



ELECTION 2009

Local elections may lack the media coverage and glamour of statewide and national races, but they are extremely important to residents of cities, counties and school districts. Two Minnesota school districts, Shakopee and Prior Lake-Savage, reinforced this message with active Kids Voting programs during the 2009 election season.

“We partnered with the local Chamber of Commerce in a candidates’ forum to get students excited,” said Paulette Rislund, volunteer coordinator, Kids Voting Shakopee. “Candidates arrived early and spent half-an-hour mixing with the students. Kids came armed with really good questions that they discussed in their classes.”

“Local elections directly impact average citizens, so we emphasized the importance of voting in these races,” said Dave Panetti, a ninth grade civics teacher who coordinates Kids Voting Prior Lake-Savage. The program has not missed a Kids Voting election since 1999.

While turnout in both communities was lower than last year’s Presidential election, Kids Voting surpassed adult voter turnout in Shakopee. Twenty-nine percent of eligible students in grades three through nine went to the polls.

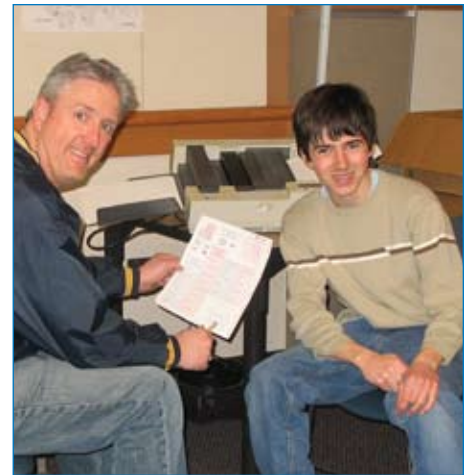
GETS OUR VOTE!

Student Volunteer Ryan Schroeder

Ryan Schroeder, a senior at Prior Lake High School, has been volunteering with his local Kids Voting program for the past two years. His interest in computers and technology made him a natural to oversee ballot scanning. Schroeder installed the computer software and set up the vote counting and reporting system for Prior Lake.

“It is cool to be part of election night,” Schroeder said. “A lot of people end up not voting because they think it isn’t important or they don’t know much about it. Kids Voting gets students interested and involved.”

Helping with Kids Voting also introduced Schroeder to members of local service organizations who volunteered at the polls. “I’ll be going to college soon, and I enjoyed talking with them about volunteer opportunities for adults.”



AND THE WINNERS ARE

Kids Voting Minnesota Raffle Results

Former State Representative Mike Jaros, DFL-Duluth, was on hand to draw winners of the Kids Voting Minnesota 2009 raffle. Rep. Jaros is a longtime supporter of the program. He authored and sponsored legislation that allowed Kids Voting Minnesota to begin in 1994.

First Prize—Al Hanson, Duluth

Two Minnesota Vikings tickets and an Adrian Peterson autographed football

Second Prize—John Wainwright, Brooklyn Park

Kevin Williams autographed stadium jacket and Bernard Berrian autographed football

Third Prize—Debby Erickson, Brainerd

Two Minnesota Wild Tickets and a Josh Harding autographed jersey

Thanks to all who donated prizes and purchased tickets for this important fundraiser.





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www.kidsvoting.com

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BY THE PEOPLE *New Funding Helps Kids Voting Gear Up for 2010*

The people of Minnesota spoke loudly in November 2008 when they voted to adopt the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Now, Kids Voting Minnesota is reaping the benefits.

The Constitutional Amendment raised the state's sales tax by .375% for preservation of Minnesota's clean water, wildlife, cultural heritage and natural areas. In June 2009, the Cultural and Outdoor Resources Committee awarded Kids Voting Minnesota \$212,000 over two years to help preserve and enhance Minnesota's civic culture.

The funding will allow Kids voting Minnesota to gear up for 2010, a mid-term election year in which all seats in the House of Representatives and more than one-third of those in the Senate will be up for grabs. Significant state races will be held, as well.

Kids Voting Minnesota plans to expand into 20 to 30 new school districts, conduct several candidate forums across the state, and conduct an online poll in connection with the March 2010 caucuses. It hopes to achieve a goal of 100,000 ballots cast, compared to 76,000 in the 2008 midterm election.

