70th MLC ISSUES & ACTIVISM FRAMEWORKS FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The following civic engagement frameworks were created by the Issues & Activism delegates within each party during the 70th Model Legislature and Court in February 2018.

ISSUES & ACTIVISM CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

Avocado Party
- Undermining of Stigma Against Sex Work (Low Engagement): Getting involved in organizations such as the Sex Workers project and calling elected representatives.
- Young Democratic Socialists of America (Medium Engagement): Getting involved at your school and starting a club
- Sexual Assault Prevention (High Engagement): 18-month commitment to working at crisis hotlines

Gold Party
- Net Neutrality (Low Engagement): Write and propose a council item to urge Congress to support net neutrality.
- Sexual Violence Prevention (Medium Engagement): Host a sexual assault prevention event during April 2019 Week of Action to show support to all women & men who have experienced sexual assault.
- Resources for Special Needs (High Engagement): Establish a Best Buddies chapter at your school and organize speaker series on the “R” word and disability awareness.

Grizzly Party
- LGBTQ+ Rights (Low Engagement): Encouraging Schools to establish at least one gender-neutral bathroom.
- Arts Education (Medium Engagement): Advance California’s Art Coalition Initiative by lobbying and increased funding and inclusion in arts curriculum.
- Environmental Issues (High Engagement): Opposing the use of Styrofoam and working to reinforce the legal implementation in the state of California.

Poppy Party
- Environmental Advocacy (Low Engagement): Increase the awareness of the benefits of recycling by advocating for an increase in recycling bins in high schools.
- Condom Sense (Medium Engagement): Increase the amount of availability to contraceptives (specifically condoms) in high schools by lobbying your school board.
- Straw Ban (High Engagement): Change your personal habits and encourage others to do the same, while also publicly advocating for reduction in plastic use in your local government.

Redwood Party
- Habitat Destruction & Environmentalism (Low Engagement): Alleviate some of the stress that climate change has put on natural habitats in the state by volunteering for local conservationist nonprofits.
- Immigration & Aiding Families (Medium Engagement): Assist and do housework for families that have had a member or members taken into custody by Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Voter Engagement (High Engagement): Plan and execute a voting registration drive in local communities.
Trout Party
• Increase Public Health Resources (Low Engagement: Collect diapers to donate to organizations that aid underprivileged families/people, in order to provide accessible hygiene.
• Decrease the Influence of Money in Politics (Medium Engagement): Work to elect officials & advocate for legislation in the best interests of the people.
• Civic Engagement and Youth Voting (High Engagement): Increase youth civic engagement by working to lower the voting age to 16 and 17 in local elections.

FRAMEWORK ENGAGEMENT LEVELS

To assist delegates in finding a framework that fits with their time availability, the frameworks have been labeled by a suggested level of participation.
• Frameworks marked low engagement can be done typically in 1–2 hours.
• Frameworks marked medium engagement require 3–5 hours of sustained involvement (potentially over a few days or weeks).
• Frameworks marked high engagement require sustained involvement of time and effort from the delegate to achieve results (over multiple weeks).

AVOCADO PARTY FRAMEWORKS

Avocado Party Framework #1: Undermining of Stigma Against Sex Work (Low Engagement): Getting involved in organizations such as the Sex Workers project and calling elected representatives.

Why should we work to eliminate the stigma against sex workers? Sex work is a difficult field of employment, with sex workers having to deal with sexual abuse, human trafficking, and STD’s all while trying to earn a living in a field of work that is criminal in our state and nation. The negative stigma behind sex work perpetuates the cycle of silence taken by those abused and subject to human trafficking. California is one of the worst states for human trafficking and the decriminalization of sex work will combat this issue by allowing sex workers to expose sex trafficking and report abuse. The fear of incrimination by authorities prevents those who are victims of sex trafficking from getting the support they need. This stigma not only directly threatens the safety and wellness of sex workers but is dehumanizing to workers as well.

How Can We Eliminate the Stigma? Begin by Educating Your Community: This issue is one of societal biases and thus it must be dealt with on a community and personal level.
• Be mindful of the language you use. Say “Sex Worker” rather than “Prostitute” and encourage others to do the same. Subtle changes in our language will change the way perceive this field.
• Start a conversation with your friends, family, and classmates to educate them on the social dynamics and struggles of sex workers. We mustn’t let this topic remain taboo.
• Educate others about the negative effects of sex work being criminalized.

First educate yourself about the relation between the criminalization of sex work and human rights abuses for workers in this field. Share this information with as many people as you can.

What are some other resources I can refer to?
• Halcyon Francis’ Doctoral dissertation focuses on educating schools and communities on sex work.
• Global Network of Sex Work Projects (http://www.nswp.org) is an organization that advocates for the health and human rights of sex workers.
• Amnesty International (https://www.amnesty.org) is a non-governmental organization focused on human rights and has a helpful article on sex work.

Ways to get involved further
The Sex Workers Project (http://sexworkersproject.org) is committed to providing services and support to sex workers, and cracking down on human trafficking. Their non-biased legal and social services focus on securing permanent housing for clients, clearing their criminal records, and maintaining their physical and mental well-being. As the principle organization advocating sex work in the nation, the Sex Work Project is the driving force of the sex work movement.
There are several active campaigns and other ways to get involved

1. Endorse the call to change US policy on sex workers and HIV, stand up to human rights violations, and stand for expanded access to treatment and prevention. Join in demanding that the U.S. Government reform laws and policies that harm sex workers domestically and globally, directly inhibiting the fight against HIV/AIDS. Your endorsement will help build a movement for change. To endorse “A Call to Change U.S. Policy on Sex Work and HIV,” please send the following information to iac2012sexworkers@gmail.com and include: first name, last name, country, affiliation/organization (if relevant) and title/role and degrees (if relevant).

2. Call your local representatives to express your passion about preserving the integrity and human rights of Sex Workers.

3. What is the Just Mercy Method? In the summer before the 2017-2018 school year, South Pasadena High School required all of its incoming junior and senior students to read Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson as a summer reading assignment. In Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson, an acclaimed defense lawyer and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, discusses the role of race in the justice system and the death penalty. After completing summer reading students analyzed Stevenson’s arguments, contrasted his writing with that of other authors, and wrote essays based on the text in English class. This curriculum transformed many apathetic students’ perspective on the issue and got them involved in the cause.

   a. Find a book that discusses sex work and/or human trafficking.
   b. Contact your school principal and administrators and work on making this reading part of English or History class curriculum.
   c. Work with your administration and school district to make all students read the book and be aware of the issue.

Avocado Party Framework #2: Young Democratic Socialists of America (Medium Engagement): Getting involved at your school and starting a club

Who are the Young Democrats of America? The Democrats of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization in the United States. DSA’s members are building progressive movements for social change while establishing an openly democratic socialist presence in American communities and politics. DSA fights for reforms today that will weaken the power of corporations and increase the power of working people. DSA supports measures to decrease the influence of money in politics, empower ordinary people in workplaces and the economy, and restructure gender and cultural relationships to be more equitable. The Youth Sector of DSA, Young Democratic Socialists of America, is made up of students from colleges and high schools. The Youth Section works on economic justice and democracy and prison justice projects.

