

Power of Participation

Session II: Your Vote Really Counts!

Facilitator Guide

Your Vote Really Counts!



Snapshot



Session Goals:

- To let participants see and analyze for themselves how election outcomes change when different constituencies vote, or don't vote
- To deepen awareness that voting really matters
- To interest participants in encouraging others to vote
- To increase energy and enthusiasm for voting
- To develop a strong sense of connection among the participants, and from the participants to 9to5



Core Session Punchline

Our votes, and the votes of people like us, can make a huge difference. We need to get out and vote and persuade others to vote too!



Prep & Set-Up

Materials/handouts needed:

- Election pair handouts
- Evaluation forms

Equipment/supplies needs:

- Easels
- Flip chart paper
- Markers
- Tape
- Paper and pens for participants

Room Set-up:

- Easel(s) with flip chart paper easily accessible for facilitator
- Chairs in a circle
- Work tables outside the chair circle
- Guiding questions on flip chart paper (covered)

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Key Components:

🕒 2 mins	Welcome
🕒 3 mins	Regrounding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick reflections on Session I from participants • Re-Intro to 9to5 (ask for volunteer from morning session?)
🕒 3 mins	Series and session purpose overview What the next 1 ½ hours will look like
🕒 2 mins	Revisit group agreements and answer any new questions

🕒 Section II—Core Activity

55 mins

Key Components:

🕒 5 mins	Session Introduction
🕒 10 mins	Activity I—Local elections pair
🕒 20 mins	Activity II—State elections pair
🕒 20 mins	Activity III—Presidential elections pair

🕒 Icebreaker: Pulse of the room

- Raise your hands if don't vote all that often?
- Raise your hands if you don't think voting matter?
- Raise your hands if you think voting is important?
- Raise your hands if you vote most of the time?

🕒 Overview of core activity

We're going to spend the next 45 minutes or so looking at some elections and their outcomes. We're going to work in pairs and then in small groups to try to get a sense of how elections are affected by who runs for office, who votes, and who doesn't vote. We're also going to look at whether the outcomes of elections have any direct affect on people like us.

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Activity I—Local elections pair (10 mins)

We'll start by taking a look at a couple of races that local women won in November 2017 – Kim Schofield, who's on the Board of GA's 9to5 Chapter, and Stephe Koontz.

Break group into partners and ask the pairs to talk with each other for a 3-4 minutes about the two elections.

 Distribute the handout on these elections.

Ask people to answer the following guiding questions during their discussion:



Guiding Questions

- What stands out to you about these elections?
- Do you think it would have any impact on you and things you care about if Kim or Stephe represented you (if you lived in the District or city)?
- How?

Quick popcorn out. (Have people informally identify some of the things they discussed.)



Facilitator Punchlines

- Some elections are won by a relatively small number of votes
- It's important for diverse people to run for elected office
- People like us really can win elections and make big changes!

Activity II—State elections pair (20 mins)

Small group work

 Break room up into small groups of 3 to 5 (depending on # of total participants).

Explain the process for each of these discussions, which is:

- Spend about 5 minutes discussing these election pairs paying particular attention to the guiding questions
- Take notes for our discussion later

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Guiding Questions

- What are the 2-4 key messages you get from looking at the information provided in each election pair?
- Is there anything you find particularly interesting, inspiring or sobering about the election outcomes?

5 mins total for each pair:

Distribute GA 6th Congressional District handouts (Ossoff and Handel) and ask participants to answer the guiding questions.

5 mins total for each pair:

Distribute Alabama Senate election handout (Jones and Moore) and ask participants to answer the guiding questions.

5 mins total for comparison discussion:

- Compare and contrast the two elections
- Identify no more than 3 key points from this discussion

5 mins total

Informal report back key points from small groups to full group (Have people **very briefly** identify some of the things they discussed.)



Facilitator Punchlines:

- African American turnout was very important to the outcome in both of these two elections
- in GA District 6 turnout was low—AA voters were not energized by either candidate
- in AL AA turnout was high and it probably changed the outcome of the election—no one expected a Democrat to win until right before the election
- the margins of victory in both elections were relatively small; people's votes really mattered

Activity III—Presidential elections pair (20 mins)

2008 & 2016 Presidential Elections Pair Small group work


Stay in same small groups of 3 to 5 (depending on # of total participants)

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Let people know the process will be the same as for the previous activity:

- Spend about 5 minutes discussing these election pairs paying particular attention to the guiding questions
- Take notes and identify 3 (no more) key points from these elections

 5 mins total

 Distribute Big Picture 2008 and 2016 Presidential Election Pair and ask participants to answer the guiding questions.

 5 mins total

 Distribute NC Voter Snapshots and ask participants to answer the guiding questions.

 10 mins total

Informal report back key points from small groups to full group (Have people **very briefly** identify some of the things they discussed.)



Facilitator Summary:

- Barack Obama won by a comfortable margin in 2008 and became the first African American President; it was an historic election
- Hillary Clinton actually won the popular vote in 2016 by 2% points which was close to 3 million votes, but she lost because she lost in key states and lost the Electoral College
- Black voters turned out in North Carolina at levels 5% above the turnout overall in 2008 and about 5% below normal in 2016 (a 10% reduction from 2008 overall)
- Obama won in NC in 2008 by 14,177
- In 2008 the African American turnout, and especially the high percentage turnout, was more than enough for Obama to win the critical state of North Carolina
- The North Carolina example demonstrates the power of voting – who votes, and who doesn't vote can have huge impacts

Section III—Discussion & Punchlines

13 mins

 5 mins

Pair Sharing: Find someone you haven't talked with yet and discuss how you felt about the outcome of the 2016 Presidential election and if it's had any direct impact on your life or the lives of people you know.

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 3 mins

Informal report back from pairs to full group

 5 mins



Facilitator Punchlines

- Some elections are won by small margins, like Kim's, Stephe's, and the 2008 presidential vote that led to Obama's victory in NC. So voter participation can have an outsize affect on the outcome.
- Some elections have relatively low or relatively high turnout on the part of different constituencies, and here again who actually turns out to vote determines the outcome. We saw the effects of that in the GA Congressional District 6 election where Ossoff lost because he didn't sufficiently energize core voters and the Alabama Senate election where Doug Jones won because he did.
- And the 2008 Presidential election where the high African American turnout led to Barack Obama's victory in North Carolina, which helped him to win the Presidential election overall.
- It doesn't always take a lot of votes to affect the outcomes of elections that are very important and directly affect our lives.

Debrief:

- Raise your hand if you changed your mind about whether or not voting matters. What changed your mind?
- Raise your hand if you still think it doesn't matter. Why?



Closing Comment by Facilitator:



Our votes, and the votes of people like us, can make a huge difference. We need to get out and vote and persuade others to vote too!



Section IV—Reflections & Evaluation

12 mins

Key Components:

 7 mins	Reflections/feedback from participants
 5 mins	Fill out evaluation forms