



# Mikva Challenge

**When we  
build democracy  
together**

Mikva Challenge election year impact report

**Mikva  
Challenge**

1 [mikvachallenge.org](https://mikvachallenge.org)

This election season we have already seen how strong our democracy can be when youth are at the table. In the past few months, Mikva Challenge has engaged thousands of youth nationwide in the democratic process.



A group of young people, mostly Black, are gathered at what appears to be a community event or rally. They are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. In the foreground, a young woman in a purple hoodie is smiling and gesturing with her hands. Next to her, a young man in a blue t-shirt with the word "STRAIGHT" on it is also smiling. To the right, another young man in a dark puffer jacket is looking down at something in his hands. The background shows other people, some in suits, and a blue-tinted lighting effect across the entire image.

***“There are a lot of kids like me  
who are fighting for our present  
and future.”***

Despite being too young to vote, our young people have turned out by the thousands to speak up about the issues that matter to them the most. They have advocated for candidates they support. And they have educated and turned out their communities to vote.

This election  
cycle has seen  
unprecedented  
youth engagement.  
Here are some  
of the ways  
Mikva amplified  
youth voice and  
supported our  
educators –



## **FOR OUR EDUCATORS**

### Mikva Virtual Elections Lessons

Mikva distributed our virtual elections lessons designed to engage youth in different aspects of the 2020 election season for free to **over 1200 teachers across the country**. Through these lessons, students explored: Political Voice, Researching Candidates, Media Literacy, How Campaigns and Elections Work and Voting.

## Mikva Educator Professional Development

Between July and September, we offered 12 opportunities for teachers to participate in free, virtual workshops modeling different strategies to engage students in the election by having them explore their own ideologies, learn about the candidates, unpack media messages, examine the role of money in elections, and build confidence in their own civic abilities. **Hundreds of teachers from 17 states** took advantage of the opportunity!



**I learned new ways to create a democratic environment for my students; one where they can agree or disagree without affecting each other's humanity. – Teacher, Cobb County GA**



## FOR OUR YOUTH

### Student Election Judges

During the spring primaries Mikva assigned **2205 student judges** to a polling location and had 1419 student judges serve on election day.

Over 99% of the student judges said they feel they should **volunteer to help people more** than before the experience.

Over 98% of the student judges said they are **more likely to vote** than before.





The best part about serving as an election judge was being able to feel like I had played an important role in the primary election. I am too young to vote, and through this program I think I did my duty participating in our election.  
– Chicago Student Election Judge

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## Iowa Caucus Trip

Mikva took **220 youth from across the country** to the Iowa Caucus where the youth got first-hand experience in campaigning, held their own youth caucus around issues most important to them and their generation, and attended candidate forums.



## Elections in Action Council

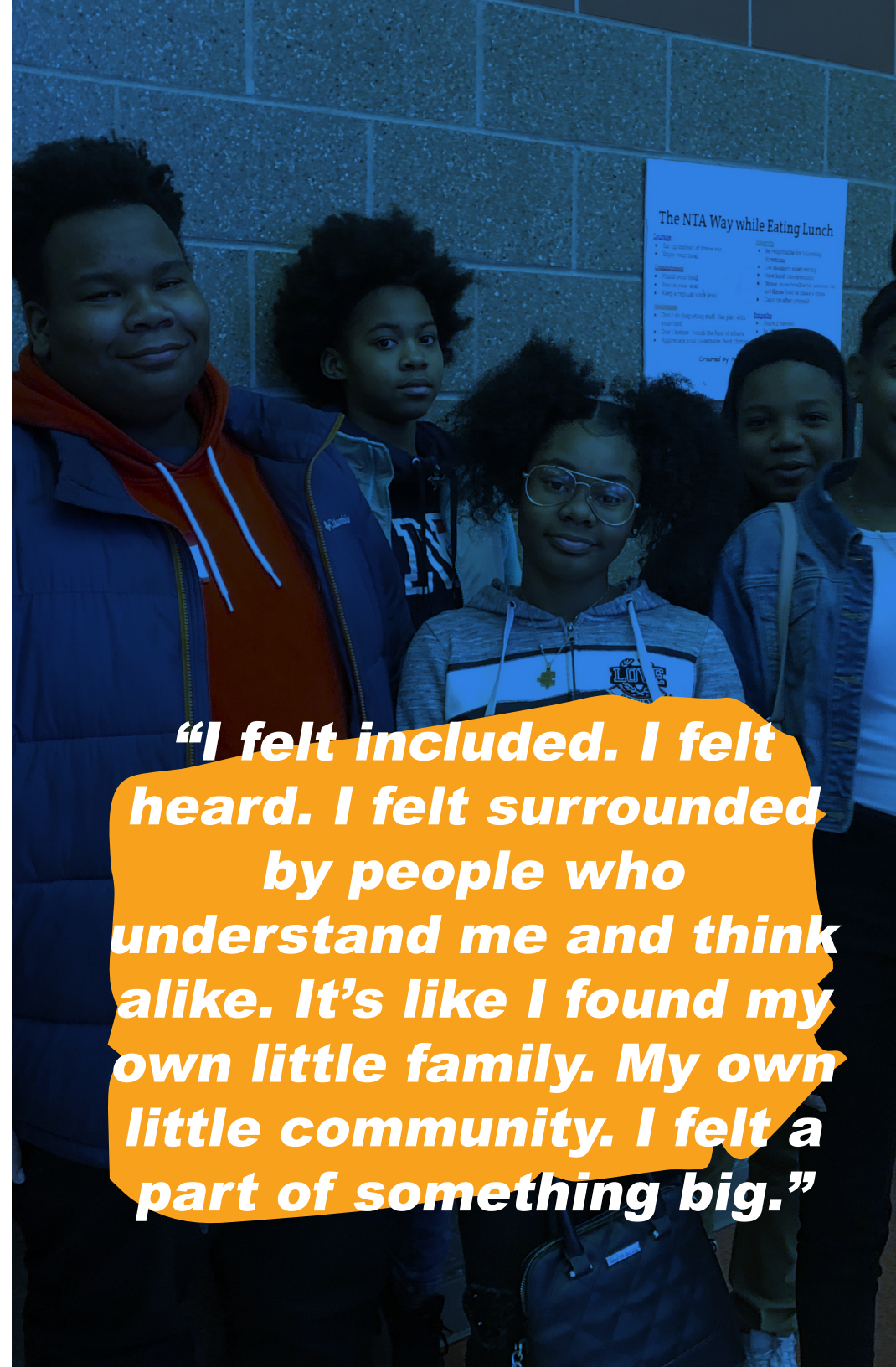
In Washington, DC, **32 youth participated** in the Elections in Action Council.