Why is this important? The United States of America is in danger of witnessing the complete dissolution of the middle class. How can this be? Ever since the New Deal domestic economic relief program was implemented as a measure to save the common person, we have seen a constant assail on the workers parity with the power of the corporation it produces for. The middle class worker is in danger of being forgotten again. We are now witnessing billionaires who make up the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans now have as much wealth as all African-American households, plus one-third of America’s Latino population, combined. In other words, just 400 extremely wealthy individuals have as much wealth as 16 million African-American households and 5 million Latino households. So we must not let our fellow man get kicked to the curb by the intensely harmful aristocracy that wishes the dissolution of the middle class and the end of the American dream. What follows will give a way to fight back against the powerful.

How can you get involved? Start a chapter at your school. (In special cases, eligible students can apply to earn academic credit from their college/university as a YDS Leader.)

1. Become a member of the YDSA. Sign up on the YDSA website. The DSA is completely funded by members. The annual dues for students is $20.
2. Fill out a YDSA Start a Chapter form. Be sure to get approval from a school administrator.
3. Recruit members. Downloadable flyers and web versions can be found in the resources section of the DSA website.
4. Get active in campaigns. DSA and YDS chapters organize around a variety of issues based on local priorities, especially labor solidarity and anti-austerity work. However, the national office provides resources and support for the main activist priorities of the organization as voted on by delegates to our national convention:
a. Medicare for All: Healthcare is a huge segment of our economy and health care access is a deeply and widely felt need. In the capitalist system, you have to pay to get care or go without, and under a democratic socialist system, we would collectively provide care as a society. Medicare for all is a stepping stone towards that vision and our campaign is designed to build a working class base of people fighting for state and national power. Sign up on the campaign website.

b. Strong Unions: Capitalism pits us against each other and workplaces are fundamentally authoritarian unless workers can self-organize and build collective power. This is why people build unions, and why employers undermine them. It is also why the capitalists as a class constantly work to undermine unions and promote narratives about unions that frame them as unnecessary, undemocratic or ineffective. DSA is forming a national project to fight back and build power in the economy, since outside of Wall Street, workplaces are the place where the owning class extract resources from the working class.

c. Electoral Power: Bernie Sanders launched a political revolution and the DSA continue to build it, supporting democratic socialist candidates running for local and state office. Their also grappling with how to build independent political power to hold candidates we elect, and others, accountable to their constituents rather than the donor class. Learn more on the electoral website.

To work outside of a chapter, you can join in one of the national identity/issue-based teams or join one of work committee or volunteer teams. Teams that work toward redistributing the wealth include:

1. Labor Working Group: The DSA Labor Working Group creates community for DSAners active in the labor movement, whether as union members and stewards, union staff, workers center activists, union officers, labor journalists, union retirees, students in labor solidarity groups, labor-oriented intellectuals, or in any other kind of role in the movement.

2. Solidarity Economy Working Group: The goal of this team is to provide education about policy and the sustainability of the solidarity economy and facilitate the growth of solidarity sectors in local communities. The team is currently completing their series of educational material. The medium goal is to set up webinars, and outreach opportunities with those materials.

Avocado Party Framework #3: Sexual Assault Prevention (High Engagement): 18-month commitment to working at crisis hotlines

What is RAINN? RAINN (Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network) is a non-profit organization devoted to fighting rape and sexual assault, and providing services and support for survivors. Founded in 1994, RAINN has forged partnerships with over 1,000 organizations across the country. They are currently the largest anti-sexual violence organization in the nation. RAINN offers sexual assault education and prevention outreach by visiting different school campuses and by creating resources that spread awareness. RAINN also operates the 24/7 National Sexual Assault Hotline that survivors of sexual assault can call into to find support and resources.

Why is this important? Every 98 seconds, another person experiences sexual assault. Sexual violence affects hundreds of thousands of Americans each year. Since 1994, the national sexual assault hotline has helped more than 2.5 million people. They currently help 15,964 people each month. RAINN provides a crucial service by both preventing sexual assault on school campuses through outreach and by providing support to survivors of sexual assault.

How to get involved in RAINN? Along with offering services and support for survivors of sexual assault, RAINN is actively involved in supporting and creating legislation that protects survivors and ensures that sexual assault will not be permitted under law. RAINN has recently worked with Senator Chuck Grassley to pass the Campus Accountability and Safety Act which has provisions to ensure that colleges treat sexual assault cases with the seriousness they deserve. On their website they offer three different ways to get involved and support their mission.

1. Get involved in RAINN’s policy initiatives by visiting the RAINN action center. Scroll down and look through RAINN’s “Top issues” that they are supporting. Find a cause that you feel passionate about and click the “take action” button.

2. Register for RAINN’s Policy News Sign up. Scroll down to where it states “Policy News Signup”. Fill out your information and you will be updated with RAINN’s current policy issues

3. Get in touch with your local congressman on the RAINN action center. Visit https://www.rainn.org/action-center. Type in your zip code and click either “Tweet Congress” or “Email Congress”. Next write a message stressing the importance of pushing legislation that protects survivors of sexual assault and use #ActWithRAINN.
There are various ways to be a student activist through RAINN to make people at your school and in your community aware of the support available in their area. Visit the RAINN website and look through the different options the website recommends to bring sexual assault prevention on your school’s campus.

Options include:
1. **RAINN Day**: Learn how to bring this annual day of action to raise awareness and educate students about sexual violence on school campuses to your school. It is a grassroots program designed to empower college students to educate their peers about sexual violence, bystander intervention, and recovery resources.
2. **Review Print Materials**: You can find resources from their website and distribute these at your school. You can create a table during lunch or nutrition at your school and educate students about the services offered by RAINN and let students know about RAINN’s hotline.
3. **Request a Survivor**: RAINN will send a speaker to your school to educate about sexual assault and spread information about the services available to survivors of sexual assault. Fill out the request form 4 to 6 weeks before your event or deadline so that RAINN can best match you to a survivor from the RAINN Speakers Bureau.
4. **Spread the word on social media**: The RAINN website offers instructions on how to connect a survivor with RAINN to provide support. They also discuss how to create posts that shed light on the issue of sexual assault and spread knowledge about the resources available to survivors.

**Be a RAINN Volunteer**: RAINN offers a handful of opportunities to become volunteer and support local organizations that further RAINN’s causes. Dedicating your time to these organizations can help provide the necessary support and resources to people all over the country.
1. **Volunteer to be a listener on RAINN’s Web-based Online Hotline** and find the next training session in your area. Fill out the application and wait for a response. This opportunity allows you to provide support to thousands of survivors of sexual assault and truly impact people’s lives.
2. **Volunteer for a RAINN-Partner Crisis Center** (found online at https://voloppss.rainn.org). Select your state and type in your zip code to find opportunities near you. They will then list local organizations or community opportunities that support RAINN’s larger initiatives. You can then get involved and ensure that survivors of sexual assault can seek needed support.

**GOLD PARTY FRAMEWORKS**

**Gold Party Framework #1: Net Neutrality (Low Engagement)**: Write and propose a council item to urge Congress to support net neutrality.

