



*State of Delaware  
2012 Student/Parent Mock Election*

The Office of the State Election Commissioner is proud to announce another year of its involvement in the Student/Parent Mock Election. The 2012 Mock Election electronic voting will take place from October 29<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> at participating schools in Delaware. The Mock Election Convention will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware. This will be an exciting time for the first state's students as they are given a learning opportunity about voting in advance of the nation's election.

The State of Delaware Student/Parent Mock Election is made possible through public, non-partisan members. Our steering committee members include interested individuals, representatives of the state community, government and educational groups. The focus of our members is to inspire our young people to participate in democracy through the electoral process. Every year, the Mock Election Steering Committee sets goals and objectives that coincide with the Department of Education's Educational Standards for Social Studies, as well as, current information for young people about elections and voting. The curriculum is written locally by Delaware teachers.

The Mock Election program in the State of Delaware involves extensive cooperation with multiple state agencies including other institutions and organizations. The program depends heavily on assistance from the Office of the Secretary of State, the Department of Education, the Department of Technology and Information, the Democracy Project at the University of Delaware, The News Journal, and the League of Women Voters, and is administered by the Office of the State Election Commissioner.

**"It is in large part due to the interagency and inter-organizational cooperation that the Mock Election has been successful all these years,"** said State Election Commissioner, Elaine Manlove.

The mock voting process is completely electronic. Our long term goal is for all of Delaware's public, private or parochial schools to achieve 100% participation in voting during the Mock Election. Two student delegates are selected from each school district to attend the Mock Election Convention at Legislative Hall to read their district's election results. Delaware's mock election results are submitted to the National Student/Parent Mock Election organization, which is responsible for reporting the nationwide Mock Election results.

Each school district has an appointed coordinator to help prepare students for the upcoming election using lesson plans developed by Delaware teachers. The lesson plans inform students about the electoral process, promote discussion of national campaign issues, and prepare students to take part in the Mock Election. Some districts also give students the opportunity to participate in debates, issue forums, press conferences, candidate nights, rallies, and inaugural balls as part of the Mock Election in their school.

Lesson plans and other resources for the Mock Election can be found on the State Election Commissioner's website at <http://elections.delaware.gov/information/mockelection/mockelection.shtml>.



In 2010, the State of Delaware office of the State Election Commissioner launched an interoffice program aimed to promote the importance of voter education for students throughout Delaware, encouraging them to get involved with Mock Election and have their voices heard. Casual for the Cause is a program that allows employees in the office of the State Election Commissioner to contribute a dollar for any day they decide to dress casual for work. The accumulated funds will be used to acquire savings bonds. Students in schools across the state in grades 4-12 have the opportunity to participate in an essay contest, with three winners receiving a \$50 U.S. Savings bond. The essay must be 200 words or less. The theme of the essay must be centered on the importance of voter education on the candidates and issues in an election. Each essay will be evaluated by a panel of staff members of the State Election Commissioner's office, and a winner within each grade grouping will be chosen. Grade groupings are; 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12. The winners of the contest will also read their essay at the Mock Election Convention held on November 2, 2012 at Legislative Hall. In addition, each year's contest winners will be published on the State Election Commissioners website.

The 2010 contest winners, including their winning essays, can be found at <http://elections.delaware.gov/information/mockelection/pdfs/2010%20CasualForTheCauseEssayWinners.pdf>.

The announcement of official results of the Delaware Student/Parent Mock Election voting will be presented at The Mock Election Convention on November 2, 2012. The Smyrna High School Band will be performing musical selections at this year's convention, and trophies will be presented. Awards that will be presented are; Governor's Cup #1; Highest Voter Participation Statewide in a District with over 1,000 students, Governor's Cup #2; Highest Voter Participation Statewide in a District with under 1,000 Students, Commissioner's Cup; Most Spirited Delegates of the 2012 Mock Election Convention.

For more information on the 2012 Delaware Mock Election, please visit <http://elections.delaware.gov/information/mockelection/resources.shtml>.

For more information on the Democracy Project, please visit <http://www.ipa.udel.edu/democracy/mockelection/>.

### **The Steering Committee**

#### **Honorary Chairman**

The Honorable,  
Jeffrey Bullock, Secretary of State

#### **Office of the Secretary of State**

Chris Portante

#### **Democracy Project**

Ed Freel  
Fran O'Malley

#### **League of Women Voters**

Letty Diswood

#### **Office of the State Election Commissioner**

Elaine Manlove, State Election Commissioner  
Stan Anderson  
Deborah Grier  
Helene Black  
Christopher Ramos  
Millianie Tecson

#### **Department of Technology and Information**

John Trabaudo

#### **News Journal**

John Sweeney