

## Voters Ed ignites passion for civics



While each educator has a significant role in the lives of their students, civic instructors have a special responsibility: shape learners as citizens, the next generation of voters. Civic instructors teach the impact of political events past, present and future, all while addressing bias and spin.

Educators at Pittsford Mendon High School, located in Pittsford, New York, are encouraging meaningful and inclusive conversations in civic courses by supporting instruction with technology. Teaching AP American Government and AP American History at the school, Allan DeCarlo plays a significant role in much of the social studies instruction.

“We always hear that young people aren’t politically aware. I’ve found that’s not true at all,” DeCarlo said. “I have many students who are politically involved and in tune with what is going on in the world. It’s our job to find the tools and lesson content that will continue to engage students in these topics.”

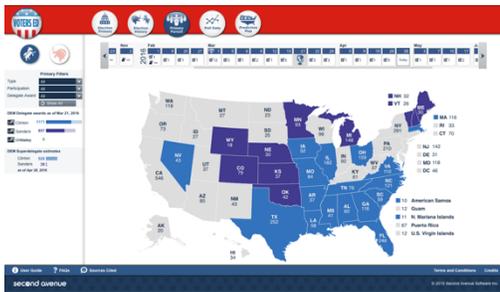
DeCarlo uses Voters Ed, a civic-learning platform, in the classroom to facilitate discussions about elections. Using this non-partisan tool with a wide variety of election information and data, DeCarlo can support multiple lessons and activities.

DeCarlo noted, “Voters Ed conveniently and by design matches the civics curriculum of my school’s U.S. History and Participation in Government courses. For example, polling is a topic in our Public Opinion unit, and this election proved to be informative when discussing the accuracy and reliability of polls.”

## prediction mapping

During the 2016 election season, DeCarlo’s students used Voters Ed to monitor polling data and make informed predictions about the election outcome.

DeCarlo said that after looking at the program’s data on election history and current polls, “the students could comfortably and securely predict that New York would go Democrat, but then I had them look at swing states like Pennsylvania and Florida, as well.”



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Allan DeCarlo, Teacher,  
Pittsford Mendon High School, Pittsford, NY

# case study

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Students also tracked polling outcomes along with current events, such as the presidential debates. DeCarlo had students research why poll changes happened in specific states. The class discussed poll changes in relation to events like conventions, candidate speeches and news media coverage. “The students have to come to those conclusions themselves. It’s more than just reading a map,” DeCarlo said.

## historical snapshots

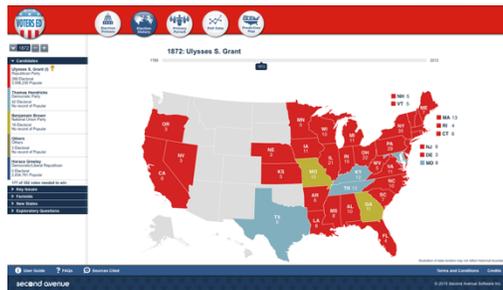
In addition to providing data on the recent election, Voters Ed provides information on all historical presidential elections. DeCarlo plans on using the historical data in lesson plans beyond the 2016 election.

“One of the comments I’ve really been paying attention to is that students are enthralled with the fact that the data goes all the way back to George Washington,” DeCarlo said. “Voters Ed has been a nice complement to what I’ve been doing with election teaching, and I plan on developing historical election lessons to use in different eras in American history.”

## lifelong love for civics

DeCarlo hopes that by helping his students understand political processes, they will be invested in civic learning for the rest of their lives. During the 2016 election, he found that students were committed to staying educated about what was happening during the election cycle.

“Most, if not all, of my students watched the presidential debates. They are very conscious of current events and want to be informed about what’s going on in our government. Voters Ed has helped them achieve those goals.” DeCarlo said. Post-election, DeCarlo has also planned a field trip to the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. Regardless of who the students may have wanted to win the election, DeCarlo said “It will be a lifelong memory for them.”



**From the primaries to the presidency. No spin. Just the facts.**

**VOTERS ED™**

- Election Primers
- Election History
- Primary Pursuit
- Poll Data
- Prediction Map