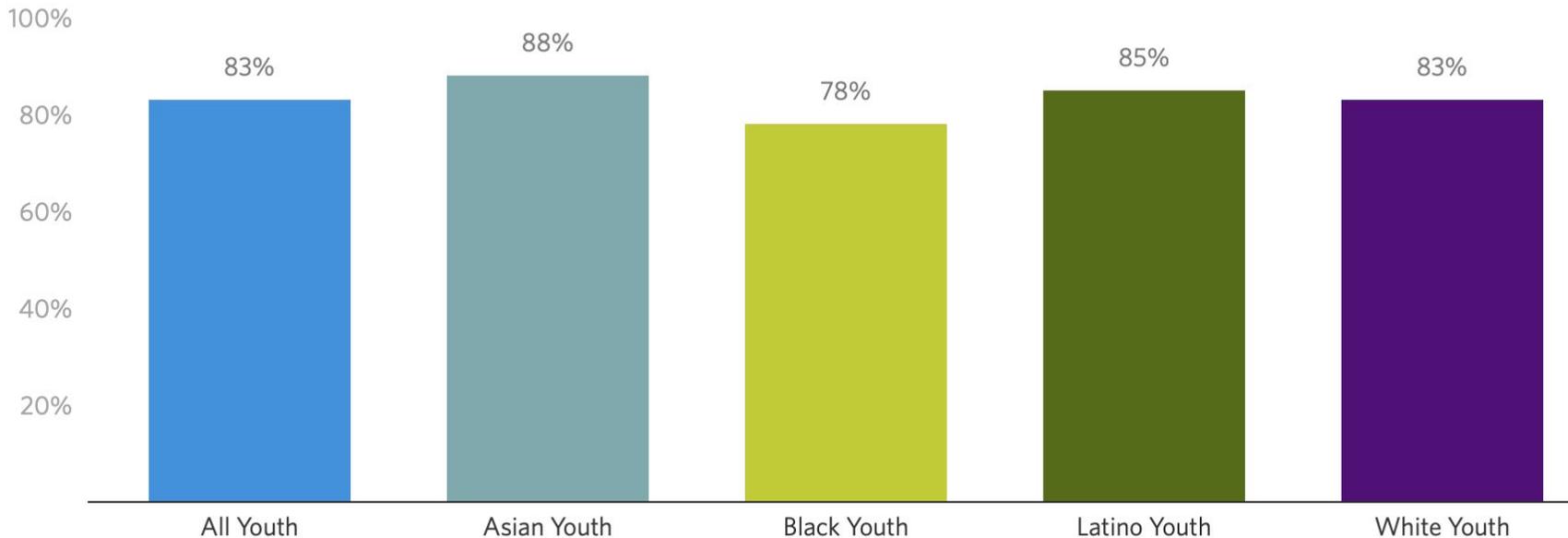


DACA recipients for DREAMers

★ Youth believe they have political power★

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement

As a group, young people have the power to change things



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

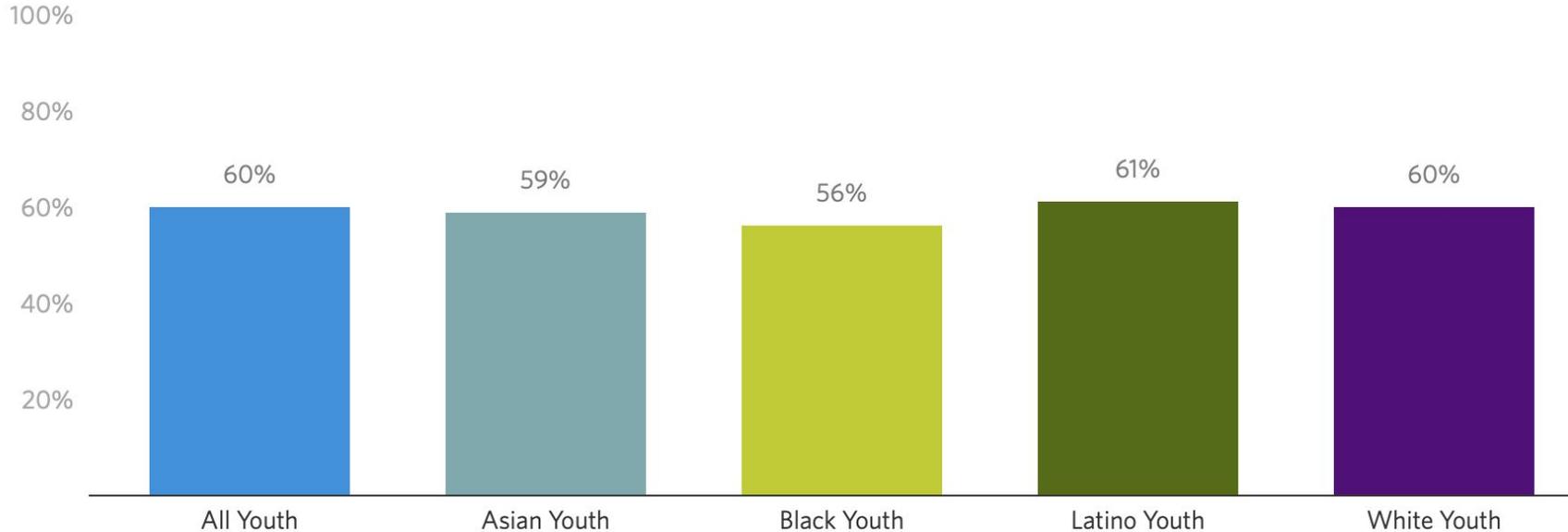
Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Pre-Election Youth Poll

