

Preparing Future Voters

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CHALLENGES

“ I feel like the people who may not be educated at high levels decide not to vote when they should. They may be the ones affected the most but something is stopping them. I wish we could figure out why they aren't.

-Asian American

25-35



CHALLENGES

- Poor civics education in schools
- Importance of voting is underemphasized
- Uninformed citizens → voters OR nonvoters

Uninformed



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FINDINGS



FINDINGS

American citizens, young adults in particular:

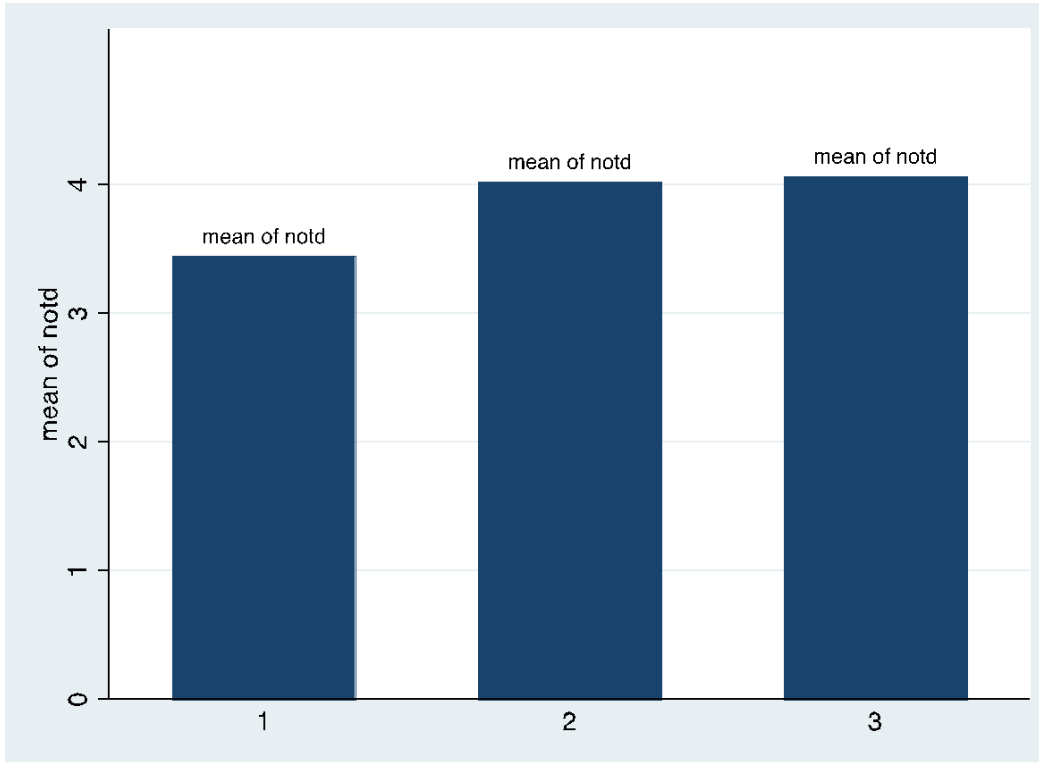
- ▬ Don't feel knowledgeable enough to contribute their vote
- ▬ Don't know how to register and vote
- ▬ Don't know who to vote for
- ▬ Don't feel like their vote matters



“ Schools can do a better job explaining the IMPORTANCE of voting and HOW to vote. Many young people don't vote because they don't know how to (or why they should).

-White woman, 25-35

Lack of Civic Education



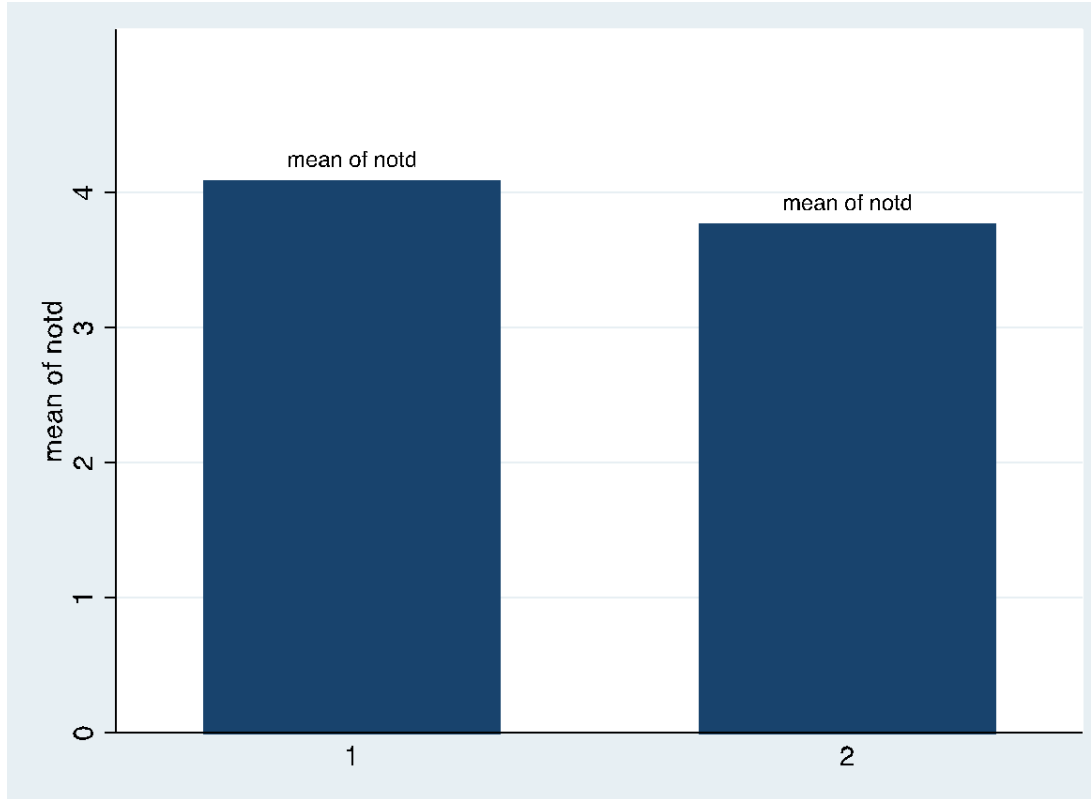
- African Americans/Asian Americans more likely to cite lack of civic education for reasons not to vote

