

New Jersey Vote16 Youth Summit

October 5, 2024

FULL EVENT AGENDA

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Check-In and Welcome Breakfast

Participants will check-in and receive program materials. Enjoy a light breakfast and network with fellow attendees before the day's sessions begin.

9:30 AM – 10:10 AM

Opening Remarks

Join us as we set the stage for an exciting day. The summit hosts will break down the day's goals, what's on the agenda, and everything participants need to know.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Panel 1 - Our Vote, Our Future: Why Lowering the Voting Age Matters

Learn the history and current state of youth voting rights in the U.S. Panelists will discuss current youth-led initiatives to lower the voting age, touch on various views on the issues, and explore the legal justifications behind these efforts.

11:25 PM – 12:10 PM

Breakout Session 1

Attendees can select which workshop they'd like to join:

Workshop 1: Local Power: How to Engage Your City Hall

Learn how local governments in NJ work and how you can make your voice heard in your community. From voting locally to testifying at public meetings, get the skills you need to engage with your local government.

Workshop 2: Know Your Rights: Student Activism 101

Know your rights! This session will dive into the rights young people have when organizing and being civically engaged, especially when in schools.

Workshop 3: Cracking the Code: The NJ Legislative Process

Uncover how New Jersey's legislative process works in this workshop. Learn how to research and track bills, find public meetings, and understand how to make your voice heard in the State House.

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Panel 2 - Lunch with Leaders: The Inside Scoop from Public Officials

Enjoy lunch while hearing from elected officials and election officials on the importance of lowering the voting age and the process of implementing such changes.

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Breakout Session 2

Attendees can select which workshop they'd like to join:

Workshop 4 - Power Moves: Building Coalitions That Win

Explore strategies for engaging with community leaders, media, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Learn how to map power and form strong coalitions.

Workshop 5 - Game Plan: How to Run a Winning Campaign

Learn step-by-step how to plan a successful advocacy campaign. This workshop will cover key advocacy strategies and tactics such as lobbying, public demonstrations, social media campaigns, and more.

Workshop 6 - Going Viral: Digital Tools for Change

Explore the tools and techniques you need to master the digital world. This workshop will focus on leveraging social media and other digital platforms to build support for youth-led initiatives.

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

Engagement Expo

Check out what's happening in the world of organizing and civic engagement, register to vote, share your thoughts on elections and explore opportunities to get involved with local organizations.

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Panel 3 – Stories from the Vote16 Movement

Hear firsthand from leaders who have successfully campaigned for Vote16 policy changes. Panelists will share their stories and provide insight into their successes and challenges.

4:35 PM – 5:45 PM

Youth Power Hour: Building Your Own Advocacy Plan

Now it's your turn! Participants will split into groups and create advocacy and civic engagement plans for their communities. Each group will present their plan and receive.

5:45 PM – 6:15 PM

Keynote Speaker

Hear from an inspiring keynote speaker, who will reflect on the current state of democracy and discuss the importance of youth engagement and advocacy.

6:15 PM – 6:45 PM

Closing Remarks

Wrap up the day with a celebration of your hard work. Receive your certificate, snap some group pics, and hear final thoughts from our hosts.

6:45 PM – 7:45 PM

Dinner Reception

End the day by joining us for dinner and light refreshments. This is a great opportunity to chat with new friends and discuss what's next for your activism journey.