[Get the data](#)

★... yet voting still lags behind ★

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement

I feel part of a group or movement that will vote to express our views



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Pre-Election Youth Poll

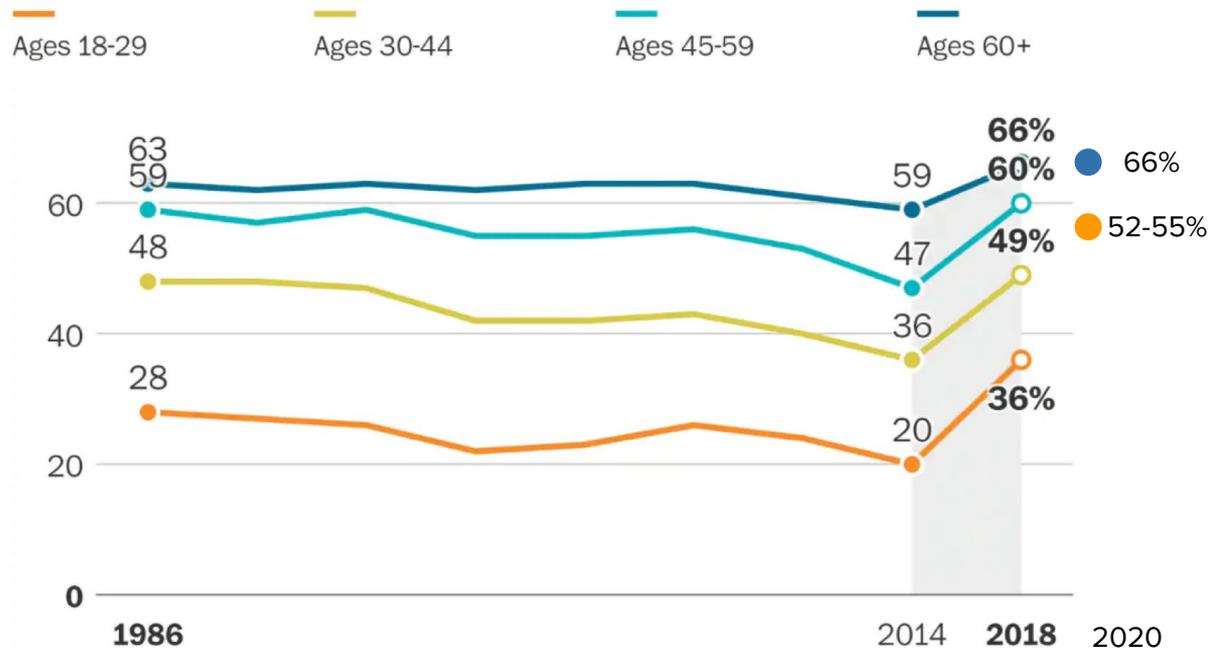
[Get the data](#)

