

Welcome to the State Capitol!

I understand there are students from many school districts here—St. Paul, Roseville, Hopkins, Cloquet—any others?

It's great to have all of you here for such an important topic—Voting.

Your slogan, "Keep Minnesota Number One" is right on the money. Did you know that in the United States, only 50 percent of adults vote? That's pathetic.

Minnesota is number one for voting—we usually beat every other state in the nation—and we should be proud.

But even we can do better. During my time as Governor, I have spent a lot of time trying to get more people to vote. It's hard work.

Each and every one of you has an important job to do. Your job is to make sure that your parents get to the polls on Election Day. Even though YOU can't cast a ballot, THEY can. It's your job to remind them to vote.

You don't have to stop with your parents. Remind your grandparents. Remind your aunts and uncles. Remind your teachers. In fact, don't be afraid to ask any adult on Election Day if they remembered to vote.

Be sure to them all that in Minnesota, they don't need to be registered in order to vote. There are only seven states in the nation that allow voters to register on the same day as the election.

Some people might tell you that you need to be registered to vote. Well, you don't. Be sure to tell your parents...just show up at the polls with identification and voting will be no problem.

When you all vote at your schools, remember to vote your heart and your conscience.

Thanks for coming today. I hope you all visit our State Capitol often!