



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT
August 2025
BOSTON, MASSACHUETTS**

MEMORIAL CALENDAR

EDUCATION

NCSL AFFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION

1 **COMMITTEE: EDUCATION**

2 **POLICY: NCSL AFFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION**

3 **TYPE: MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

4 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) recognizes that voter turnout in
5 the United States lags behind that of other countries, with approximately 60%
6 participation in presidential elections and only 40% in midterm election years. To
7 address this challenge and increase voter turnout over the long term, cultivating social
8 and political engagement among students is a crucial strategy.

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10 NCSL has been committed to promoting and supporting civic education and learning.
11 NCSL established the Trust for Representative Democracy, and through this initiative
12 sponsored the Legislators Back to School Week, fostering engagement between
13 lawmakers and students. Over time, NCSL has produced a variety of materials,
14 including educational resources on the legislative process, and the podcast "Building
15 our Democracy". NCSL has conducted extensive training for legislators, both
16 domestically and abroad, in partnership with the US State Department, media, and the
17 general public, focusing on the legislative and elections processes. NCSL is also a
18 proud member of the CivXNow Coalition, a collective of over 250 organizations
19 dedicated to promoting civic education.

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21 Civic education plays a fundamental role in preparing and encouraging students to
22 actively participate in the public and political life of their communities. By engaging in
23 civics, students learn to identify and understand social problems, evaluate potential
24 solutions, distinguish evidence-based claims from opinions, and take meaningful action
25 based on what they have learned. This preparation fosters the development of a robust
26 and healthy civil society.

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28 Moreover, civic education is essential for the functioning of a democratic republic,
29 particularly in relation to the legislative function and the creation of sound laws that

30 enjoy the support and engagement of an informed citizenry. By equipping individuals
31 with knowledge about their rights, responsibilities, and the inner workings of
32 government, civic education empowers them to actively contribute to the democratic
33 process and effectively advocate for their communities.

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35 In conclusion, NCSL remains committed to promoting civic education as an
36 indispensable component of a vibrant democracy. By continuing our work in this field,
37 collaborating with legislators, educators, and partners, and actively participating in
38 national conversations and events, we strive to create a more informed, engaged, and
39 participatory citizenry that ensures the vitality and strength of our democratic
40 institutions.