Youth *face*
unique barriers

★ Voter trends ★

Turnout among younger adults rose sharply in 2018

Percent of U.S. citizens who voted in the 2018 general election



Source: Census Bureau Current Population Survey

SCOTT CLEMENT/THE FIX

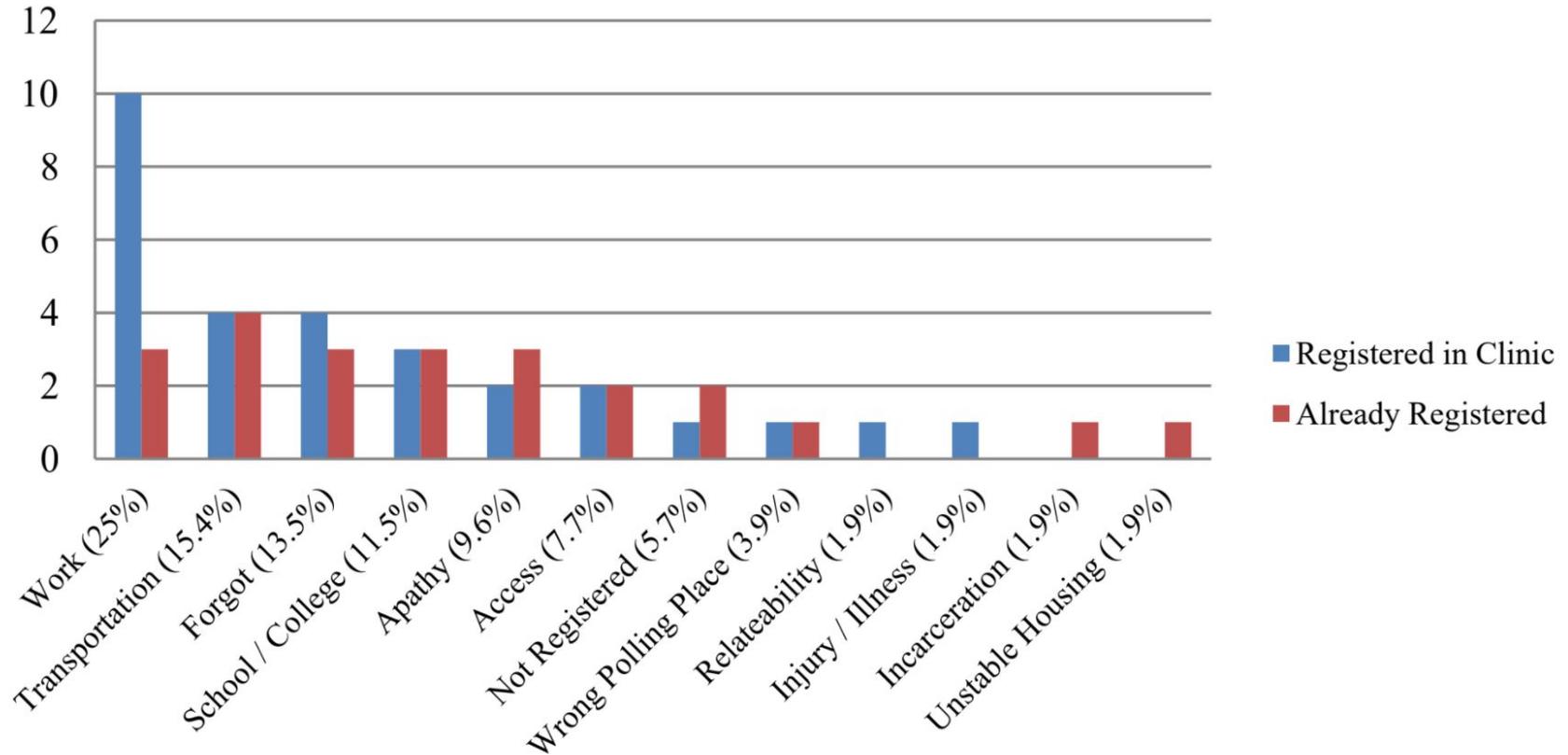
Young voters still lag significantly behind older age groups

Across ages, many groups are underrepresented:

- Communities of color
- Low income
- < College education
- Low English proficiency
- Unstably housed
- People with disabilities

Clement (2018)

