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Students Set to Take Part in Upcoming Election



Reporting

[Suzanne Le Mignot](#)

CHICAGO (CBS) —

They're not quite old enough to vote, but hundreds of Chicago High School students still plan to be a big part of Election Day. CBS 2's Suzanne Le Mignot explains how.



Step by step, in a three hour course, high school students are learning what it takes to be an election judge.

"I just want to make sure I do everything right, because this will impact the votes," said high school junior Tyler Davis.

When asked if he feels there's a lot of responsibility hanging over his head...Davis replied with a smile and an "oh yes."

The teens will be helping with everything from opening polling places to handing out ballots and operating equipment.

Students are recruited through the Mikva Challenge Program at Chicago area high schools. The goal of the Mikva Challenge is to help young people learn and actively take part in the political process.

"It's our turn to make the difference and make the change and like, I think that it's really important to be involved, because these are the people that are going to influence our world," said high school senior Elias Boyer.

During the primary election, more than 1,700 high school students served as election judges. On November 4, there's going to be over 2,500 doing the same thing. A lot of them CBS 2 talked with said that technology played a big role as to why they felt it was important to get involved.

"When you're 17, and you're getting text messaged from the campaign, it's a great feeling to know, you feel like you're participating in Democracy," said high school senior Justine Frias.

The teens aren't taking their role in the electoral process lightly.

"We have knowledge and we know how to express it and we know what's good for the world too," Frias said. "And I don't want people to undermine us or think that we're not of value, just because we're young."

Spoken like a true, future leader.

The students will be working at one of the almost 3,000 polling places in Chicago on election day. Each gets an excused absence from school and \$170.

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