**What is Net Neutrality?** Net neutrality is the principle that governments should mandate Internet service providers to treat all data on the Internet the same, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication. For instance, under these principles, internet service providers are unable to intentionally block, slow down or charge money for specific websites and online content.

**Why is it important?** Net neutrality is important because without it broadband providers might try to make it more expensive to access popular streaming sites in an attempt to keep customers paying for expensive television packages. Previous to net neutrality’s overruling internet service providers were required to disclose information about the speed of their services, helping you find out whether you’re getting your money’s worth. They also force broadband providers to allow you to connect any device you like to your internet connection, so that your provider can’t force you to use a specific type of Wi-Fi router, or tell you which gadgets you can or can’t use. The removal of net neutrality would lead to even more centralization, handing more power to the largest Internet companies while stifling competition and innovation.

**What is net neutrality’s current situation?** Recently net neutrality was overturned by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) in efforts the get rid of the previous net neutrality rules that broadband providers like Comcast and Charter, and wireless providers like AT&T and Verizon, can’t block or slow down your access to lawful content, nor can they create so-called “fast lanes” for content providers who are willing to pay extra.

**How can I get involved?**
- Begin a petition in your community to raise awareness
- Contact your local assembly or senate members
Begin a petition
1. Start a local petition either on paper or online using websites like change.org, ipetitions.com, or petitions.moveon.org.
2. Tactics to get people to sign your petition: Begin with explaining net neutrality and why it is important. Explain to the passer-byer what your petition will help you hopefully accomplish, which is persuading your local representatives to bring up net neutrality as an existing issue that needs support to be enacted again.
3. To find people to sign your petition, go to places where government policies are important, like council meetings or local school board meetings. Also go to places that are passionate about the internet, like students in your school, or students specifically engaged in robotics or computer sciences clubs.

Contact your local representatives
1. To contact your congressional members online, go to battleforthenet.com to explain your concerns about net neutrality overturning.
2. To contact your congressional members by letter or email, look up your city and find your congressional member who represents your district. Once you find their address or email to send concerns, write a thought-out letter expressing your concerns about net neutrality overturning.
3. To contact a congressional member in a face-to-face interaction, call your local city council and see if it is possible to set up a time to talk to your local representative about the action they should be taking to repeal net neutrality’s overruling.

What can be done without passing a law? There are so many steps (listed above) that can be taken to bring up actual legislation in our houses to make net neutrality an actually law instead of policy. With these steps, we can work to pass the law, but before we get to the final step, we need the support of multiple people and groups in order to get a law passed.

Frequently Asked Questions
What is the basic argument in favor of net neutrality regulation? Proponents of net neutrality regulation fear that without regulation ISPs will abuse their power. For example, an ISP like Comcast could charge users more to access services of their competitors. Since Comcast has its own video-on-demand service, they could charge an additional access fee for users who want to use Netflix and stream videos over their internet connection. Another argument is that ISPs could stifle innovation by forcing its customers to use preferred services that have a contract with the ISP. Larger companies, for instance, would be able to pay higher fees to the ISPs, while new, smaller start-ups may not have the resources to pay for access to the ISPs’ customers.

What is the basic argument against net neutrality regulation? Critics of net neutrality regulation argue that ISPs have a right to distribute their network differently among services, and that this is necessary for innovation. For instance, in the example of Comcast and Netflix, they point out that if Netflix is hogging up bandwidth, that company should be charged more for the necessary updates that Comcast’s systems will require. Some opponents of the net neutrality note that the cost to provide bandwidth isn’t free, and that companies who provide such services should be able to recoup their costs. They also say that government regulation hinders competition and innovation and that the market will provide the best solution. For instance, as applied to the previous example, Comcast customers who are upset about having to pay more for Netflix could switch to another ISP, such as AT&T or Verizon.

What were the FCC’s net neutrality rules that were overturned? Under President Obama, the FCC included three “bright line” rules:
1. No Blocking: broadband providers may not block access to legal content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices.
2. No Throttling: broadband providers may not impair or degrade lawful internet traffic on the basis of content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices.
3. No Paid Prioritization: broadband providers may not favor some lawful internet traffic over other lawful traffic in exchange for consideration of any kind—in other words, no “fast lanes.” This rule also bans ISPs from prioritizing content and services of their affiliates.
Gold Party Framework #2: Sexual Violence Prevention (Medium Engagement): Host a sexual assault prevention event during April 2019 Week of Action to show support to all women & men who have experienced sexual assault.

**What is sexual assault prevention?** Sexual assault can vary in many ways, from rape to force and pressuring others to perform sexual acts. Force doesn’t always refer to physical pressure. Perpetrators may use emotional coercion, psychological force or manipulation to coerce victims. Sexual assault prevention primarily centers around education. By educating students, friends and parents about warning signs and safety, we can decrease the sexual assault rate exponentially. You can host sexual assault prevention events by simply hosting a viewing of documentaries such as “It Happened Here,” and charging the people who attend a small amount of money ($5). Then donating the proceeds to sexual assault prevention non-profits such as RAINN (Rape Abuse Incest National Network).

**Why is it important?** Sexual assault prevention is extremely important because we all have the ability to look out for one another. In college alone, 1 in 7 girls and 1 in 10 boys will be sexually assaulted. Preventing sexual assault can be as simple as giving someone a ride home or directly confronting a person who us engaging in threatening behavior.

**What is sexual assault’s current situation?** Since the New Yorker’s journalist, Ronan Farrow, blew the lid off Hollywood’s massive sexual assault cover up perpetrated by Harvey Weinstein, hundreds of thousands of women have come forward and shared their stories. From actors such as Louis C.K., journalists like Matt Lauer and politicians similar to Roy Moore all being accused of sexual assault, it has shown a demeaning culture that has encouraged women to hide their stories and ultimately resulted in a demeaning culture. Current statistics show that 23% of college students are sexually assaulted. This shows us that these issues aren’t just in high profile settings and that we have to act now.

**What has been done in California?** California has taken small yet necessary steps to prevent sexual assault. The Department of Education has prompted investigations in more than a hundred colleges and universities. A bipartisan group of senators recently introduced the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, which would require better coordination with local police departments when accusations are made.

**How can I get involved?** Getting involved can be as simple as giving someone a safe ride home, to educating yourself on warning signs of sexual assault and volunteering to nonprofits in your community.

**Start a week of action:** April is Sexual Assault Prevention month (specifically the first week of April is dedicated to students raising awareness in their communities). Being a part of the week of action could entail creating a school movie night on a documentary about sexual assault prevention and charging students. The money could be given to a nonprofit of your choosing. Other examples include participating in the walk to end sexual assault or simply donating to a charity that you are passionate about.

**What can be done without passing a law?** Being a catalyst for change can start by participating in small clubs at school that educate students about sexual assault such as Joyful Hearts. April is Sexual Assault Prevention month. By participating in a week of action, you could help nonprofits raise awareness and fundraise.

**Frequently Asked Questions**
- What does sexual assault have to do with sexual harassment? Sexual assault is the most severe form of sexual harassment.
- What if someone is incapacitated but still gives signs of consent? If the individual is incapacitated, regardless of signs, there is no consent.
- Can someone be sexually assaulted by a boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, spouse or friend? Yes, sexual assault can be committed by anyone no matter what relationship they have with the victim.

