

PICTURES AND STORIES FROM THE NATIONAL STUDENT/PARENT MOCK ELECTION  
LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO, OCTOBER 19-20, 2004

Submitted by the League of Women Voters of Moscow

PO Box 9535

Moscow ID 83843

<http://community.palouse.net/lwvm>

The League of Women Voters of Moscow sponsored the National Student/Parent Mock Election in Latah County, Idaho, on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of 2004.

Students from grades 1 to 12 were eligible to vote. There are six school districts in Latah County and all participated. Primary students from twelve public and private schools, and secondary students from seven junior and senior high schools plus one home school association participated in the election. There were a total of 1365 primary students and 1514 junior/senior high schools students who voted on their election days, a total of 2879 students.

Moscow, Idaho elementary and high school students were bused to a central polling place, the Latah County Fairgrounds, to cast their votes. On October 19, high school-aged students from Moscow voted by precinct (grade) using punch-card voting machines and the same ballots as would be used in the general election. The machines were supplied by the Latah County Clerk's office. Students duplicated the same process on their election day as would citizens in the general election—signing the voting rolls, casting their ballots, receiving an “I voted” sticker. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the elementary-age students from Moscow were bused to the central polling place and were given age-specific paper ballots. Grades 1-3 got Presidential ballots only. Grades 4-6 got a paper ballot that corresponded to the ballot in the general election. They voted at 40 table-top voting booths and ballots were collected by precinct (school name).

Schools in other towns in the county held their own mock elections on-site, and results from their elections were reported to the League of Women Voters of Moscow on October 20. Final results were tabulated for all the offices as well as the NSPME issues ballot. The results were posted on the LWV Moscow website for public access.

Three newspapers covered the Mock Election. There were over 40 volunteers helping on the election days.



October 19, 2004

High Schools students from Moscow, Idaho vote on punch-card voting machines at the Latah County Fairgrounds in the NSPME.

501 senior high school students used the same voting machines with the same ballot that will be used in the General Election.

1013 junior/senior high school students from other towns in the county voted at their own schools with a paper ballot.

*Latah Eagle*

Vol 113, Issue 44

Thursday October 28, 2004

Moscow, ID 83843

### County students make choices in mock election

If the children in Latah County had their way, George Bush would be president again and Butch Otter, Tom Trail, Shirley Ringo and Jack Nelson would all keep their positions.

Latah County students participated in a mock election October 19 and 20 and results showed that even though President Bush won the election, John Kerry was a close second with the vote being 1687 to 1080.

In local races the county would see a new sheriff in Wayne Rausch if the vote is replicated November 2. He got 1035 votes to Jeff Crouch's 770 and Joe Overstreet's 307.

Jeff Harkins won over Tom Stroschein in the student vote with 1085 over 999.

Voting on the issues is a little tougher for the young voters and seeing the children's opinions is somewhat of an eye-opener.

The students majority vote was on the statement, "I prefer Democratic policies because they focus on social welfare and use tax revenues, even though they may be higher, to fund government programs and services.

On homeland security the majority voted for the statement, "Security and constitutional rights are important but maintaining constitutional rights is

more important than a greater level of security." In a close second was the statement, "It is worth risking some constitutional rights for greater security at home."

On education the students say, "In setting standards for educational attainment in the United States, the federal government should take into account contextual factors such as where the particular school is located, the background of the students in the school, the resources the school has at its disposal, and others. This would

allow schools that face some disadvantages to be on a level playing field with other schools."

Students voted overwhelmingly on this healthcare policy: "The federal government should play a substantial role in providing healthcare to all Americans, but should not have total control."

If you are interested in breakdown by schools you can find results at <http://community.palouse.net/lwvm>. The mock election was sponsored here by the League of Women Voters of Moscow.

October 19, 2004

The results of the votes on the candidates were of course of great interest to the students and to the community as a whole.

But besides voting on the candidates, the high schools students also had the opportunity to vote on the NSPME Issues Ballot.

545 issues ballots were cast. The results were posted on the LWV-Moscow website. It was the first time since 1996 when Mock Election was first held in Latah County that the newspapers covered the results of the issues ballots.



October 20, 2004

Moscow, Idaho elementary school children vote at the Latah County Fair-grounds building using table-top voting booths.

923 elementary students voted at this central polling place.

442 elementary students voted at their schools in towns outside of Moscow in Latah County.

LOCAL

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

# Students register votes

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2004 • 3A

## in mock election

BY LEILA SUMMERS  
Daily News staff writer

Deborah Annette walked to the voting booth with a calm demeanor and a clear state of mind.

She knew what to do. Annette, a 17-year-old Moscow High School senior, went to Tuesday's mock election already knowing how to fill out her ballot. She knew background information about the candidates, their political parties and about government's structure.

