



Secretary of State

Tim Wyma

Elections & Voting 2017

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/mock-election/#/results>

Results

All Results

SEATTLE ▼

Total Ballots Cast: 126

- **Total Ballots Cast Grades K-5: 1**
- **Total Ballots Cast Grades 6-12: 125**

Dear Civics for All Supporters,

Only 126 Seattle Public School students voted in this year’s annual Washington Secretary of State’s Office Student Mock Election (see <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/mock-election/#/results>).

What a shame.

This number, 126, proves incontrovertibly that “optional elections” do not and will not work in the SPS.

We could have had 54,000 students and their families/schools/communities totally engaged with this years’ mayoral race, school board openings, property tax ballot measures, and the attendant issues of gentrification and homelessness. Kids eat up these issues – but only when given a chance and a forum.

And Superintendent Larry Nyland denied them that right

What a tragic, missed opportunity.

On February 8, 2016, the Seattle School Board rejected a recommendation by the school district's social studies coordinator (Kathleen Vasquez) to [implement much of the Civics for All](#) Initiative. By refusing this recommendation, the Seattle School Board effectively [rejected the \\$ 250,000 grant that King County Elections](#) offered SPS in 2014 to build up a district wide voting structure for K-12 students! In these budget crunched times, citizens have been aghast that the school board, led by Mr. Nyland, would reject a quarter of a million dollars for democracy education across all neighborhoods and schools in Seattle.

Instead, the Nyland and the school board proposed to support optional, annual mock elections, even though mock elections are already optional. Sadly, this decision rejected the Civics for All centerpiece – [required universal K-12 mock elections at all schools](#) – as well as the Initiative's widely vetted [civics-based, voter education curriculum](#) and [media literacy component](#).

Obviously, the school district's commitment to getting out the optional student vote was a complete failure – only 126 students voted in the entire city in the 2016 SOS online voting program.