Gold Party Framework #3: Resources for Special Needs (High Engagement): Establish a Best Buddies chapter at your school and organize speaker series on the “R” word and disability awareness.

**What is Best Buddies?** Best Buddies is an international non-profit organization that works to establish a global movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs). The IDD community includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities. Best Buddies is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and
economic isolation of the 200 million people with IDDs. Their programs help to empower people in this community by helping them form meaningful friendships, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society. On a high school level, Best Buddies chapters are student-run friendship clubs, which create buddy pairs between students with and without disabilities. Best Buddies helps to create an inclusive school climate for students and a community culture of acceptance.

**What is Best Buddies current situation?** Currently, there are 1,107 high school chapters of Best Buddies with a total of 59,629 participants. Best Buddies spans across all 50 states, in 48 countries, and throughout 6 continents. However, there are so many more people who would greatly benefit from implementing Best Buddies in their community. There are approximately 6.5 million people in the United States have an intellectual or developmental disability, approximately 1 in 6 children ages 3–17 have some type of developmental disability across the US, and over 295,000 individuals with IDDs in California as of 2015.

**What has been done in California?** There are many chapters of Best Buddies across California, the largest based at Berkeley High School, and three Best Buddies headquarters in Los Angeles, Fresno, and San Francisco. There have been major fundraising events for Best Buddies based in California, including the Northern California Gala, Best Buddies Friendship Walks, the Malibu Tennis Invitational, the Vanguard Event, and the Los Angeles Poker Tournament. There have also been numerous viral social media campaigns to raise awareness for their cause, such as “I’m In To Hire,” “Spread the Word to End the Word,” and “Best Buddies Month.”

**How can I get involved?**
1. Contact your school’s special education advisor (SEA) and get them on board with starting a chapter at your school.
2. Rally a group of students at your school around the idea! Try to gather people both with IDDs and without to advocate for starting a chapter.
3. Once you have a solid group of 10+ students, reach out to a teacher or staff member at your school to be your faculty advisor (FA) and support you in the process of developing your club.
4. Go to the Best Buddies website and fill out the form for “Starting a Best Buddies chapter at my school or university”.
5. Fill out the paperwork that they email you to officially become a part of the Best Buddies organization.
6. Once you are given the OK to begin your chapter, establish your club’s leadership. You will need a president.
7. Begin recruiting peers to be matched with a buddy in the special education program at your school.

**What can be done if you already have a Best Buddies chapter at your school?**
1. Consider getting involved with Special Olympics.
2. Launch a campaign against the “R-Word”. Post on social media with the hashtag #SpreadTheWordToEndTheWord.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Does it cost anything to join Best Buddies in schools?** There is no individual cost to joining Best Buddies. There is a $350 annual chapter dues cost to high school and college chapters; however, chapters raise this fee through grants, donations, and school fundraisers.

**What are intellectual disabilities?** According to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), an intellectual disability is a particular state of functioning that begins in childhood before age 18 and is characterized by significant limitations in both intelligence and adaptive skills as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.

**What are developmental disabilities?** Developmental disabilities are categorized by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) as life-long disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairments which manifest themselves before the age of 22 years and are likely to continue indefinitely.

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**GRIZZLY PARTY FRAMEWORKS**

**Grizzly Party Framework #1: LGBTQ+ Rights (Low Engagement):** Encouraging schools to establish at least one gender-neutral bathroom.

**Background:** Assembly Bill 1732 mandates all single-user restrooms “in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or state or local government agency shall be identified as all-gender toilet facilities by signage that...”
complies with Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and designated for use by no more than one occupant at a time or for family or assisted use.” This framework’s goal is to extend AB 1732 to public schools in California.

**Why is it important?** Something as simple as having to use the bathroom doesn’t have a profound effect on most people, but members of the LGBTQ+ community have long been scrutinized for the “men’s room vs. women’s room” battle. People who do not conform to the male or female gender, or are members of the trans community, often fear using public restrooms because there is still an expectation installed in society that people should use the bathroom that corresponds to their biological sex. The implementation of all-gender restrooms for any facility that holds a single person capacity can help LGBTQ+ individuals who don’t conform to gender norms feel more comfortable with using public bathrooms. No one should have to live in fear of being discriminated against for something as arbitrary as which bathroom they feel most comfortable using. This is also stated in AB 1732, as the bill “eliminates the fears and frustration that many people experience in restrooms on a daily basis.” It is critical to implement this framework, as failing to offer all-gender restroom options is an example of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. In the society that we live in today, this is unacceptable.

**What has been done in California?** On March 1, 2017, Section 118600 of the California Health and Safety Code was implemented, requiring that all single-user restrooms in any business establishment be identified as “all-gender toilet facilities.” Hence, if employers or businesses occupy a facility with a unisex geometric sign, no alterations are necessary. If, however, the restroom has a male or female geometric sign, it must be replaced with a unisex sign.

**How can I get involved?** One simple way to make a difference is to make a phone call or write a letter or email to your state senator or assembly member. You can find the contact information (email, phone number, etc.) of your representative on their website. Communicate to them the importance of extending the provisions requiring gender neutral bathrooms in workplaces to public schools as well.

**What can be done that is not passing a law?**
- Organize a group
- Create a petition
- Go to the school board
- Advocate in your community
- Volunteer at your local community center
- Donate to your local community centers

**Resources** (as recommended by Carlos Marquez of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center)
1. CenterLink – the community of LGBT centers across North America.
2. Equality California – a state LGBT civil rights organization focused on advocacy and policy change.
3. Transform California – a campaign committed to making California a safe, non-discriminatory place for all transgender and non-gender conforming individuals.
4. GLSEN – an organization dedicated to creating better environments for LGBTQ+ identifying students in K-12 schools.

**Grizzly Party Framework #2: Arts Education (Medium Engagement):** Advance California’s Art Coalition Initiative by lobbying and increased funding and inclusion in arts curriculum.

**What is CREATE CA?** California’s Statewide Arts Education Coalition (CREATE CA) is a statewide coalition of agencies, organizations, and individuals partnering on an education reform movement that views arts education as an essential part of the solution to the problems facing California schools. Since 2011, this group has been working strategically to, in the words of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, “foster a Renaissance in arts education for California public schools.” The mission is to enable all students access to the tools needed to reach their full potential by advancing an education model that promotes creativity and the arts for the 21st century workforce. The goal of this framework is to further promote CREATE CA and help establish future increases in funding for fulfilling arts programs in all secondary public schools in California as provided by the state government.

**Why is it important?** As the battle for funding education in the United States continues to grind, the arts have become viewed by many people as a “luxury”, and are therefore expendable. Working with CREATE CA is critical so that we, as
a state, can negotiate together with our local city councils, district attorneys, and state officers to infuse arts education of all the major disciplines (visual art, music, theater, and dance) back into our state’s public schools. Hopefully, this will succeed, and simply act as the first step to ensure that funding for art programs at every public school nationwide is high enough to give kids the exposure to the arts they need to become great leaders and even greater people.

