At a time when our country faces deep divisions, it is vital for Americans of all political parties, socioeconomic classes, races, and genders to come together to listen to each other and understand other perspectives. So, how can we begin to transform American civil discourse—not to make it more progressive, conservative, or centrist, but to make our country more respectful, open, and reflective?

This July 19-22 in Washington, D.C., Close Up, the Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University (DDL), Helena, the Generation Lab, and the Neely Center at the University of Southern California will host America in One Room: The Youth Vote. This historic gathering will bring together a nationally representative and scientific sample of first-time voters from across the country—the people who will shape political discourse for decades to come—to deliberate key policy issues facing the nation. Our network of university coalition partners for this groundbreaking project is growing and already includes Duke University, the University of Virginia, North Carolina State University, Indiana University, American University, and the University of Oklahoma.

What does it mean to be a university coalition partner for America in One Room: The Youth Vote?

Close Up is building a coalition of higher education partners from every state to highlight the importance of civic education and to continue building pathways that help young people develop the skills of engaged citizens. University coalition partners will:

- Encourage students to participate in the America in One Room: The Youth Vote virtual deliberation and panel, which will be streamed during the in-person event in Washington.
- Host one activity or share opportunities for young people to participate in future America in One Room: The Youth Vote deliberations ahead of Election Day.
- Amplify the program’s impact report through social media and other channels.
- Have their logo included on the America in One Room: The Youth Vote website and be listed in all program materials as a university coalition partner.

We are anticipating the same level of media coverage as the first America in One Room, which took place with adults in 2019 (New York Times and CNN). We already have preliminary interest from many media outlets!

How else can you help with the project?

Help us recruit students to participate in the virtual deliberation! In addition to the students who are accepted for the in-person Washington experience, any other interested students can take part in a virtual deliberation and expert panel livestream on July 20, 2024. Please share this link with any potential participants!
ABOUT THE PARTNERS

Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to become active citizens. Since 1971, we have partnered with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation’s capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design and consulting. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them and help them articulate their own views, listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding. To learn more, visit closeup.org.

The Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling®. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in over 50 countries around the world through over 150 projects, at varying levels of government and society. To learn more, visit https://deliberation.stanford.edu/.

Helena believes that the most consequential decisions, threats, and opportunities humanity has ever faced will take place in the next 50 years. Helena’s purpose is to find solutions to these challenges and implement them through projects. The Helena membership is a vibrant community of some of the world’s most capable leaders, ranging from Nobel Prize-winning scientists and activists to artists, technologists, explorers, and business leaders. Beyond advancing individual projects, members meet around the world and across disciplines to share ideas through Helena meetings. To learn more, visit helena.org.

The Generation Lab is a data intelligence company studying young people and the trends that shape the future. The Generation Lab translates youth views and behavior for media, academia, businesses, government, and the American public. Whether through a one-day snapshot poll or a multi-year longitudinal study, the organization pursues youth truth for clients and the American public. To learn more, visit generationlab.org.

The Neely Center for Ethical Leadership and Decision Making at the University of Southern California’s Marshall School of Business provides leaders with tools at the intersection of ethics and technology so they can solve one of the most difficult and important challenges of our time: how to align emerging technologies with ethical, human-centered values. By promoting cutting-edge research, comprehensive education, and cross-disciplinary dialogue, the Neely Center strives to ensure that technological advancements contribute to both immediate and enduring societal benefits. To learn more, visit neely.usc.edu/.