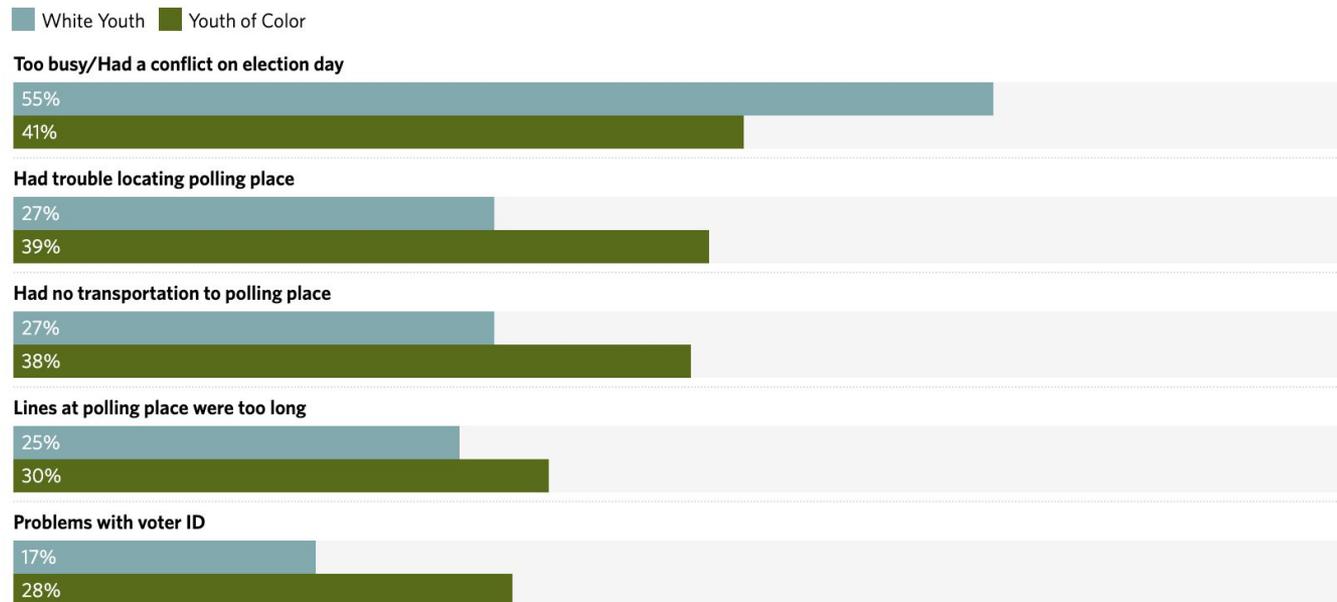
★ Barriers to Youth Voter Turnout ★



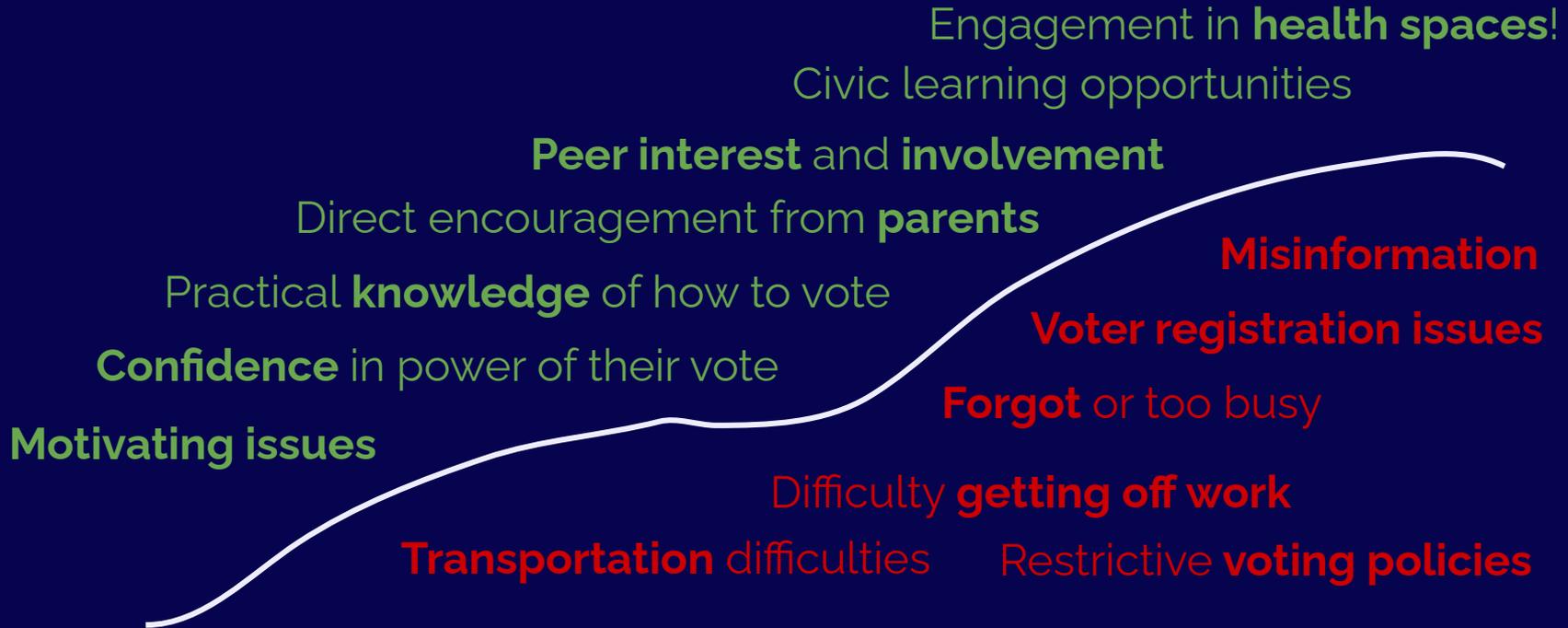
★ Barriers to Youth Voter Turnout ★

More Youth of Color Face Barriers to Voting than White Youth

Among young people (ages 18-29) who registered but did not vote in 2016, the percentage who cited each option as a reason why they did not cast a ballot.