What has been done in California? CREATE CA is currently continuing to work with their Strategic Roadmap that was plotted and published in 2014. Grounded in the work of the Joint Arts Education Task Force, the Strategic Roadmap is intended to serve its members and encourage catalyzing arts education advocacy in California. Another major point in CREATE CA’s portfolio of work is their Equity Declarations and their adjacent platform views. Members of CREATE CA define arts education to include courses of study and interdisciplinary learning in dance, music, theatre, and visual and media arts, aligned with the State Standards and reflecting the provisions of the California State Education Code.”

What has been done in California?
In the forty year history of the organization, the California Arts Council (CAC) has launched fifteen grant platforms to aid in raising awareness about the importance of arts education. Four of the most prominent grant programs offered by CAC are Professional Development, Reentry Through the Arts, State Local–Partners, and Statewide and Regional Networks.

How can I get involved?
• Keep Arts in Schools Voluntary Contribution Fund: Individuals may make tax-deductible contributions in amounts of $1 or more through the Voluntary Contribution portion of state tax returns. The Keep Arts in Schools Voluntary Contribution Fund can be found in Voluntary Contribution Section 110 (425) of the “540” individual state tax return form. 100% of tax-deductible contributions are applied to arts education programming supported by the California Arts Council.
• Arts License Plates: When you purchase a California Arts Plate, you’ll help create a state of innovation and ensure that California continues to be a world leader in creative and innovative industries for generations to come. The California Arts Plate helps the California Arts Council put arts programs in California schools—a great cause that you can be proud to support.

Resources
• CreateCA – a coalition of dedicated and innovative leaders whose mission is to ensure all students are able to reach their full potential by advancing an education model that promotes creativity and the arts for the 21st century workforce.
• California Arts Council – The California Arts Council is a state agency designed to advance California through the arts and creativity. The Council is committed to building public will and resources for the arts and fostering accessible art initiatives that reflect contributions from all of California’s diverse populations.
• California Alliance for Arts Education – The California Alliance for Arts Education advocates for high quality arts education for all students by providing policy expertise and by mobilizing a statewide network of advocates and allied partners.

Grizzly Party Framework #3: Environmental Issues (High Engagement): Opposing the use of Styrofoam and working to reinforce the legal implementation in the state of California.

• What is the Styrofoam ban? The proposed Styrofoam ban (Senate Bill 705) will prevent food vendors from distributing food on Styrofoam plates, cups, etc. From the legislation: “The bill would prohibit a food provider, vendor, as defined, that is subject to specified federal requirements for the posting of calories and nutrients imposed upon restaurants and other retail food establishments, on and after January 1, 2020, from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container. The bill would prohibit all food vendors from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container on and after January 1, 2022...The bill would authorize a city, a county, a city and county, or the state to impose civil liability on a person or entity that knowingly violates that prohibition, or reasonably should have known that it was violating that prohibition, in the amount of $1,000 per day for the first violation, $2,000 per day for the second 2nd violation, and $5,000 per day for the third 3rd and subsequent violations.”
Why is it important? Styrofoam, or expanded polystyrene, is a type of plastic commonly used in packaging. From take-out boxes to parcel shipping, its use has become monolithic in the delivery and transport business. While Styrofoam use has many benefits, such as cheap production, light weight, and low density, it also does irreversible damage to our environment. As it breaks down in our natural ecosystems, rather than separating into its chemical components, it erodes into tiny pieces of plastic. These tiny grains of plastic are almost impossible to recycle and build up by the trillions in our oceans. These plastics are highly toxic, and when consumed by marine life, the toxins within them accumulate in the cells of these organisms. As they move through the food chain, the concentration of these toxins magnifies, becoming increasingly harmful at each successive trophic level. This threat to our ecosystems, however, is completely evitable. By banning the production, sale, and use of polystyrene in the state of California, we can alleviate the detrimental effects that this product has on our state. Additionally, by no means is this ban unreasonable Styrofoam containers only cost pennies less than their biodegradable paper counterparts. Although hundreds of cities have already banned the use of Styrofoam, hundreds more have not, and their continued use only causes harm.

How can I get involved? Contribute to the comprehensive compilation of contact information for legislators in both the California State Assembly and Senate, including but not limited to: name, email, phone number, and address. This database will serve as a guide for involved delegates to reach out to legislators that have both supported, opposed, or abstained from voting on a statewide ban on polystyrene in the past. To contact legislators that have supported the cause, seek to voice your appreciation for their actions. Work to build relationships with proponent when and if at all possible order to further the cause.

How do I join the rally if I’m not centrally located to Sacramento? Delegates and/or youth that do not reside in the Sacramento area can lead phone banking efforts in order to fundraise for the cause.

POPPY PARTY FRAMEWORKS

Poppy Party Framework #1; Environmental Advocacy (Low Engagement): Increase the awareness of the benefits of recycling by advocating for an increase in recycling bins in high schools.

What is the effect of recycling on the environment? Recycling is an effective waste management solution because it lessens the amount of pollution and litter being disposed into our air, soil, and water and it conserves natural resources. Recycling also helps boost the economy by creating more jobs related to sustainable recycling and by decreasing the costs of product manufacturing and landfill expenses.

Why is it important? Recycling plays an essential role in our goal to protect the environment and restore it for future generations. Currently, the California recycling rate is decreasing, from 50% in 2015 to 44% in 2017. There are nationwide efforts to promote greater recycling strategies; however, the country can do better. Americans produce an average 230 million tons of recyclable trash every day, but the national recycling rate is only 34%. It is imperative for us to take all possible measures to contribute to sustainable recycling because more waste is constantly being exerted into our environment, depleting valuable economic and agricultural resources.

What is recycling’s current situation? Multiple national, state, and local organizations and companies seek to encourage people to recycle more as a means for conserving the state of our environment and maintaining a more eco-friendly lifestyle, such as the National Waste & Recycling Association, California Recycles Incorporated, Southern California Disposal and Recycling Company, and the Northern California Recycling Association. California state law has recently established a goal to achieve no less than 75% recycling or composting by 2020.

What has been done in California?
• Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act: established a system through the beverage container recycling program to collect and recycle beverage containers.
• Responsible Electronics Recycling Act: requires persons who handle restricted electronic wastes to permit appropriate EPA and state officials access to such wastes upon request.
• Protecting America’s Paper for Recycling Act: solid waste that is collected as part of a system that includes materials recovery.
• Senate Bill 326: Producer recycling of waste packaging and paper.
How can I get involved?
• Be aware of recycling programs
• Be involved or start a green club in your school
• Sort recyclable items in your home and encourage others to do the same
• Incentive programs for schools
• Increase awareness of recycling in social media

How can I start an initiative?
1. Find a group of people who want to help improve recycling at your school by adding more bins around campus and ask a faculty member to be your advisor.
2. Find the problem:
   a. Find out if there is a recycling center in your area by calling your city council office and ask if they already pick up recycling at your school. If no recycling company picks up recyclables at your school, find out where you can send the recyclables to be processed.
   b. Identify the number of recycling bins in your school and how many are needed.
3. Contact the school board about funding the purchase of recycling bins to be placed in every classroom and alongside every regular trashcan on campus.
   a. Find the schedule of school board meetings for your designated district.
   b. Find a way to reserve a speaking spot on a meeting’s agenda.
   c. Create a proposal for the purchase and implementation of recycling bins for your high school.
4. If the school board does not provide funding or only covers a certain percentage of the bins’ purchase, organize a fundraiser (ex. bake sale) to purchase recycling bins.
5. If no recycling company can pick up the recycled materials gathered, form a committee of students to take the items to your local recycling center (which you may have identified in 2a).
6. Spread awareness about how to recycle in your school by hosting informative assemblies and making schoolwide announcements promoting recycling.
7. Keep the club engaged by having meetings and promoting the importance of recycling as a form of improving the environment!

