

Dear High School Democrats,

As you may know, October 27th, 2012 is the official High School Democrats of America National Day of Action. On this day, thousands of high school students across the country will come out to their local campaign offices to have a hand in our future. Through phonebanking, canvassing, and talking to voters, we are poised to have our voices heard and make a difference in this election. Nonetheless, we need your help. We need you to get out and help make this election ours, take ownership of our future, and make a difference.

Members and chapters across the country work day in and day out to elect Democrats and make their voices heard, and this Day of Action is about bringing all of these efforts together. Following this day of action, there will be 10 days until this election and this day will help us prepare for and launch a final push towards victory on November 6th.

Included in this guide are action ideas and other tips for having a successful event on October 27, whether it be local or statewide. We'd love to see photos of your Day of Action activities either through Facebook or Twitter. Thank you for all you do and good luck!

Democratically yours,

Hassan Haider, Chair

Nicholas Mitch, Vice Chair

Nivedita Sankar, Communications Director

Tejas Konduru, Programs Director

Andrew Guenther, Parliamentarian

Action Ideas

1. Meet with local Democratic Leaders
    a. Ask for a meeting on this day and tell them about High School Democrats of America, your local organization, and our shared purpose.
    b. advocate for high school involvement in politics and ask them to do the same.
    c. Ask to create a program for high school students at their office, either just for the day or in the long term.
    d. After the event, Have your members make calls or knock on doors in support of the Candidate you meet with. If the person you meet with is not up for election, knock on doors for another Leader your group supports!
2. Host a Mock Election
    a. Organize a mock election at your school
    b. Host the Election online or have students vote at school on the Friday before the Day of Action.
    c. In order to vote, make students commit to volunteer at least 2 hours on the Day of Action.
3. Host a Rally
    a. Invite a local democratic politician to speak to your group on this day
    b. Spread the word about the event to people of all ages around your community.
    c. Highlight Youth Issues at the rally and why Democrats best represent our generation.
    d. If you'd Like, offer free food like pizza or donuts to attract new people to the event. After they come, most people will be hooked and will become active volunteers.
    e. After the event, Have your Attendees make calls or knock on doors in support of the Candidate you Rally for.
    f. Take a picture of your Event and send it to us!
4. Write Letters to the Editor

a. Gather Students (and adults) to write letters to the editor of your local newspaper

b. Letters may support democratic candidates, referenda (i.e. Question 6 in Maryland) and/or discuss youth issues in your community

Best Practices

1. Work with campaigns to plan your event

    a. By working with campaigns to plan your event, you will have access to the absolute best political tools and resources in your community. It will also provide you with an abundance of excellent speakers to fire up your group.

2. Spread the word outside of your club

    a. No matter the size of your club, ensure that people of all ages outside of your membership are aware of the event and able to participate. A lot is at stake in this election, and many people realize this, so you may find that many people outside of your regular membership are willing to get involved, especially for just the last 10 days.

    b. Though it may seem obvious, the need for social media use must also be stated.

3. Share your event/club with local media

    a. Spreading the word with your local media allows for additional expansion of your membership and supports and promotes Democrats in your community by showing the support from Young Americans that they have.

4. Send us pictures from your event and comments on your event.

    a. We would love to hear from you, and to showplace our most successful events across the country. Additionally, comments on things that went well and not so well at your event allow us to better create and revise our start-up and organizing guides.