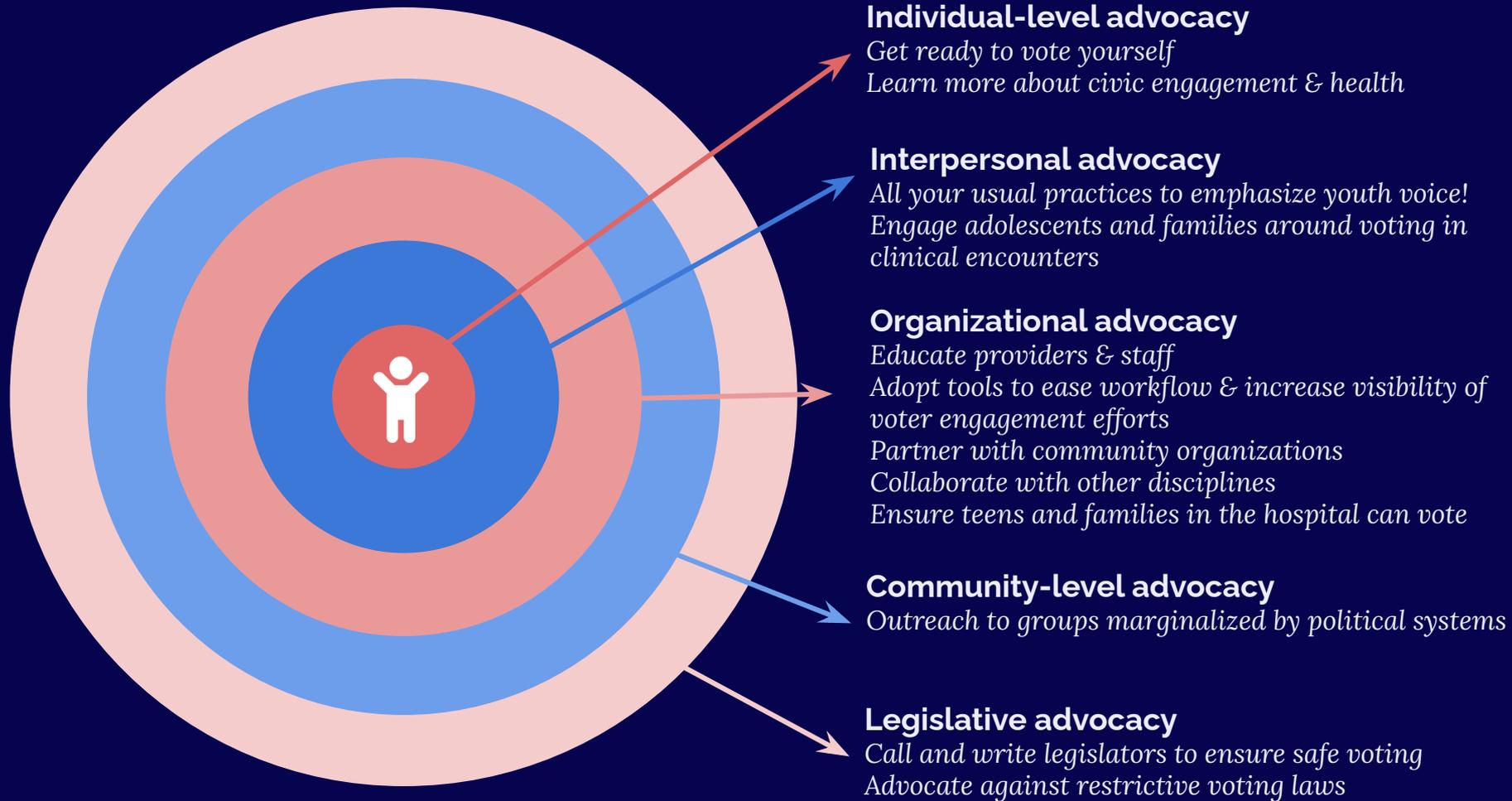


★Facilitators of Youth Civic Participation★



A paradigm shift:
**mobilizing → growing
young voters**

*How can we
help patients build
the healthy habit
of voting?*



Case 1

Your patient arrives. She is a 20-yo female, here for an annual check up.

How do you approach civic participation with them?



When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/stephaniefon718

Text **STEPHANIEFON718** to **22333** once to join

In the past year, how often did you ask adolescents about voting?

Not at all

Sometimes

Frequently

Always



Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

How do you bring up civic participation + voting?

You have options!

HEADSS assessment

Anticipatory guidance

Visit wrap up

1. Start the conversation

Are you planning to vote?

Yes!

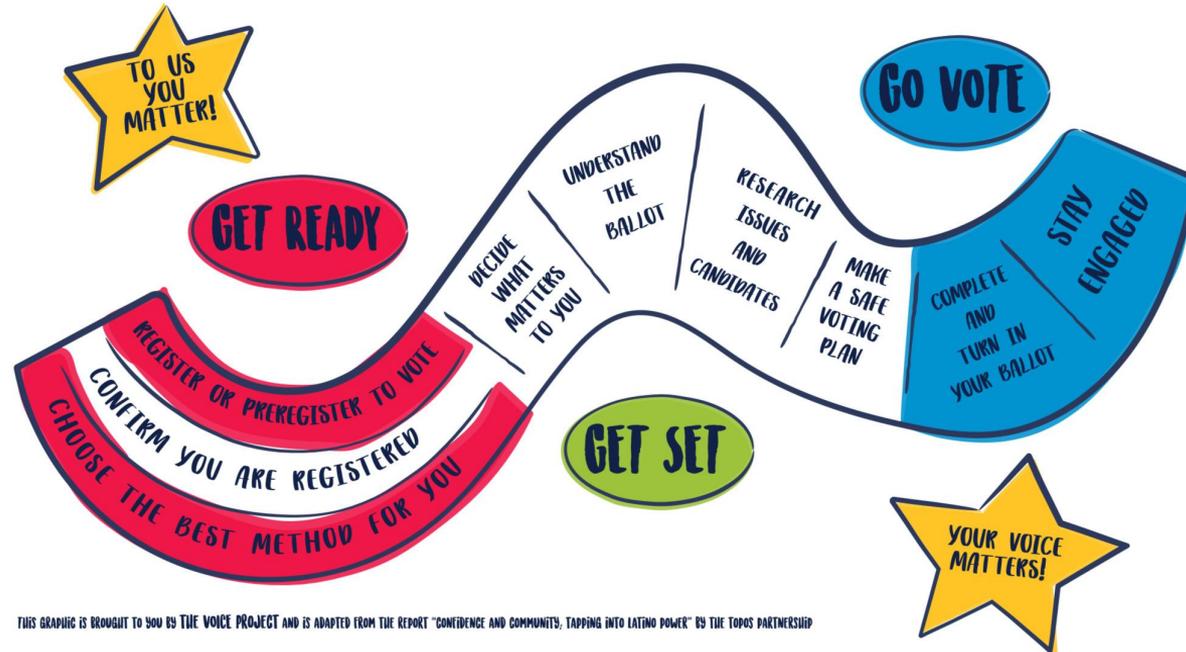
Awesome! What questions do you have about voting?

Nope

Thanks for sharing that. Why not?

2. Recognize where they are on their journey

★ Roadmap to Making **YOUR VOICE COUNT** ★



3. Meet the patient there

Emphasize the importance of their voice, perspective, and power!