Frequently Asked Questions
• How does recycling benefit the environment? Recycling is extremely crucial for the environment because it decreases the need for extracting and depleting natural resources/raw materials, reduces pollution caused by waste, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
• Why should we sort our waste when recycling? Sorting is a critical aspect of recycling because often, recycling materials end up in landfills or are incinerated, leading to these reusable resources being completely lost, while contributing to growing toxic landfills.
• What are recyclable items? Rigid bottles/plastics, paper, cardboard, metals (tin, aluminum, steel), glass, plastic bags, and foam are all recyclable.

Resources
• Calrecycle.ca.gov - Environmental protection organization that focuses on recycling and resource recovery
• CRRA.com - Website for the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA), which aims to promote and implement environmental sustainability strategies

Poppy Party Framework #2: Condom Sense (Medium Engagement): Increase the amount of availability to contraceptives (specifically condoms) in high schools by lobbying your school board.

What is Condom Sense? Condom Sense is an initiative rooted in California that aims to get give students in California schools access to safe contraceptives. It is an irrefutable fact that there will always be some teens that start becoming sexually active in high school. While some may argue that the solution is to practice abstinence, the simplest and most effective answer is to teach safe sex. In order to curb teen pregnancies and prevent the spread of STDs, the state should start providing students with the means to keep themselves protected for health and quality of life purposes by mandating that school districts must install condom vending machines in public school bathrooms.
**Why is it Important?** According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, California was ranked 33 out of 51 (50 states + the District of Columbia) on final 2015 teen births rates among females aged 15–19, with 1 representing the highest rate and 51 representing the lowest rate. This, along with a 2017 article written by the LA Times about how diagnoses for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis have reached a record high for the second year in a row, exhibit how the State of California has failed in protecting its citizens from sexually transmitted diseases. Although the government cannot force teens to use condoms, it can still inform them on the benefits and proper use of condoms. At the very least, the state should provide better access to condoms for the health and well-being of its youth.

**What are the effects of condoms in public schools?** The effects of putting condoms in schools are that they have improved condom use among males. After implementation studies have shown that the baseline of surveyed males who said they don’t wear a condom rose by 35%. Condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancies and are proven to protect against HPV when used correctly. Teens do engage in sexual activity. Instead of trying to eliminate teen intercourse, the best course of action is to make sure that they are doing it safely.

**How can I get involved?**
1. Look into the current situation. Find out information about if, why, and how your school distributes condoms and their policy. Does your school already hand out condoms? Does your nurse or counselor have information about the school’s policies?
2. Gather information about the effectiveness of condoms. Find and use stats like the ones above so you can start backing up your argument with evidence. Adults will ask all kinds of questions but having the data will add legitimacy to your cause.
3. Survey Your Peers: Adults may underestimate the significance providing protection to teens and finding relative stats that represent your local school or district can be hard. Something you can do address these problems is releasing an anonymous survey to your peers in order to get a feel for how they perceive condoms or the ease of access to them. Knowing what you’re talking about will elicit respect from your audience regardless of your size or age!
4. Start Putting Together Your Case: Start drafting out speeches and presentation that you could give to the members of your school board. Piece together the stats and info you picked up in steps 1–3. Make charts, graphs, diagrams, or whatever you need to make your point and express why this is important.
5. Set a Date: Find out where your next school board meeting is. Go to your school’s website or ask your teachers about when the next one is scheduled. You are going to want to find out about other details like "Does my board have student representatives?", "Do I need to sign up or talk to someone in order to speak?", and "Will I need to run this by some sort of supervisor?".
6. Come in and give your presentation at your next school board meeting. This is what all your hard work has built up to. Make sure to put your best foot forward and remember that you, an ordinary person, have the power start extraordinary change. Feel free to invite your friends, family, and delegation to support you.
7. Follow up: Keep in touch and follow up with your school board. Call, text, email, fax, and mail them. If it means that you have to send a messenger pigeon to get their attention then so be it. Show that you are determined to see condoms in vending machines in your school’s bathroom and let them know that you weren’t kidding. You have an entire delegation that can help you with this part! Continue to follow up at least weekly to make sure that they don’t forget you or the presentation you put all that effort into.

**Poppy Party Framework #3: Straw Ban (High Engagement):** Change your personal habits and encourage others to do the same, while publicly advocating for reduction in plastic use.

**What is the Straw Ban?** Straw Ban is a movement which aims to reduce and eventually end the popular use of dangerous plastic products -- straws, six pack rings, grocery bags, cups, bottles and utensils -- in favor of recyclable and biodegradable materials. In particular plastic drinking straw.

**Why is this Important?** Earth’s ecosystems are threatened as non-biodegradable plastic materials pollute the environment. Plastic destroys soil in which plants grow and is mistaken as food by many land and sea mammals. Specifically, the Ocean is home to Earth’s most complex and sensitive ecosystems, which face destruction due to the presence of plastic waste, among the most common of which are plastic grocery bags and plastic drinking straws.
Where has Straw Ban happened? What are the effects? While there is no legislation regarding plastic straws in particular; many countries, states, counties and cities have either banned plastic bags or have increased the cost of purchasing them, advocating instead for paper bags or reusable grocery bags. The state of Hawaii as well as the cities of Austin, Cambridge, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle have banned plastic bags while the cities of Boulder, Brownsville, Montgomery County, New York City, Portland (Maine), and Washington D.C. have issued straw ban fees. These cities have enjoyed a decrease in pollution and the monetary losses to both businesses and customers have been negligible.

What are some alternatives to plastic? There are many alternatives to plastics: reusable metal, glass, and even some fancy biodegradable plastics. Using reusable shopping bags or a one-time purchase of a metal water bottle is a great step in getting involved in a plastic free life and building a plastic free world.

What can I do to help?
- Cut down on your own use of plastic products; ask for paper rather than plastic at a grocery store or don’t grab a straw at Starbucks.
- Talk to friends and family to spread the message
- Find out what types of plastics and how much of them you, your family, school or town consumes. Propose more eco-friendly alternatives.
- Host a screening of informative documentaries (such as Garbage Island, Bag it and Plastic Paradise)
- Get involved in beach/street clean-ups. Encourage your school or YMCA to host one, or just go with a group of friends!

Steps to Action
Assemble a team and research the issue: See if you can get an estimate of how many plastic straws are used in your city. Estimate the financial and environmental impact of those straws.