- **Corresponds to Frogtown's demographics**

1 = White
2 = African American
3 = Asian American

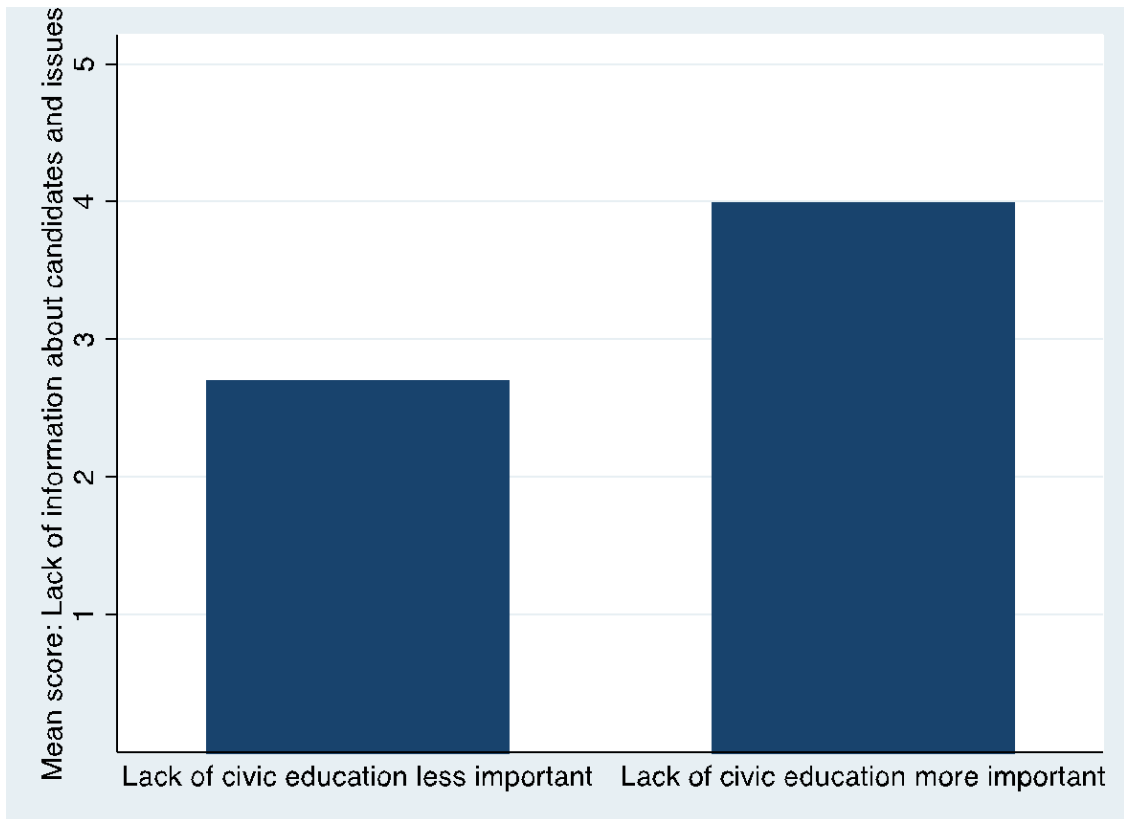
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Lack of Civic Education