Connect voting to things that matter to them

Length and depth of discussion may depend on the clinical context and where the teen is on the roadmap

Are you registered?

**What issues matter
the most to you?**

**What's your voting
plan? Do you plan to
vote by mail or in
person?**

**Do teens want to
talk about voting
at clinic visits?**

Normalize this discussion
(like we do with many
other personal topics)

What if they ask me who or what to vote for?

Reflect the question back!

Empower them to use
their life experiences and
their developing critical
thinking skills

Share nonpartisan
resources like
Ballotopedia and
community forums

**What if they tell
me their vote
doesn't matter?**

Case 2

You are working swing shift in the ED.



Your patient is a 18yo girl presenting with an acute ankle injury.



Can you bring up voting at a sick visit?

Yes! As long as the patient is well enough to engage in conversation comfortably.

Some adolescents may prefer to focus on acute needs, and that's okay, too

What if I'm unsure about citizenship status?

Youth in mixed-status households are critical voices to amplify!

Civic engagement involves volunteering, registering and reminding eligible friends and family to vote, etc.

In some states, high school students with citizenship or green cards can work polls, with financial bonus if bilingual.

★GET READY: Voter registration tools★

- **Badge buddies** with QR code to online voter registration
- **Paper registration forms** with envelopes and stamps
- **In-person navigators & community partners**



★GET SET: Resources to take home★

- Use a **QR code on the AVS** that links to voter registration
- Use of **links** to Vote.gov, or League of Women Voters, or other reputable sites
- Message patients via **MyChart**
- Include **resources with next steps**

Sample text for after visit summaries

Key dates

Are you ready to vote?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd! Polls are open from 7am until 8pm. All voters registered by October 3rd in California will receive mail-in ballots for the 2020 General Election because of Covid-19.

Register or update your address by Monday, October 19th. If you miss the deadline, you may register in person and cast a provisional ballot in-person on Election Day.

Voter eligibility info

You are eligible to vote if: you are a US citizen, 18+ years old, and not serving a sentence for a felony conviction. In California, young people ages 16 and 17 may preregister to vote so that they automatically receive a ballot after their 18th birthday.

QR code to voter registration and additional resources



To register to vote and learn more about issues that matter to you, please visit <https://voiceproject.ucsf.edu> or scan the QR code above.

Nonpartisan disclaimer

Taking part in voter registration is up to you, and the decision not to participate will in no way affect the medical care you receive now or in the future. This nonpartisan information is brought to you by the VOICE Project, VoteR, and UCSF Votes.



★GO VOTE: Tips for turning in their ballots★

- **Talk about making a voting plan**
 - Early voting, vote by mail, or election day voting
- **Make it social!**
 - Encourage the buddy system with voting
 - Recommend talking about voting at the family dinner
 - Ask them to help a senior or someone who may need help with transportation
- **Remind them that their vote matters**

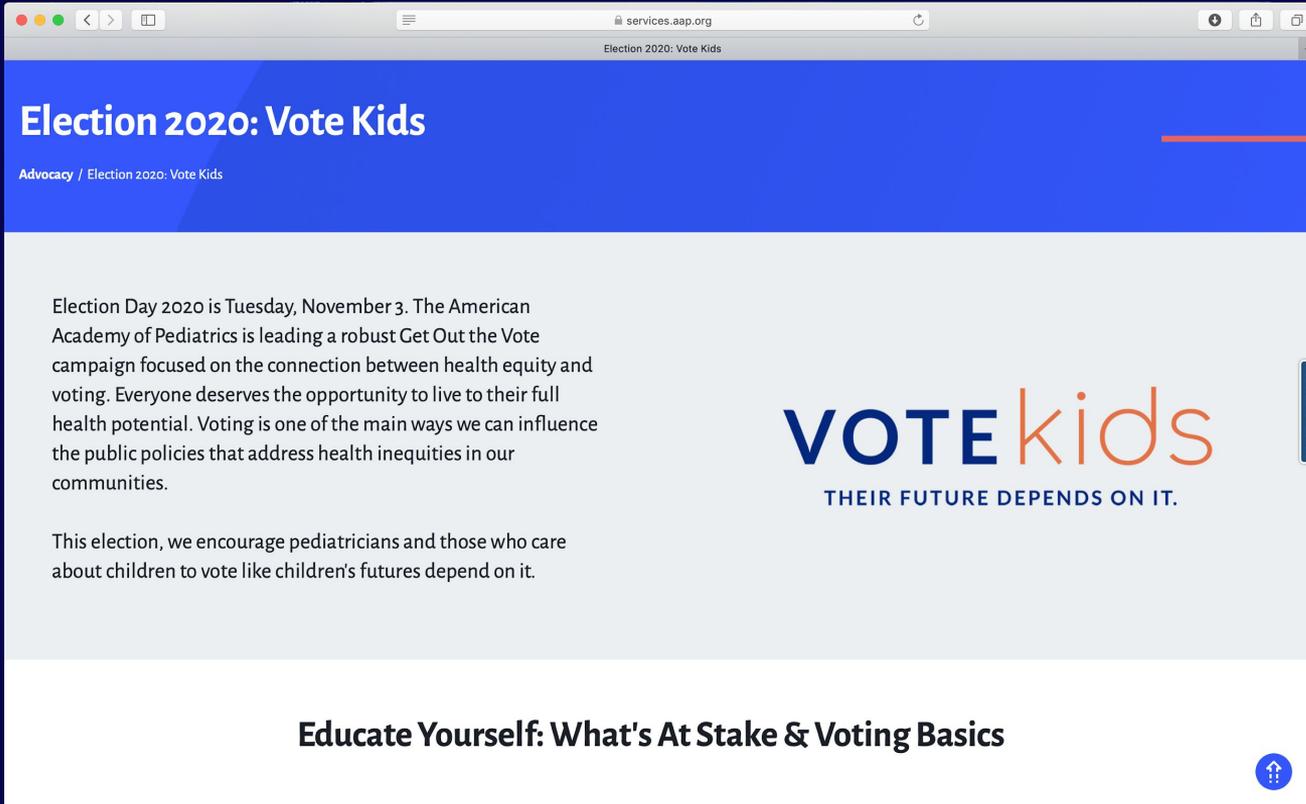
What are the most common mistakes young voters make?