Gather support for your cause with a petition:
1. Have your classmates sign a petition to reduce plastic use by and within your school district.
2. Petition within your community; outside of grocery stores, within your YMCA, in your downtown, at parks, gyms, libraries and other places of commune.
3. Introduce your anti-plastic proposal and explain alternatives to plastic. You can even hand them a copy of this framework!
4. Get endorsements (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, elected officials, businesses, environmental groups)

Write a bill, contact your local representatives:
1. Attend a city council meeting and present an anti-plastic proposal
2. Research your city council’s calendar as well as whether you must sign up to speak or if it is open forum
3. Present your idea as well as written legislation (see attached doc)

REDWOOD PARTY FRAMEWORKS

Redwood Party Framework #1: Habitat Destruction & Environmentalism (Low Engagement): Alleviate some of the stress that climate change has put on natural habitats in the state by volunteering for local conservationist nonprofits.

To alleviate some of the stress that climate change has put on natural habitats in the state of California by volunteering for local conservationist nonprofits, here’s some steps you can take:

Step 1: Identify the most critical need in your community. If you live on the coast, this might be a beach cleanup. If you’re near mountains, this might be trail preservation. The type of work will differ from location to location.

Step 2: Identify a legitimate nonprofit organization in the area that deals with natural habitats in the area and is looking for volunteers (most nonprofits are extremely receptive to volunteers). Google is a sufficient way of finding organizations. They’re everywhere, and most have websites as well as phone numbers to call. Take measures to ensure that organization is legitimate and there is ample evidence of their past work. After verifying the legitimacy of the organization, reach out to them and find out when and where you can volunteer.
**Step 3:** Find people. Reach out to your delegation, friends, family; calling, emailing, writing letters is a personalized way to let them know this cause means a lot to you. Ask your lead advisor if it would be possible for you to set aside some time for you to speak during delegation meetings, talk to your parents when they’re available, mention it to your friends when you guys hang out, or even make a school-wide announcement. Put up flyers around your community. Post on social media. Advertise these opportunities as much as possible and do your best to generate good attendance. Volunteer hours are enticing to people and if you advertise that to students or community, it can bring people to join your cause. A good way to get students to join you is to tell them that these companies will sign off on community service hours. Also consider getting teachers involved such as environmental science, chemistry, and biology teachers, seeing if they will offer extra credit for students who attend. This could be as easy as stopping by during office hours and having a quick discussion with your teachers (if they’re head of their specific department even better! If they’re not, contact department heads as well!) Extra credit can motivate nearly any student to get involved.

**Step 4:** Share! Tell your friends on social media about what you did. Post pictures with friends and of the majestic California wilderness. Make habitat restoration look like a lot of fun (it really is). Make it cool to care about the environment. Additionally, don’t let volunteering become a one-time event! Try to set up a standing date (once every month or two months) to host a community-wide volunteering event. Or if it is a possibility, starting a club at your school to encourage people outside of Y&G to join your cause. Make a habit out of taking care of the planet.

**Redwood Party Framework #2: Immigration & Aiding Families (Medium Engagement):** Assist and do housework for families that have had a member or members taken into custody by Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**Background:** There are many families in California who have at least one member at risk of being taken into custody by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Should a member or several members be removed from a home, the rest of the family would be at a loss. Housekeeping and other jobs still need to be done around the house, and this would be difficult with a missing member, especially a parent. This initiative is to have delegates involved with nonprofit organizations that offer services to immigrant families.

**Step 1:** Identify a legitimate nonprofit organization (checking their recent work and possibly contacting past schools/companies they have worked with) or organizations in California that offer services to immigrant families. There are many, and in multiple areas, especially in the greater Los Angeles area, such as Esperanza and ICWC. Make sure that this organization is legitimate and there is evidence of their previous work.

**Step 2:** Gather a group of classmates, family members, friends, fellow delegates, and/or members or fellow members of other groups that are willing to volunteer for immigrant families. A good way to find students is through the International Relation Club or another immigrant or refugee support club at your school. Not only is this work good for the community and a great way to get involved, it can be used as community service hours.

**Step 3:** Contact your chosen organization, and ask them if you and/or your group can volunteer to assist refugees with housework. Try to schedule specific dates and times where you can volunteer, so you can share this information with the group you are working with. Be prepared to contact multiple organizations if necessary. One great service to help connect you to other advocacy networks is Immigration Advocates.

**Step 4:** If the organization doesn’t specifically go to homes and do chores, offer to volunteer in other ways, such as helping in their offices or working in the field with their representatives. If the organization does do in-home chore work, still offer to volunteer in other ways in addition to the chores. Organizations can always use the volunteering and the help.

**Step 5:** Take pictures with friends and write down things that immigrants you work with say. Share these images as well as the stories of the families you meet on social media. Show your friends and family why it’s important to volunteer for this cause, and make it look like a fun and rewarding experience to your followers. Getting out the word is important!

**Step 6:** If the message of the organization resonates with your group, make a habit out of working there. Immigrant families, especially those facing deportation are always in need of assistance. Keep doing your best to expand the size of your group. Always remember to work with your school ASB, or any school clubs that could be in relation with your group.
**Redwood Party Framework #3: Voter Engagement (High Engagement):** Plan and execute a voting registration drive in local communities.

To plan and execute a voting registration drive in local communities, here are the steps you can take:

**Step 1:** Decide on your target group. What demographics are you trying to register? Young people? Minorities or underrepresented groups? Specific neighborhoods? Make sure your position is both effective and convenient for that target group. Anyone ages 16 and up can pre-register to vote beginning at age 16, meaning that they will be immediately registered to vote officially on their 18th birthday.

**Step 2:** Decide on where and when. Choose a public location -- schools, religious centers, malls, post offices, farmers markets, or on college campuses. Make sure to call the location or facility before to guarantee that you won’t need a permit. If you do, see about attaining a permit. Be sure to choose a time when there will be lots of pedestrians or passers-byers, such as on the weekend or during lunchtime. At school, ask specific teachers to come and register during class times that are heavy on civic engagement/high school juniors and seniors, and ask them to invite their students as well (as they will be eligible to pre-register and register to vote in the greatest number). If not during class, ask to set up a table during a club fair or parent’s night or your school’s equivalent.

**Step 3:** Advertise, advertise, advertise! Work with any kind of local community resources to get the word out! If this is your school, talk to your administration. Contact your ASB club/class as well. If this is a neighborhood put up flyers. You could even contact your local paper/news station. In most cases, they’re happy to help. Be sure everyone understands that they will require their name, address, birthday, and social security number if they can (although you do not need it). If they’re registering online, their driver’s license. This is not applicable if done via paper. Talk to local papers (e.g. letters to the editor, they nearly always print everything) as well. Any action taken to boost recognition is the right direction to take!

**Step 4:** Gather all the materials you’ll need. Call your local elections office to schedule a form pick-up if you’re only registering voters in one county. If you’re registering in multiple counties, check online. You’ll need voter registration forms, absentee ballot forms, and party affiliation declaration forms. Check [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) to have ready a list of polling places in your community.

**Step 5:** Bring tables, chairs, signs, clipboards, and pens. For digital registration, bring at least one laptop/computer with internet connection, but preferably bring more. Be sure to have at least 2 people attending to the stand. If the area isn’t entirely safe, make sure the laptop or other valuables are never left unattended. Setting up near some kind of safe, watched area can help.

