Lynwood High School Students Celebrate Democracy with Rock the Vote Event

LYNWOOD, CA – With the 2024 general election less than three weeks away, Lynwood High School on Oct. 11 transformed its gymnasium into a vibrant mock political convention, with students campaigning for their chosen candidates and measures, informing attendees about key issues on the ballot and marching for changes they hope to see as part of the school's Rock the Vote event.

Clad in professional business attire and ready to defend their candidates through colorful poster boards, dozens of seniors presented a presidential candidate, their respective economic policies and propositions ranging from affordable housing and mental health to climate change and school facilities via Measure U and Prop 2.

"I believe voting is a right we should all take advantage of because we have it," said Lynwood High senior Lexxie Rodas, who presented her chosen presidential candidate, Jill Stein, and defended Prop 35, a healthcare-related initiative. "If you believe and support something, you should stand on it and vote for it."

The campaign project – which AP Government teacher Claudia Alfaro and Economics teacher Lorraine Abbass host every election year – encourages students on the cusp of voting age to research candidates and the impact of national, state and local policies on everyday life.

"As educators, we know it's critical for students to understand how government decisions influence their daily lives and future opportunities," Abbass said. "Events like Rock the Vote promote civic engagement, highlight the significance of informed decision-making and allow students to witness a presidential election as young adults."

The event also saw over 300 students ages 16 and older register to vote for the first time – either in the 2024 general election on November 5 if they are already 18 or in the next election after they turn 18.

"I registered to vote because my vote can change our community," said senior Avril Hernandez, emphasizing her intention to make a difference through her decision.

By prioritizing student engagement through initiatives like these, Lynwood Unified underscores its commitment to equity, access and justice by encouraging students to voice their beliefs, advocate for their positions, and understand the power of their vote and civic responsibilities.

"Events like Rock the Vote empower our students to understand the impact of their voices and encourage them to be lifelong participants in shaping their communities," Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D., said.

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"We are excited to see our students actively engaging in the democratic process and taking steps to become informed voters. Let's continue to make our voices heard and build a brighter future for our students."

Eligible California teens can pre-register to vote at lavote.gov. Voting centers are now open, and the deadline to register for vote-by-mail is Monday, October 21.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

LUSD_ROCKTHEVOTE_1: Lynwood High School students defend their candidates and propositions during Rock the Vote on Oct. 11, 2024.

LUSD_ROCKTHEVOTE_2: Lynwood High School students share ballot information on such proposals as Measure U, an $80 million bond that would fund school facility improvements, during Rock on the Vote on Oct. 11, 2024.

LUSD_ROCKTHEVOTE_3: Lynwood High School's Rock the Vote event engaged 300 students, giving them the opportunity to learn about the candidates and measures on the Nov. 5 ballot, while also allowing eligible students to pre-register to vote.

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