95% of youth said they are **more likely to vote** than before due to their participation in the program.

100% of youth said **they feel they can make a difference** in their communities more than before program participation.



**I was in a group of people that cared about the same things as me. I was able to speak about issues and learn all at the same time. I never felt like there was a limitation because of my age or any other aspect of my background. I walked away thinking that I actually made a difference and my voice was heard.**  
– Mikva DC Elections in Action Fellow



***“I felt included. I felt heard. I felt surrounded by people who understand me and think alike. It’s like I found my own little family. My own little community. I felt a part of something big.”***



## Mikva Youth Voting Squads

Mikva Challenge partnered with the When We All Vote – My School Votes Initiative to **recruit and support 300+ young leaders** in captaining Voting Squads to get their friends, family members, and community members registered, informed, and prepared to vote. Special recruitment efforts for youth voting squads were made in swing states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

## Mikva Virtual Election Youth Events

Mikva hosted FIVE, national virtual events to give youth from all over the country an opportunity to get informed, connected and equipped to make an impact on this historic 2020 election.

### 1 Mikva Youth Issues Summit

130 participants from fifteen states had an opportunity to make their voices heard about the issues they care about most in this election, as well as listen to and learn from their peers' experiences and concerns about top issues that candidates should be addressing in this election.

### 2 Mikva Virtual Campaign Fair

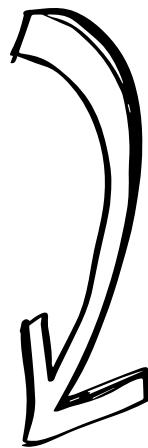
115 participants from nine states met candidates and campaign staff from around the country, learned what it's like to run for office and/or work for a campaign, and found out about how youth can make a big difference in the race.



**Even though people are from a different political party than me there can be things we can agree on. – Mikva Youth**

### 3 Mikva Voter Education and Ballot Party

Over 80 young people from eight states attended this event and got the tools and strategies to educate and mobilize their community to vote in the 2020 election.



## 4 Mikva Virtual Phone Bank

88 youth learned how to phone bank, then practiced those new skills by making GOTV calls to demographics of voters who have historically been victims of voter suppression.



**I learned many different ways to start mobilizing my community, even though I'm not old enough to vote for this election: phone banking, voter registration pages, etc. – Mikva Youth**

## 5 Mikva Virtual Debate Watch Party

Over **200 students from 15 states came together** to reflect on their values as voters (and future voters!) and to engage in meaningful dialogue around the final presidential debate.

## Mikva Great Electoral Race App

**Hundreds of youth** participated in Mikva's Great Electoral Race – a digital scavenger hunt made up of 51 Challenges designed to help **youth make their voices heard in the 2020 election**, and empower their communities to do the same.

Over 92% of surveyed participants report that they **feel strongly that they're part of a national movement** for young people who care about elections.







**Mikva Challenge develops youth to be empowered, informed, and active citizens who will promote a just and equitable society.**

[Join the movement today >>](#)