Mismatched signatures

Not blue or black ink

Lateness

★ Resources for providers: AAP #VoteKids ★



Health equity 101

Key child health issues:

Racism | Healthcare coverage & access | Immigrant child health | Climate change | Gun violence

GOTV tools

Social media messages

★ Resources for providers: VoteHealth2020.com ★

Resources | VoteHealth 2020

VOTE HEALTH THE MOVEMENT PARTNERS RESOURCES INITIATIVES ABOUT US

Toolkits

Toolkits can be used by those taking action to increase voter turnout.

For Health Professionals taking action in their clinics

PROMOTING VOTER REGISTRATION IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS
A Toolkit for Health Professionals and Leaders

ENGAGE AS AN INDIVIDUAL
This toolkit includes resources to support individuals interested in engaging with the VoteHealth 2020 movement.

[Click here to download the toolkit](#)

[Click here to download the toolkit](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
EMAILS
SLIDES
FLYERS
WEBSITE BANNERS
TOOLKITS
LEGAL GUIDE
SAFETY GUIDE
LITERATURE

Toolkits

Legal guides

Social media messages

Open "https://www.votehealth2020.com/resources" in a new tab

★ Resources for pediatricians: NonprofitVote.org ★

The screenshot shows the NonprofitVote.org website. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: RESOURCE LIBRARY, WHY NONPROFITS?, STAYING NONPARTISAN (highlighted in dark blue), ENGAGING YOUR STAFF, VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION, ENGAGING WITH CANDIDATES, ADVOCATING ON ISSUES, and NONPROFITS COUNT: CENSUS 2020. The main content area on the right has the following sections:

- Staying Nonpartisan**: In 1954 Congress added a sentence to Treasury regulations requiring charities to remain nonpartisan in elections. However, nonprofits can still play a critical role in engaging communities and promoting equity in democracy.
- Being nonpartisan**: Being nonpartisan is critical for 501(c)(3)s to maintain our status and also provides a distinct advantage for building trust in potential voters. Our guides and resources available below outline how to remain nonpartisan while engaging staff, clients, and community members in elections.
- OUR RESOURCES**:
 - Nonpartisan Election Activities Checklist for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits
 - [English](#)
 - [Español](#)
 - Federal Funds and Voter Registration – [Link Here](#)
 - Using Social Media to Promote Voting
 - [English](#)
 - [Español](#)
 - What can Nonprofit Staff Say About the Election – [Link Here](#)
 - HIPAA and Civic Engagement at Health Centers – [Link Here](#)

A red arrow points from the 'OUR RESOURCES' section to the text on the right.

Copyright © Nonprofit VOTE. All Rights Reserved. ABOUT | BLOG | CONTACT | DONATE | VOTING IN YOUR STATE

Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Medium, and RSS are at the bottom.

Checklists!

Recommendations about

Nonpartisan engagement

HIPAA compliance

Staff engagement

... and more!

**What additional strategies have you found to be effective?
(Include your name if you are open to sharing details out
loud!)**



What additional questions do you have about engaging young prospective voters?



Thank you for interest in growing young voters!

Questions, comments & feedback?

JOIN US!



**Insert more FAQs
here!**

How can youth under 18 contribute?

Uplift stories and issues

Register others to vote

Volunteer for a campaign

Drive friends and family to
the polls

Preregister if eligible

Case 2

Your primary care patient is here.

He is a 16-yo accompanied by his Spanish-speaking mother.

How do you approach civic participation with them?



Ask during the visit wrap up

Are you ready to
vote safely this
election?

Yes!

Awesome! What
questions do you
have about voting?

Nope

Thanks for sharing
that. Tell me more!

If you change your
mind, here's some
information!

“[It] just seems like such a **great idea** and **great opportunity**... I like to see **different community functions working together** because there is no reason that voter registration and healthcare and student engagement should not **all be tied into one thing.**”

- *Teen patient in interview*

What is preregistration?

Some states allow 16-17 year olds to preregister!

This gets the paperwork out of the way so that they can automatically vote in the first eligible election.

Afterward, they should receive a confirmation postcard in the mail.

“As a DACA recipient, if a doctor told me that I can make change by voting], I would be like, “Yeah. Totally.” **Whether or not I feel comfortable giving my citizenship status.** But that — then, initiating that conversation really shows that... they want to know what young people have to say about voting and... the impact in their communities. For me, it kind of shows like **they actually want to listen what we have to say.** And them taking initiative, bringing this conversation to the table, really shows that **they really like really care about us** in general.”

