

# The Quorum

October 2022: Vote Kids!

It is hard to believe that we are only a few short weeks away from the midterm elections! Election Day is Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and early voting in California began on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. This election, like others before it, will be extremely consequential as it pertains to advancing policies that can help support children and families on a local, state, and national level.

100% of the House of Representatives seats will be decided with this election, as will 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the US Senate. The majority of the seats for the California State Legislature will be selected in this election as well. In California, there are a number of key propositions on the ballot which will impact the health of children and adolescents, such as Proposition 1, which would amend the California Constitution to codify a right to reproductive freedom, and Proposition 31, which would uphold a ban on flavored tobacco sales (AAP-CA is urging a “YES” vote on both of these measures!) <sup>1</sup>. In cities and counties across our chapter, votes will be held on ballot measures that impact everything from school funding to [voting age](#) <sup>2</sup>.

This time serves as a key reminder for our communities, for our patients, and for each of us, that voting is a political determinant of health <sup>3</sup>. Decisions made in the voting booth (or at the mailbox) help shape the conditions that our patients live in. We have an opportunity to encourage our eldest patients, and all of our families, to participate in the civic process. And while we don't tell people who to vote for, we can encourage them to do their research and to VOTE KIDS! This means supporting those people and policies which will uplift children and families, and make communities safer and healthier.

To help facilitate these discussions, the AAP has partnered with Vot-ER, a nonpartisan organization which works to integrate civic engagement within the healthcare setting <sup>4</sup>. On their [website](#) you can find information to help patients and family members register to vote, as well as simple, low-lift conversation starters about voting to weave into the regular patient visit <sup>5</sup>.

As we prepare for this November, let's do all we can to make our voices heard, and to help ensure that children and families are a top priority!

References:

1. <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2022/propositions/>
2. <https://www.culvercity.org/City-Hall/Election-Information/Measure-VY-November-8-2022>
3. <https://satcherinstitute.org/priorities/political-determinants-of-health/>
4. <https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/election-vote-kids/get-out-the-vote-tools/>
5. <https://vot-er.org/>

*The Quorum is a monthly policy spotlight. For any inquiries, please email Chapter 2 legislative and policy analyst, Kamaal Jones, at [KamaalJones.AAP@gmail.com](mailto:KamaalJones.AAP@gmail.com)*

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