



NATIONAL DELIBERATION FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As our nation begins the **America 250 celebrations**, marking 250 years of our democratic experiment, the **2026 midterm elections** represent another pivotal civic moment for a new generation to cast their first ballots and help shape the future of our democracy. Together, America 250 and the midterms present a rare opportunity to invest in the civic skills, judgment, and democratic engagement of young people and first-time voters amid a landscape of political polarization and declining trust in institutions.

NextGen Roundtable: Decision 2026 is designed to meet this moment and provide an example of what is possible when we engage across our differences and collaborate on solutions that strengthen our country. From **July 8–11, 2026**, Close Up will convene a **nationally representative sample of 400 first-time voters** in Washington, D.C. Participants will deliberate key national policy issues in facilitated small groups, engage with a balanced set of policy perspectives, and build practical skills for constructive civic participation during and beyond the 2026 elections.

Close Up will conduct NextGen Roundtable: Decision 2026 in partnership with leading research and civic institutions, including the **Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab**, **Generation Lab**, and the **Hoover Institution's Center for Revitalizing American Institutions**. Together, these partners will ensure rigorous, nonpartisan program design and data collection. Through pre- and post-deliberation surveys, the partnership will produce a national impact report capturing young voters' priorities and measuring key indicators of civic health—such as trust, openness to differing viewpoints, and confidence in democratic institutions. For a glimpse of the anticipated impact, take a look at the [report](#) and [highlight video](#) from our first national youth deliberation in 2024.

As students engage in deliberations with peers from all 50 states, school teams of educators will attend a concurrent **Civil Discourse Lab** to gain the training, skills, and tools, including an introduction to Close Up's innovative **Civil Discourse Credential**, to bring the practice of deliberative dialogue back to their school communities.

Through this event, Close Up will **engage young Americans of different backgrounds, ideas, and religions**, from the 400 first-time voters taking part in the national deliberation to the estimated 5,000 youth who will register for, and lend their voices to, the participant panel. This is in addition to the 30,000+ students and educators Close Up serves each year through our programs, professional development, and classroom resources. Since 1971, our nationwide network of schools and youth organizations has produced **over one million Close Up alumni**.

We expect broad media interest in NextGen Roundtable: Decision 2026, as our 2024 national youth deliberation was covered by the *Wall Street Journal*, CNN, ABC News, Bloomberg, and others.

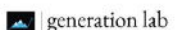
Custom sponsorships are available for program partners at the \$250,000+ level and are designed for partners with specific programmatic objectives, geographic or thematic interests, and desired engagement. Close Up works collaboratively with partners to shape a sponsorship that aligns with shared goals and priorities. Custom sponsorships may include the opportunity to provide feedback on potential issue areas for deliberation and data collection, to engage in pre- and post-program briefings with Close Up leadership and staff, and to customize impact reporting and learning insights from data collection.



“ **When done right and approached with the proper mindset, people can learn a lot about those that don't see the world eye to eye with them. ... Knowledge is power, and knowledge often comes from shifting your perspective, which certainly happened in the discussions I took part in.** ”

—Jake K., Rhode Island, Close Up Alum '24

CALL: 800-CLOSE UP (256-7387) EMAIL: support@closeup.org





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JULY 8-11, 2026

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Sponsorship is customizable, with specific sponsorship levels detailed below.

\$100,000 | CIVIC VISIONARY

- Named lead sponsorship of the opening dinner.
- Invitation for up to ten (10) representatives to attend the opening dinner and select program activities.
- Recognition as sponsor of twenty (20) named scholars.
- Highlight video featuring sponsored students.
- Recognition on the Close Up website, in newsletters, and on social media.
- Logo placement and recognition in program materials.
- Logo placement and recognition in the program impact report.
- Named sponsorship of select panels with logo visibility.
- Verbal recognition during the program.

\$50,000 | CIVIC LEADER

- Invitation for up to four (4) representatives to attend the opening dinner and select program activities.
- Recognition as sponsor of ten (10) named scholars.
- Highlight video featuring sponsored students.
- Recognition on the Close Up website, in newsletters, and on social media.
- Logo placement and recognition in program materials.
- Logo placement and recognition in the program impact report.
- Named sponsorship of select panels with logo visibility.
- Verbal recognition during the program.

\$25,000 | CIVIC CHAMPION

- Invitation for up to two (2) representatives to attend the opening dinner and select program activities.
- Recognition as sponsor of five (5) named scholars.
- Highlight video featuring sponsored students.
- Recognition on the Close Up website, in newsletters, and on social media.
- Logo placement and recognition in program materials and the program impact report.
- Named sponsorship of select panels with logo visibility.
- Verbal recognition during the program.

\$10,000 | CIVIC AMBASSADOR

- Invitation for one (1) representative to attend the opening dinner and select program activities.
- Recognition as sponsor of two (2) named scholars.
- Recognition on the Close Up website, in newsletters, and on social media.
- Logo placement and recognition in program materials and the program impact report.

\$5,000 | CIVIC SUPPORTER

- Invitation for one (1) representative to attend the opening dinner and select program activities.
- Recognition as sponsor of one (1) named scholar.
- Recognition on the Close Up website, in newsletters, and on social media.
- Logo placement and recognition in select program materials.



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JULY 8-11, 2026

Name: _____

Organization Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I'm enclosing my tax-deductible gift in the amount of:

\$100,000 \$50,000 \$25,000 \$10,000 \$5,000 Other \$ _____

To make a credit card payment:

Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

I authorize the Close Up Foundation to charge my credit card for the amount listed above.

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return a copy of this form along with your check/credit card info to:

Close Up Foundation
Attn: Donations/Decision 2026
671 N. Glebe Road, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22203

To make your gift online, visit www.CloseUp.org/donate. If you have any questions, please contact us at support@closeup.org.

The Close Up Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501c (3) civic education organization committed to informing, inspiring, and empowering young people to embrace the rights and responsibilities of being active citizens in our democracy. Close Up's tax ID number is 23-7122882.

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