



**35nd Annual
National Conference
Orlando, FL**

2019 Professional Practices Program

Youth Empowerment Summit: Encouraging Youth to Say “YES!” to Leadership

Yolo County, California

Submitted by:

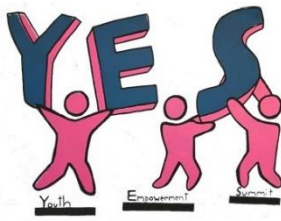
Jesse Salinas

Registrar of Voters, Yolo County

625 Court St Room B 05

Woodland, CA 95695

(530) 666-8107



Yolo County Youth Empowerment Summit: Encouraging Students to Say “YES!” To Leadership

Goals

Our mission is to empower and encourage youth to say “YES!” to leadership roles and civic engagement in their local communities:

- Youth will learn how to become leaders in their community in a strictly non-partisan environment with a focus on civic engagement and voter participation as important aspects to becoming a community leader.
- Empower youth to meet and talk to their elected officials about issues that are important to the community and youth.
- Share with youth the aspects of understanding local issues and how decisions are made by the various local decision making bodies.

Background and Partnership

Yolo County held its first annual Youth Empowerment Summit (“YES!”) on March 24th, 2018. There were 74 students and 22 local elected officials in attendance. The goal for the 2019 “YES!” Event was to increase participation to 100 students, and have students from all areas of Yolo County attending. We surpassed our goal and at the second YES event on March 16th, 2019, we had 106 students and 25 elected officials attend.

Planning for “YES!” was a collaboration between the Yolo County Elections Office, City of Woodland Public Library’s Teen Advisory Board, Woodland League of Women Voters, Yolo County Office of Education, Early Academic Outreach Program at UC Davis, Yolo County Friday Night Live, Yolo County Library, ASSETs and Woodland Community College. Planning meetings took place after school hours so that students could participate. Additionally, we partnered with HART Intercivic and Knowink to allow the students to use certified voting equipment to vote for their lunch options. Planning began in August of 2018. The group met monthly and divided tasks among members of the planning committee. The event was made possible by donations from local organizations, private donations, and donations by local businesses for raffle baskets. On the day of the event nearly 45 community partners and volunteers offered their time to help facilitate the event.

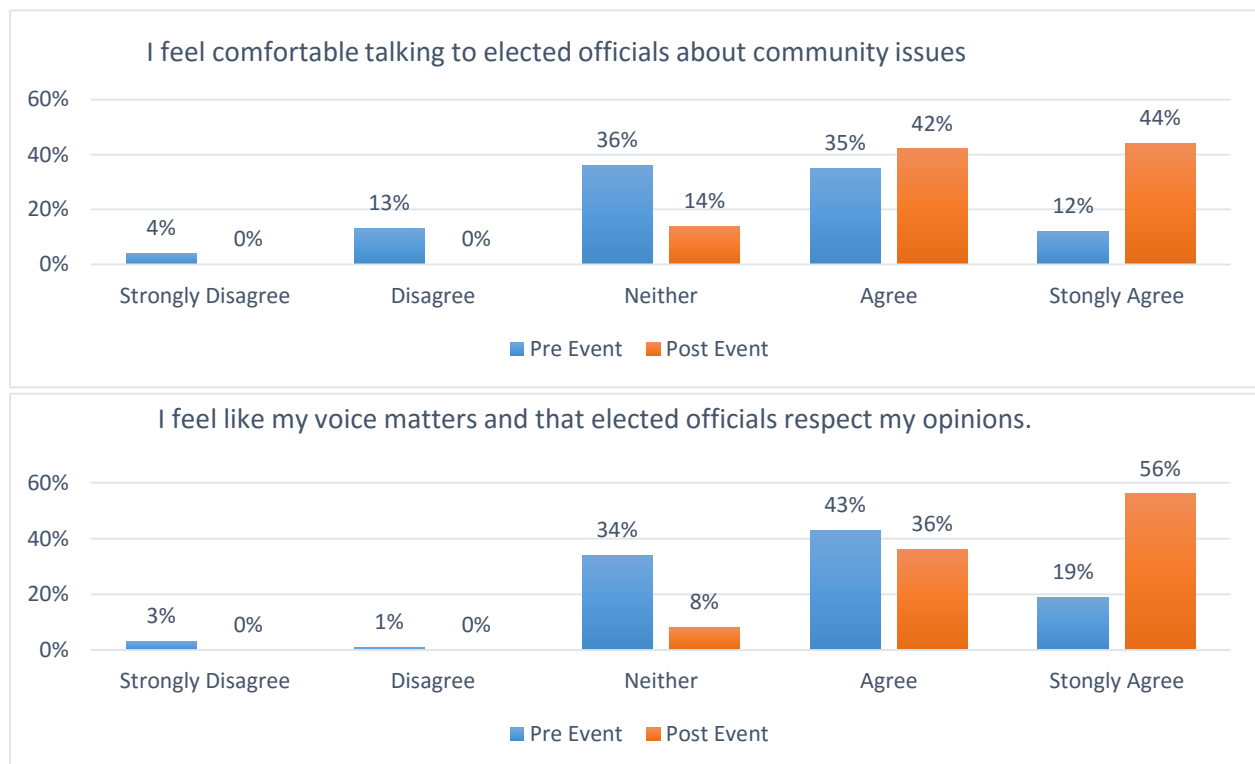
The Event

Students from around Yolo County gathered at Woodland Community College for a day of civic engagement at the second annual Youth Empowerment Summit “YES!” on Saturday March 16th, 2019. There were 106 students in attendance from throughout the County. Subjects of the summit included voter registration, student poll working program, making your voice be heard by voting, and how local government functions. The logo for the event, which can be seen at the top of this page, was created by students and voted on at the 2018 summit.

