

# CALIFORNIA CIVIC LEARNING SUMMIT

*Engaging California's Youth*

**February 5-6, 2025**



**CALIFORNIA MUSEUM**

**1020 O STREET**

**SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**



Californians for  
**CIVIC LEARNING**





**TEACH  
DEMOCRACY**

Civic participation begins with civic education



Civic  
Education  
Center

**DAY ONE: Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
PROGRAM**

<b>General Session</b>			
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>David W. Gordon</b> Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p> 		
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Keynote Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Tani Cantil-Sakauye</b> President and CEO, Public Policy Institute of California Chief Justice of California (Ret.) <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p> 		
<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Civic Learning in Elementary Schools!</b></p> <p>During the 2023-2024 school year, 5th-grade students at Richmond Street School (RSS) embarked on a meaningful project to address a pressing issue in their community. Students researched the impact of waste, formulated insightful questions, and gathered evidence to understand who was affected and how. They used their findings to develop practical proposed solutions and presented their ideas to members of the El Segundo City Council and El Segundo Unified School District Board of Education. Through this initiative, RSS 5th graders cultivated a sense of responsibility for promoting sustainability and reducing waste, while also gaining a deeper appreciation for the importance of civic engagement in a thriving democracy.</p> <p><b>Maya Graiff, Emery Plotkin, Iris Pimentel, Makenzie Hart, John Caban</b> El Segundo Middle School, El Segundo Unified School District <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>		
<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Institutionalizing Civic Learning: A School Administrator Perspective</b></p> <p>The Anaheim Union High School District has received more State Seals of Civic Engagement than any other school district in the state. Every school in the district has been recognized as a California Democracy School, qualifying the district to become the first California Democracy School District. The schools have also received numerous awards from the California Chief Justice's Civic Learning Award Program.</p> <p>A conversation with the district superintendent will reveal the keys to his success including his vision, challenges overcome, and key efforts made toward preparing all students in the district to become informed, responsible, actively engaged citizens in their communities and nation.</p> <p><b>Michael Matsuda</b>, Superintendent, Anaheim Union High School District <b>David W. Gordon</b>, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>		
<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Lunch</b> <i>Museum Cafeteria (second floor)</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Convening of Civic Learning Leaders and Organizations</b> <i>Multipurpose Room</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Lunch</b> <i>Museum Cafeteria (second floor)</i></p>	<p><b>Convening of Civic Learning Leaders and Organizations</b> <i>Multipurpose Room</i></p>
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**DAY ONE: Wednesday, February 5, 2025**  
**PROGRAM, cont.,**

Breakout Sessions		
<p><b>12:45 – 1:40 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction to the Center for Civic Education Programs: The Many Paths to Student Engagement</b></p> <p>Learn about the Center for Civic Education’s two dynamic programs, Project Community, a program which incorporates new media literacy resources to foster informed, active citizenship, and Civics That Empowers All Students, a dynamic approach using the “We the People” curriculum in grades 5-8.</p> <p><b>Cheryl Cook-Kallio</b> California State Coordinator and Board Member Center for Civic Education <i>Multipurpose Room</i></p>	<p><b>The State Seal of Civic Engagement</b></p> <p>On September 10, 2020, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted criteria and guidance to award a State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE) to California students who demonstrate excellence in civics education and participation, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government. A program overview and updates will be shared in this session.</p> <p><b>Sarah Smith</b> Education Programs Consultant California Department of Education <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>
<p><b>1:45 – 2:40 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Civic Learning Through Civil Dialogue</b></p> <p>Join us for an interactive workshop in which we will share opportunities, challenges, and creative approaches to civil dialogue with students. Learn how Creating Citizens brings young people together with civic leaders to foster a deeper understanding of democracy and inspire them to take part in civic life. Attendees will participate in dialogue-focused activities, together with special guest Tani Cantil-Sakauye.</p> <p><b>Lauren Silver</b> Vice President for Education</p> <p><b>Griffith Swidler</b> School Partnerships Manager Commonwealth Club World Affairs of California <i>Multipurpose Room</i></p>	<p><b>Teach Democracy</b></p> <p>Teach Democracy is a non-profit, non-partisan organization specializing in K-12 civic learning. Keri and Laura will provide an overview of Teach Democracy’s free programs, lessons, and resources and invite discussion about your challenges and successes in ensuring all students have civic learning opportunities.</p> <p><b>Keri Doggett</b> Vice President, Teach Democracy</p> <p><b>Laura Wesley</b> Director of Programs, Teach Democracy <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>
<p><b>2:45 – 3:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>iCivics</b></p> <p>We will explore iCivics free K-12 resources that support specific California initiatives and standards. This includes preparing 6th-12th grade students for the Civic Seal through projects and our new California High School iCivics Scope and Sequence, a guide that aligns all iCivics resources with the 12th grade course standards and objectives.</p> <p><b>Tammy Waller</b> Associate Director, Implementation, iCivics <i>Multipurpose Room</i></p>	<p><b>The California Center for Civic Participation</b></p> <p>Explore how technology, AI, and innovation are reshaping civic engagement in an era of generational shifts. This presentation highlights the dynamic role of today’s youth in driving change, leveraging digital tools, and reimagining participation to create a more inclusive and connected society.</p> <p><b>Clarissa Laguardia</b> Executive Director, California Center for Civic Participation <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>
General Session		
<p><b>3:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Concluding Remarks</b></p> <p><b>David W. Gordon</b> Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>	
<p><b>5:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Reception with Legislators</b> <i>California Museum Lobby</i></p>	