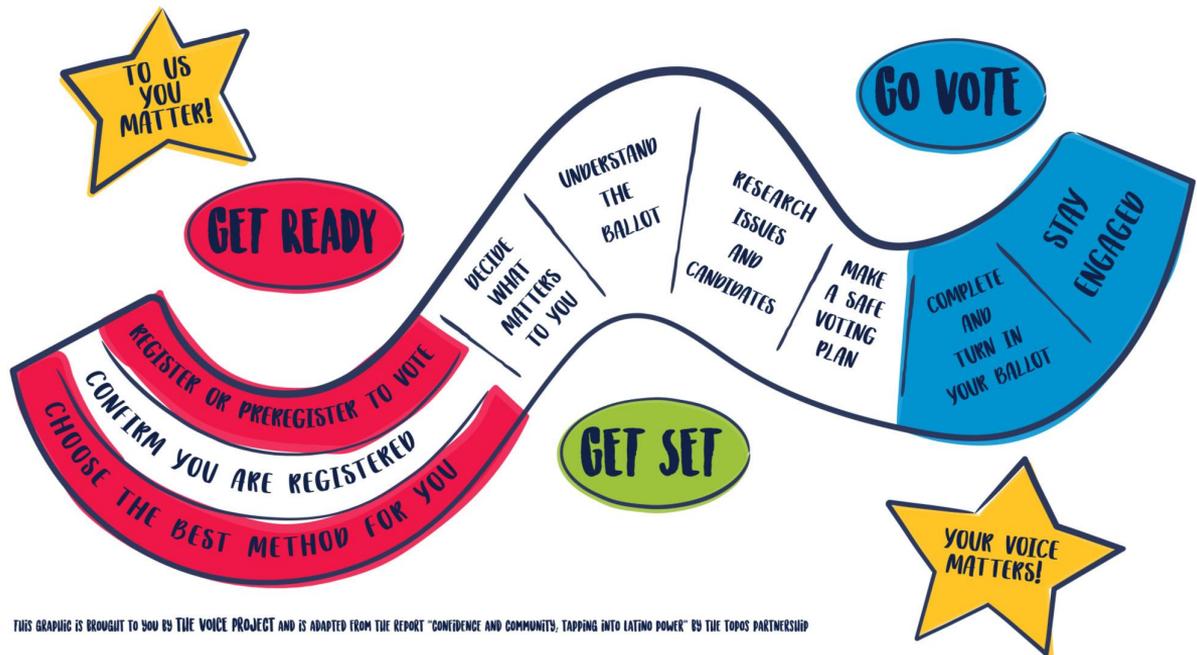
- *Young adult patient who is undocumented in interview*

**What are the
most effective
ways to ensure
that people
actually vote?**

Make a voting plan!

Recognize where they are on their journey

★ Roadmap to Making **YOUR VOICE COUNT** ★



THIS GRAPHIC IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE PROJECT AND IS ADAPTED FROM THE REPORT "CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY: TAPPING INTO LATINO POWER" BY THE TOPOS PARTNERSHIP

What resources are available in clinic?

Badge buddies, postcards,
auto-AVS (similar to ED)

You can refer to FIND in
person or thru EPIC for extra
support for teens & families!

In-person support with local
youth leaders will resume
after COVID

Share anticipatory guidance with caretakers!

Voting is a developmentally-appropriate milestone!



Cognitive

Concrete thinking

Emergence of abstract thinking

Ability to think hypothetically

Present-focused

Future-focused



Psychological

Confidence
Competence
Industry

Identity development (individual, relational, and social)



Social

Rising autonomy

Heightened sense of morality and idealism

Childhood

Early adolescence

Middle adolescence

Late adolescence

**What do I need
to know about
voter eligibility?**

XX

★ Barriers to Youth Voter Turnout ★

Among young people (ages 18-29) who registered but did not vote in 2016, the percentage who cited each option as a reason why they did not cast a ballot.

■ Youth with college experience ■ Youth without college experience

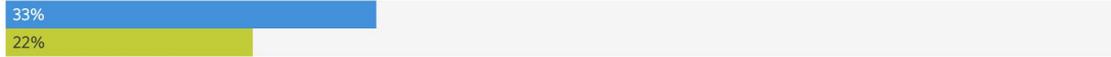
Didn't like the candidates/issues



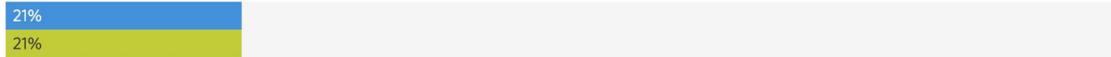
Too busy/had a conflict on Election Day



Was out of town



Problems with voter ID



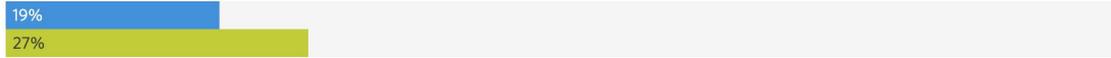
Problems with voter registration



No transportation to polling place



Line at polling place was too long



Inconvenient hours/location of polling place

