

## Kids Voting Minnesota

Written by

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Every election Kids Voting Minneapolis provides an authentic voting experience to Minneapolis K-12 students. Students go to polling places—the same buildings where adults vote—and cast their own ballots that include many of the same offices and issues on which adults are voting. They put their ballot in the box and receive an "I Voted" sticker.

The 2012 Kids Voting ballot will include president, US senator, congressperson, statewide judges, citywide school board, and both constitutional amendments. This year also brings a special experience for kids whose school buildings are also polling places: many of these students will vote during the school day. This will happen in at least 21 Minneapolis Public School buildings and charter schools.

To make the program successful, they are asking for the community's help in two ways. First, they need volunteers in every neighborhood, in every precinct between 2:00 and 5:00, and 5:00 and 8:00 on Election Day (November 6th). The volunteers explain the process to the kids in their precinct, and help ensure that each precinct's votes are tabulated correctly. Volunteers code each ballot to reflect the child's school and grade-level and provide any additional help the child needs to complete his or her ballot.

They also need you to take the kids in your life to the polls, and encourage others to do the same. Some students will be voting during the school day, but most of Minneapolis's kids will not—and so the only option they'll have will be to vote between 2:00 and 8:00 on Election Day. Kids don't need to vote in the precinct where they live, and neither they nor their parents have to be citizens for the kids to vote.

For more information about Kids Voting or to volunteer your time, you can contact Will Howell at [will@kidsvotingminneapolis.org](mailto:will@kidsvotingminneapolis.org) or 612-568-VOTE.