



Secretary of State

Kim Wyman

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Superintendent Larry Nyland
School Board President Sue Peters
Seattle Public Schools
2445 3rd Ave South
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Superintendent Nyland and President Peters,

I am writing to express my support for the Civics for All Initiative and urge your support of this important initiative.

One of the fundamental principles of public education in America is to prepare our youngest citizens for their role in our democracy. As has been said before, democracy is not inherited – it must be *learned* by each new generation. It is through necessary programs like the Civics for All Initiative which oblige schools to ensure future generations of leaders and decision-makers are equipped with the knowledge and real-world experience they need to fully participate in our communities.

As Washington's chief election officer, I understand the direct benefit of a robust civic education program designed to train students to become informed and engaged before they are eligible to vote. Many of the programs my office currently practices complement and support goals outlined by the Civics for All Initiative.

Our annual statewide Mock Election allows all K-12 students across Washington the opportunity to learn about and vote on real candidates and issues. Currently in its 14th year, nearly 180,000 students have participated in our non-partisan Mock Election, held online during the week before each General Election. By partnering with King County Elections, we have been able to include local measures for King County students.

Additionally, our office provides a comprehensive curriculum guide, *Teaching Elections in Washington State*. The lessons offered in the curriculum guide – including lessons on what makes a good citizen, the initiative and referenda process, how we vote, who represents us, and more – are for grades K-12, meet state and common core standards, and include Classroom Based Assessments.

I believe a continued partnership between the Secretary of State's office and the Civics for All Initiative is of tremendous value to Seattle Public Schools, and, indeed, to every student in Washington. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kim Wyman
Secretary of State