



K-12 Students Cast Ballots in the 2010 Mid-Term Election
Kids Voting USA Program Mirrors the Official Ballot for Youth

Topeka, KS (Nov 5, 2010)— With votes still being counted, over 650,000 K-12 students from 19 states cast ballots in the mid-term elections through Kids Voting USA, a civic education program that encourages youth to be informed, participating citizens.

“Since these students exercise their right to vote at an early age they are more likely to participate in future elections as well as other forms of civic engagement in their adult lives,” said Rachel Willis, Kids Voting USA Executive Director.

A preliminary total of 671,030 students participated in the 2010 election project. Both Kids Voting Hawaii and Kids Voting Tampa Bay each had over 100,000 students who voted. The preliminary results show that eleven affiliates saw an increase in student voter turnout compared to the 2006 mid-term election.

Kids Voting USA’s network of affiliates in 19 states works closely with schools and election officials to deliver a democracy-based curriculum for students from kindergarten through high school and to conduct the Kids Voting election. Students cast ballots at regular polling places, usually accompanied by a parent or adult, or through on-line voting at their school. High school students who are 18 are encouraged to participate by registering and casting a regular ballot, volunteering at the polls or mentoring younger students.

Kids Voting USA (www.kidsvotingusa.org) operates through a national network of community-based affiliates that partner with schools and election officials to offer more than 4.5 million K-12 students a wide range of opportunities for civic learning. The organization is managed by the Kansas Press Association and is located in Topeka, KS. The combination of classroom instruction, family dialogue and an authentic voting experience helps accomplish KVUSA’s mission of achieving long-term change in voting behavior by preparing young people to be educated, engaged citizens.

State results are available at www.kidsvotingusa.org.

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