**Step 6:** After the drive, the most important thing to do is deliver the forms to the elections office! Be sure this is done in a timely manner in order to deliver the registrations as soon as possible. Remember, holding onto voter registration papers for more than three days will get you a serious fine by the State of California. Turn them in the moment you can. Digital registrations do not need to be turned in to a location.

**Step 7:** Feel great that you’ve encouraged democracy.

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**Trout Party Frameworks**

**Trout Party Framework #1: Increase Public Health Resources (Low Engagement):** Collect diapers to donate to organizations that aid underprivileged families/people, in order to provide accessible hygiene.

**What is the diaper drive?** The diaper drive is an initiative to collect diapers to donate to organizations that aid underprivileged families/people, in order to promote accessible hygiene products to those who cannot afford it.

**Why is it important?** Diapers are a basic health right. However, for many families, diapers are a luxury that simply cannot be afforded. The diaper drive is important because it values the accessibility of basic hygiene products to all people, despite their socioeconomic status.
How can I get involved? Organize a diaper drive through your school or local YMCA. Reach out to local organizations such as Planned Parenthood, homeless shelters, etc. that will take your donations.

Organizing a diaper drive through your high school:
1. Find a local organization to donate to (such as Planned Parenthood, homeless shelters, halfway homes).
2. Follow school regulations regarding the organization of collecting donations.
3. Publicize your drive for at least a week prior.
4. Place donation boxes in classrooms and around campus.
5. Consider providing an incentive for students to donate (such as a competition between classes for raising most donations in order to receive a prize).
6. Set a time period for drive.
7. Collect donations at conclusion of drive.
8. Count number of diapers received and report as data.
9. Bring donations to set organization.

Is there a way to expand this framework? Yes! You can alter your drive to include other hygiene products including feminine hygiene products.


What is Represent Us? Represent Us is a nonprofit organization dedicated to “fixing our broken elections, stopping political bribery, and ending secret money through the American Anti-Corporation Act”. In order to fix broken election, they aim to make ranked voting an election norm, end gerrymandering, allow all voters to participate in open primaries, and change how elections are funded. In regards to ending political bribery, steps have been taken to prohibit politicians from taking money from lobbyists, ban lobbyist bundling, close the revolving door, and counter politicians from fundraising during working hours. Ending secret money--secret money being quantities of money being donated that are not being disclosed to the public--includes measures to immediately disclose political money online and to stop high-paying donors from hiding behind money groups.

Why is it important? Money in politics makes political representation and legislation unfair and unjust while inaccurately representing the interests of the public. This government corruption undeniably violate two core democratic government values: giving the general population a say in politics via electing officials and expecting that politicians advocate for legislation in the best interests of the people.

How can I get involved? Start a new chapter in your area. A chapter is a group of people willing to work on the mission of Represent Us. Attend a monthly volunteer introduction call. Recruit a team of 3-5 people to start your chapter. More information on the Represent Us website.

Trout Party Framework #3: Civic Engagement and Youth Voting (High Engagement): Increase youth civic engagement by working to lower the voting age to 16 and 17 in local elections.

What is Vote@16? Vote@16 is an ongoing national initiative to get young people to be a part of the democratic process by lowering the voting age to 16. Lowering the voting age is an issue that has been long discussed since after the World War II, and in the last five years has resurfaced in a wave of political activism. The campaign now centers around civic engagement, voter turnout, and overall an increase in representation for young people.

Why is it important? In Youth and Government, we have some of the most profound and civically engaged individuals in the state. As young people under the age of 18, our tangible political participation is limited to speaking in town halls, volunteering on campaigns, phone banking, etc. Although all of these things are fundamental aspects of the democratic process, we should have a way to express our opinions in a way that is validated by political officials, votes. In implemented cities such as Takoma Park, Maryland and other international locations such as Norway young people have proven to be some of the most engaged individuals turning out at the polls at up to 35% more than over 18 voters. The issues faced by our communities have solutions, and young people should have a way of electing individuals who reflect their values and priorities. Especially when those individuals are dictating their educational situation.
**What is Vote@16 current situation?** Vote@16 initiatives of all kinds are being organized in states across the Nation such as Colorado, Washington DC., Tennessee, Illinois, and Massachusetts. All with the goal of getting state and local legislature to pass laws and approve ordinances to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote.

**What has been done in California?**
- In 2015 and 2016, Y&G delegates and other students attempted to pass a statewide law in the California houses. The bill was sponsored by Tony Thurmond. Unfortunately, the bill was killed in committee due to members opposing viewpoints.
- In the 2016 election, delegates from the Berkeley delegation passed a local city-wide measure in Berkeley with over 70% the vote, allowing 16 & 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections.
- Also in 2016, the San Francisco Vote16 Initiative earned more than 48% of the vote 170,000 votes, while this was not enough to pass it was a fantastic accomplishment. A coalition is still working diligently towards their goal to get it passed in this year’s 2018 midterm election.
- Other local campaigns including Sacramento, Stockton and Fresno are also working diligently to achieve their goals in the near future as well.

**Starting a new Campaign in your City:**
1. Grab some friends! Talk about the idea and why you’re interested in doing it and if your community would benefit from it. Knowing your core values and why you are interested in the issues, will allow you to speak more passionately and convince people about it in the future.
2. Do Research: Figure out if your city has a city charter (a city charter is a “city constitution” usually in which lies rules about voting. That’s what you’re trying to change.)
3. Reach out to your city commissions, community members, and local non-profits to see if they would be interested in partnering.
4. Get young people pre-registered to vote. There’s nothing better than having the numbers behind you to back up your point; that young people have the desire to vote.
5. If so, form a strong coalition of people who can work and write and communicate with city officials to write a new law.
6. Lobby! Speak in public comment, make your voice heard!
7. Once approved, lobby campaign and raise money for your initiative.

**What can be done that is not passing a law?**
1. In the state of California, young people can pre-register to vote at the age of 16. Host a registration drive to get your peers engaged and ready to vote when they turn 18.
2. Talk with other people about civic issues, and help them see the importance in the democratic process.
3. Advocate for the things you love and care about, even if it’s not youth voting. Because in the end, it’s still achieving the goal of getting young people engaged in the democratic process.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Is it just for school board elections or is it for all elections?** The National Vote16 movement stretches across the board, some individual initiatives push for all elections and others just for school board elections. It generally tends to depend on the area and people in charge of running the campaign. In Berkeley, the city passed a municipal law for school board elections. In San Francisco, the city is advocating for a municipal law covering all local elections. So it depends.

**What if I have no knowledge on my city charter or city-wide laws?** Reach out to your city clerk, it is their job to provide citizens with this information.

**What if I can’t find an organization to partner with?** Use your Youth and Government community. They are an amazing resource!

**Resources**
- [Vote16USA](#) - A branch of the national non-profit Generation Citizen, that seeks to get young people to become more civically engaged.
- [Young Voices at the Ballot Box](#) - A report written to help cover all the arguments, data, and facts about making change.
- [Yes on F](#) - The San Francisco initiatives website which talks about their process and further ways you can get involved.
- [Votes at 16](#) - An international resource highlighting the efforts in the United Kingdom.