**DAY TWO: Thursday, February 6, 2025  
PROGRAM**

<p><b>9:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome</b>   <b>David W. Gordon</b>          Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools  <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>	
<p><b>9:05 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p><b>Hon. Patricia Guerrero</b>            Chief Justice of California            Sponsor, Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>California Chief Justice Civic Learning Initiative</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Hon. Judith McConnell</b>            Administrative Presiding Justice,            Court of Appeal, Fourth District            Lead, Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Hon. Julia Alloggiamento</b>            Judge, Superior Court of Santa Clara County            Vice-Lead, Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative</p> </div> </div>	
<p><b>9:35 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Media Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carolyn Jones</b>, K-12 Education Reporter, CalMatters</li> <li>• <b>Ryan Lillis</b>, Assistant General Manager - News, PBS KVIE TV</li> <li>• <b>Christopher Cadelago</b>, California Bureau Chief, POLITICO</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Beth Miller</b>, President and CEO, Miller Public Affairs Group  <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>	
<p><b>10:05 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Student Panel: How to Engage Young People in Advocacy Efforts</b>  <b>Bethany Zhao, Benicio Orsua</b>  <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>	
<p><b>11:05 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Civic Learning Legislation Introduced!</b>  <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>	
<p><b>11:30 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b>  <i>Museum Cafeteria (second floor)</i></p>	
<p><b>12:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Legislative Advocacy</b>  <i>Legislative Offices          1021 O Street          Sacramento, CA</i></p>	<p><b>The Democracy Project: Promoting Youth Voice with Civic Action Project</b>          How do we amplify youth voice? By providing opportunities for young people to practice civic actions that effectively influence policies to address problems, issues, and needs that are important to their daily lives. Learn practical strategies for authentic youth engagement in local communities and receive free access to classroom resources that satisfy and exceed criteria for the California State Seal of Civic Engagement and other service-learning requirements.</p> <p><b>Gregorio Medina</b>, Senior Program Director, Teach Democracy  <b>Damon Huss</b>, Director of Publications, Teach Democracy  <i>Multipurpose Room</i></p>
<p><b>3:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b>  <b>Adjourn</b>  <i>Secretary of State Auditorium</i></p>	



## California Civic Learning Summit Sponsors



**Californians for Civic Learning** is a non-profit coalition of civic learning leaders working together to ensure that all Californians are informed, responsible, engaged participants in civic life, exemplifying the ideals and principles of our constitutional democracy. Its mission is to be California's unifying voice for promoting robust civic learning across all grade levels for all students.

<https://ca4civiclearning.org/>



**The Sacramento County Office of Education** plays a leadership role in the delivery of quality education to the students in Sacramento County. SCOE's vision is to empower, inspire, and provide pathways for learners to thrive personally, within their communities, in college, and in careers.

<https://www.scoe.net/>



**The California Civic Learning Initiative** is an initiative of Teach Democracy, together with lead partners and coalition agencies, to improve and expand civic learning in California, with an emphasis on increasing access for all students to earn the California State Seal of Civic Engagement on their high school diplomas.

<https://teachdemocracy.org/ccli>



**The Civic Education Center** is preparing our next generation to meet the challenges they will face in the 21st century with a deep understanding and commitment to the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. Working in partnership with schools and teachers, Civic Education Center guides and empowers K-12 students in addressing authentic real-world challenges impacting our community through hands-on civic engagement projects, civic values, and democratic skills.

<https://www.civicedcenter.org/>

*Thank you to the Robert Shumer Family Foundation  
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