

Orange County's

# my ballot



Student  
Election  
Program

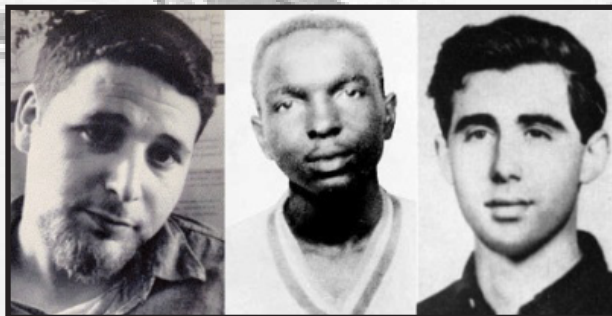
**create. vote. tally.**



WE DESIGNED OUR **MYBALLOT** PROGRAM WITH STUDENTS IN MIND. THERE **IS AN** OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY STUDENTS TO WALK AWAY WITH A STRONG UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT OUR RIGHT TO VOTE TRULY MEANS IN THIS COUNTRY. WE SEE OUR ROLE IN EDUCATING NEW VOTERS AS AN **AWESOME** RESPONSIBILITY – A CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE POWER THAT AN **ELECTION** CAN HAVE AND HOW IT CAN CHANGE LIVES. OUR AWARD-WINNING **PROGRAM** WAS DESIGNED IN-HOUSE AND IS UNIQUE AMONG ELECTION OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH **IT** IS TRULY ONE-OF-A-KIND IT IS NOT EXCLUSIVE TO ANY SINGLE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ORANGE COUNTY. WE HAVE **MADE** MYBALLOT INTO ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMS – BECAUSE OF THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE AND THE INTEREST THAT IT SPARKS IN THE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE. ONE OF OUR FAVORITE QUOTES FROM A STUDENT ABOUT THE PROGRAM WAS WHEN HE SAID IT MADE **“ME CHILLAX”**. THIS 3-STEP PROGRAM STARTS WITH INSTRUCTION IN THE CLASSROOM, WHICH ENLIGHTENS STUDENTS ABOUT MANY OF THE SACRIFICES THAT PEOPLE MADE TO OBTAIN THE RIGHT TO VOTE **WHILE** AT THE SAME TIME SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSTITUTION. WE BELIEVE THAT BY **HELPING** STUDENTS TO BECOME ENGAGED ABOUT THE PROCESS IT WILL CREATE A LIFE-LONG INTEREST IN ELECTIONS. STUDENTS FIND THAT IT IS NO LONGER ABOUT **“ME”** BUT ABOUT THE VOICE THEY CAN SHARE WITH OTHERS. AFTER THE CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION STUDENTS ARE BROUGHT **TO** OUR DEPARTMENT WHERE THEY **LEARN ABOUT** HOW TO DESIGN AND CREATE A BALLOT. THIS SAME BALLOT IS **WHAT** THE STUDENTS WILL USE TO VOTE ON THEIR SCHOOL ELECTION. NOT ONLY WILL THEY HAVE LEARNED WHAT **IT TOOK** TO PRODUCE A BALLOT – A COMPLEX PROCESS – BUT THEY CAN LATER EXPLAIN HOW IMPORTANT IT IS **FOR** BALLOT DESIGN – ENSURING AN ACCURATE VOTE COUNT. WE HAVE WITNESSED THAT MANY **PEOPLE** STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT INDIVIDUALS SUFFERED IN ORDER **TO GET THE RIGHT TO VOTE** IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT AS ONE STUDENT TOLD US, **“MYBALLOT IS VERY ILL!”** AND SHOWED HER THAT HER VOTE IS IMPORTANT AND THAT SHE SHOULD BE INVOLVED. NOT A BAD ENDORSEMENT.

## Step 1

Students will receive in-class instruction on the history of voting and the struggle to obtain the right to vote for many in this country. On June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi three young men were murdered while working on voter registration and voter education during what became known as the “Freedom Summer”. James Chaney, a 21-year old black man from Meridian, Mississippi; Andrew Goodman, a 20-year old white Jewish student from New York; and Michael Schwerner, a 24-year old white Jewish organizer and former social worker also from New York, demonstrated the dangers faced by civil rights workers in the South, especially during efforts to educate and register voters.





You'll learn about the lives that were lost during the push for voting rights for all citizens in the United States and the sacrifices that were made. What came out of these efforts generations ago were amendments to the Constitution, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 – all designed to ensure the right to vote we all enjoy today.



## Step 2

Next stop: Registrar of Voters. In the second phase of the MyBallot program students will be transported to our ballot production facilities in Santa Ana where they will learn the complex process of ballot creation. This is another eye-opener for students – many have no idea what it takes to put a secure ballot together. During this process they will learn the basics of ballot design, vote target placement, ballot security and graphic design. The end result will be a completed ballot for their student election that will be used by students at their school. Votes will be cast on the actual ballot they create.



# ○ your school



*You could be an Inspector, have no fear (to ride, the MyBallot bus)  
Every day I get in the queue (to ride, the MyBallot bus)  
To get on the bus that takes me to you (to ride, the MyBallot bus)*



**registrar of voters** ○



Orange County's MyBallot Program. Create. Vote. Tally.





### Step 3

From slips of paper to voting booths – this is where it all comes together. The final phase of MyBallot puts what the students have learned into practice. We will set up polling places at their school using the actual voting machines used during elections in Orange County. Loaded onto the booths will be the electronic ballots designed by the students – thousands of kids will move from voting on slips of paper in the past to the booths they will use in the future to vote for the President of the United States – a moving experience for many. Once the polls are closed the students will come together once again to learn how to tally the votes and certify a secure election – announcing the winners for their ASB, homecoming or other election.

**ORANGE COUNTY  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**



Get your school involved today | [ocvote.com/myballot](http://ocvote.com/myballot) | 714-567-5197