

# EMPOWERING FEMALE VOICES: PRESIDENT'S FIRST 100 DAYS

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



As a young woman, how can you stay active, involved, and engaged after the election? Which issues were most important to you? How can you make an impact on those issues at the local, state, or federal level?

*Empowering Female Voices: President's First 100 Days* will give girls an opportunity to take part in this fast-moving period of national conversation and action. As students examine the agenda of the president, they will share their own priorities and come to understand the ways in which ordinary people can influence the nation's roadmap for the future. By engaging girls from different backgrounds in meaningful dialogue and action, we aim to help them develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the skills and confidence needed to empower a generation of female change-makers.

## PROGRAM SESSIONS

During six online sessions led by Close Up instructors, students will meet, interact, and deliberate with a diverse group of peers from other parts of the country. Each 75-minute session will encourage students to consider multiple perspectives and deepen their understanding of public policy and develop policy proposals to impact change.

**Session 1 – Building an Inclusive Community and Staying Engaged after the Election:** In order to create a respectful space for discussing complex issues, Close Up will facilitate dialogue between students from different backgrounds to build a cohesive online community. Students will then examine the agenda and goals of the new administration and Congress, and consider how people can continue to stay engaged after the election.

**Session 2 – Identifying a Pressing National Issue that Matters to You:** Students will form policy committees based on interests and deliberate about the issues within that priority area. As students deliberate they will consider how values such as justice, equity, and liberty shape current debates and policies. Possible issue areas include: **Educational Equity, Environmental Justice, Economic Inequality, and Criminal Justice.**

**Session 3 – Developing Policy Proposals:** After exploring a range of ideas and values through deliberation, students will craft policy statements that identify new legislation or executive actions to advance their agendas.

**Session 4 – Hearing from Experts:** Students will hear from female leaders who are making a difference in their selected policy to help shape and strengthen proposals.

**Session 5 – Advocating for Your Policy:** After hearing from experts, students will focus on effective advocacy strategies as they continue to refine their proposals and make presentations compelling.

**Session 6 – Summit Convention:** Students will present their proposals to other students on program and work together to decide which proposals will be included in the Empowering Female Voices: Agenda for Change.

**After completing the program, students will be invited to participate in our special Empowering Female Voices – Civic Action Symposium** to share selected policy proposals with a panel of female politicians and changemakers for feedback and advice.

# EMPOWERING FEMALE VOICES: HIGH SCHOOL

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### About Close Up

Established in 1971, [Close Up](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization dedicated to helping students develop the knowledge and skills they need to become informed, active, and engaged citizens. Close Up's resources and programs offer students a balanced and bipartisan look at controversial issues by using a selection of primary sources drawn from decision-makers and experts on all parts of the political spectrum. Close Up Instructors have over 120 hours of curriculum and methodology training and are experts in facilitating student discussions around controversial issues. Each year, Close Up helps thousands of students and teachers across the nation engage in civil discourse and take informed action in their communities.

### Teacher Resources

To ensure that educators feel confident and prepared to support students throughout the sessions, this program provides teachers with an invaluable professional development training session, as well as balanced, comprehensive resources to use in the classroom:

- **On-Demand Training (Optional):** The 30-minute, on-demand training session will show teachers how to use Close Up's nonpartisan techniques and materials to facilitate respectful classroom discussion.
- **Digital Resources:** Teachers will also receive access to *Controversial Issues in the News*, Close Up's digital library of issue discussions, lesson plans, activities, and assessments that take a measured, bipartisan look at many of the issues that shaped the 2020 election.

### Eligibility & Special Rate

The program is intended for girls in grades 9-12 and can be integrated into a current government or civics course, advisory program, club, or leadership development opportunity like student council. During this time of social distancing, the series can also replace a capstone project, experiential learning trip, or community service opportunity.

Pricing is available for individual students, classrooms, student groups, and entire grades:

- **League of Women Voters Special Rate:** \$150 per student (non-member rate: \$175 per student)

Close Up is excited to partner with the League of Women Voters to provide ongoing civic engagement opportunities. To learn more about how to register any LWV partner schools, please email [support@closeup.org](mailto:support@closeup.org).

### Session Dates and Times

Empowering Female Voices | Every Monday and Thursday, Jan. 25 - Feb. 18, 2021, from 6:00-7:15pm (EST) / 3:00-4:15pm (PST)

*(Each school will be combined with other schools nationwide for their discussion sessions.)*

If you are interested in customized dates, for a program that will include participants from individual schools only, please reach out to us at [support@closeup.org](mailto:support@closeup.org).

### Registration

For more information or to register a group, please visit our [website](#).