The day began with the students voting on where we would buy the pizza for lunch. HART provided official ballots and scanners, and students checked in on the ePollBooks provided by Knowink. Students were then able to participate in an election that closely mimicked an official election process in a primary election, where they voted for the top two options out of four, and they were able to see the immediate results of that vote. The day's agenda included: welcome remarks from Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Don Saylor; a panel on how local government functions that included the County Administrator, County Superintendent of Schools and a City Manager; a non-partisan presentation from the Yolo County Library on fake news and the importance of doing your research, and closing remarks from a State Senator. Students had the ability to interface with local elected officials while enjoying lunch (from the winning pizza vendors that students voted on first thing in the morning) and during round table discussions. There were 25 elected officials that attended the 2019 "YES!". Students ages 16 and 17 had an opportunity to pre-register to vote, and those aged 18 and older were able to register to vote. One student registered to vote and 12 pre-registered to vote day of, while others either were not yet old enough to pre-register or required more information to complete their registration. To assess this program's long-term impact, we plan to track students that registered at the YES event in a longitudinal study to see if they participate in future elections.

What We Accomplished

Pre- and post-surveys were given to students at the event. Seventy-five students completed the pre-event survey and 73 students completed the post-event survey. Two key survey results are presented here. As indicated by the graphs and other survey results, students who participated in YES! now have a better understanding of local government, feel more comfortable talking to local officials, and feel even more like their voice matters. When comparing students who had also attended 2018's summit to those who were attending this year's summit for the first time, returning students retained those strong feelings of empowerment and knowledge of government from the previous summit.



Attachment 1

Newspaper Article

“At Youth Empowerment Summit, Winters Students Learn About Local Government”

by Matthew Keys, published in Winters Express on March 20 2019

https://www.wintersexpress.com/local-news/youth-empowerment-summit-event-coming/?fbclid=IwAR07pkuC7HZH0THEfjNXL_x485v0NkSLECyC31oWnU1ejrBXjVQCjVgv7Ihtt

At Youth Empowerment Summit, Winters students learn about local government

by Matthew Keys — March 20, 2019 in City, City Hall, News, Yolo County 5 min read 0



Winters City Council Member Jesse Loren and Winters High School senior Marin Spalding participate in a round table discussion during the Youth Empowerment Summit in Woodland on March

16, 2019. Photo by Matthew Keys/Winters Express

Attachment 2

Youth Empowerment Summit Promotional Videos

- 1) This promotional video features a summary of the day's activities and student testimony about the event and is available at yolosaysyes.com/2019-yes

2019 Youth Empowerment Summit

Our Second YES! Event was held Saturday, March 16, at Woodland Community College.

The program will began with breakfast at 8am, and ended with the presentation of certificates around 4:30pm. This event was free and open to all Yolo County 9th-12th grade students. See the video below for a summary of the day!

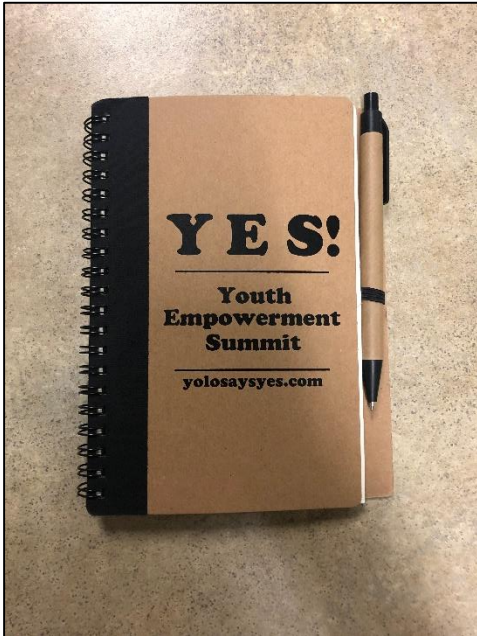
2019 YES! Event



Attachment 3

Gifts for Students

Each student attending the event received a gift bag with a notebook, phone holder, water bottle, and t shirt.



Back



Front

Attachment 4

Photos from the Event



Elected officials sat with the students and discussed issues such as safety and the environment



Yolo County Chair of the Board of Supervisors Don Saylor gave the welcoming remarks



County Administrator Patrick Blacklock gave a presentation on the roles and responsibilities in county government



County Supervisor Gary Sandy during the roundtable discussions with students



Group picture



California Senator Bill Dodd gave the closing remarks

Attachment 5

Website Screenshot: Donors List

www.yolosaysyes.com/donations

Thank You!

The Youth Empowerment Summit is made possible by the following donors:

Bronze Sponsors (\$500 or less)

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- Davis Rebekah Lodge
- Jim Hilliard
- Davis Oddfellows Lodge
- Norbie Kumagai

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If you would like to donate, follow the link below to donation as "Election Outreach".

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