1 = age 18-24
2 = all others

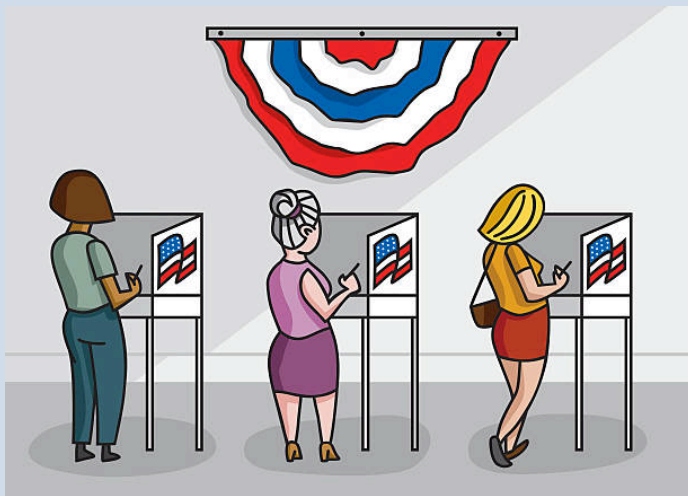
- Ages 18-24 more likely to cite lack of education for not voting
- Demographics of Precinct 1-9



Lack of civic education - lack of information about candidates and issues

Mean scores: low importance of civic education (N = 51) and high importance (N=92).

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SUGGESTIONS

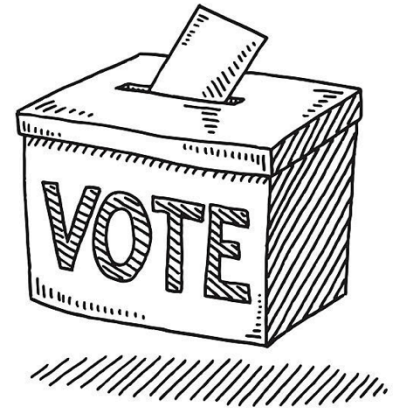
SUGGESTIONS

- ▀ Teaching students outside of AP classes
 - ▷ “... youth on a college track, such as those taking AP courses or attending school in more affluent districts, are more likely to be exposed to high-quality civic education practices in public schools, including being taught about voting” (Kiesa, Levine 3)
 - ▷ Those not in AP classes don’t have the interest or the opportunity



SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- ▀ In person contact with students
 - ▷ “Research shows that young people who are contacted about a campaign are more likely to vote...” (CIRCLE).
 - ▷ Voter registration drives
 - ▷ Presentations
 - ▷ Mock elections
 - ▷ “All schools should show how IMPORTANT it is so when they are of age--- they are EXCITED.” White woman, 65+
 - ▷ Representative visits
 - ▷ Election Officer visits
 - ▷ Formal discussion



SUGGESTIONS CONT.

▀ High school IDs

- “...many states have made both registration and the act of voting less convenient or...quite difficult for some eligible young voters. States have implemented photo ID requirements with restrictive lists of acceptable identification...these changes are associated with lower youth turnout.” (CIRCLE)
- Current Minnesota law- College IDs
- Driver’s license in rural areas not as popular





SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- ▬ Improve the civics education in (high) schools
 - There's many challenges with reforming it
 - Information closer to voting age about registration info/how to vote
 - Improve the civics test
 - Also start introducing civics education in elementary school curriculums
 - Increment in each grade
 - Teach the basics
 - Mock government, mock voting
 - All important for all schools and students, but especially for schools with large populations of people of color



SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- Create a self-administered test that would help the anonymous respondent determine who they should vote for
 - ▷ Based on values, not issues
 - ▷ Primarily for young adults, but would be useful for anyone
 - ▷ Link respondent to candidates for each position for reelection based on how their answers relate to the candidate's
 - ▷ Help educate on roles of different positions in local/state/national government with results

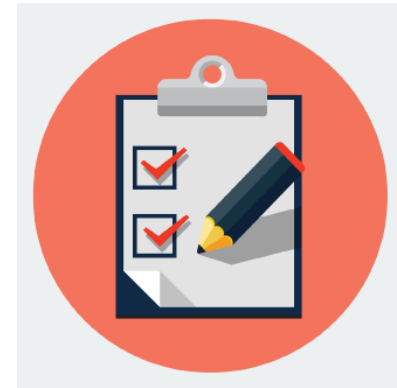
SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- ▀ There are quizzes like this that exist already, but they ask questions that are clearly linked to partisan issues
 - ▷ **Ex.** “Should the US assassinate suspected terrorists in foreign countries?”
 - ▷ **Ex.** “Should the U.S. raise taxes on the rich?”
 - ▷ **Ex.** “Should teachers be allowed to carry guns at school?”



SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- This type of quiz would ask questions without partisanship
 - Ex. “On a scale from 1-5, how important is it that women have control of their own choices?”
 - Ex. “Is the safety of you and those around you a value you consider significant to you?”
 - Ex. “Is it plausible to you to provide help to those around you that were raised in and are in unfortunate circumstances to become better versions of themselves?”



SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- In addition, this quiz could be linked to the candidates
 - ▷ Candidates would provide a few sentences about the issues they campaign for
 - ▷ Rate the importance of the same values in the quiz to them
 - ▷ Get data/feedback on how respondents answer

SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- Sample questions asked of the candidates
 - ▷ Ex. “In a few short sentences, describe the main issues of your campaign.”
 - ▷ Ex. “How important is it to you that women have control over the decisions they make for their bodies?”
 - ▷ Ex. “What is your role as _____?”
- All of this could be done and added on to Ramsey County’s website