Annette and hundreds of other high school students voted in the League of Women Voters mock elections that started Tuesday and concludes today. Elementary school children cast their votes today.

Mock election results for Latah County will be made available online. Sally Fredericks, chairwoman of the mock elections committee for the League of Women Voters of Moscow, warned against deriving any political messages out of the results. She said many students view the mock election as an exercise and don't always vote as their parents would in

the real election.

All Latah County schools — including private and home-schooled students — were invited to participate in the event. The main voting site is the Latah County Fairgrounds in Moscow, with other polling places located at schools around the county.

Moscow High School American history teacher Don Kaag said he viewed the mock election as part of a much larger lesson.

"They learn how the system works," Kaag said. "This is the same precinct I use when I vote. These kids are doing much of the same procedure I do when I vote."

Kaag said the students learned about political parties, government structures, and current events before casting their ballots, which are identical to the ballots used for actual voters.

Amy Ford, president of the League of Women Voters of Moscow, said she hoped students learned to take the voting process seriously.

"We want to take the mystery out" of the process, Ford

said. "Kids who start early will continue to vote later."

Ford said the League of Women Voters focuses on supplying the community with nonpartisan educational materials about the voting process and voting rights. The earlier the educational process starts in a person's life, the more likely that person will continue being a responsible voter.

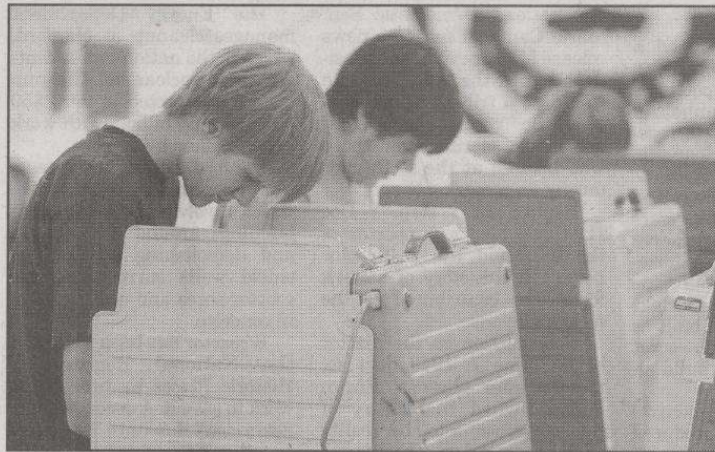
"Most of our work is done preparing people to vote," Ford said.

This year seems to have attracted a lot of attention from voters, Ford said, as do most presidential election years. The League of Women Voters of Moscow organized 27 voter registration drives this fall.

"It's an important election, and we've had an overwhelming response," Ford said. "People are paying more attention to this election. I think people have personalized it this year."

By the time most high school seniors graduate, they will have participated in at least two presidential mock elections, she said.

Ford said she can tell the dif-



**Moscow High School junior Taylor Evans** votes during a mock election at the Latah County Fairgrounds in Moscow on Tuesday.

Geoff Crimmins  
Daily News

ference between seventh-graders voting for the first time and seniors who vote like pros.

"The seventh-graders shuffle in here acting confident but are really kind of worried about what to do and making a fool out of themselves," Ford said. "The 12th-graders know exactly what to do. That's what we want."

Moscow High School senior David Nuhn, 18, said he's registered and ready to vote for the

real election in a couple of weeks.

"I will be going to college, and I need to start dealing with things that will affect me in the future," Nuhn said.

Annette agreed the experience was beneficial. She's now one step closer to becoming an adult and exercising her rights and responsibilities as an independent voter. She doesn't intend to follow in anyone else's footsteps when she makes her

decisions.

"I don't think I voted as my parents would vote," Annette said. "My mom is the total opposite of me."

■ Mock election results will be available online by 5 p.m. today at <http://community.palouse.net/lwvm>.

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*Tribune/Barry Kough*  
Moscow elementary pupils take their turn at the electoral process, voting at the Latah County Fairgrounds.

October 20, 2004

←  
Picture from the *Lewiston Morning Tribune* of Lewiston, Idaho

Elementary students used 2 different ballots--one for grades 1-3 (Presidential only) and one for grades 4-12, which was the same as the general election ballot.

→  
Home school students listen to their mentor talk about voting.



*Latah Eagle*  
Vol 113, Issue 44  
Thursday October 28, 2004  
Moscow, ID 83843

## Get out and vote! Troy students say

BY NANCY HEWARD  
*Troy Editor*

The fifth grade students in Susie Schneider's class can tell you quite a bit about the election process now. And their number one bit of advice after all of their research, study, and activities is VOTE!

"The kids worked very hard registering all the kids in grades kindergarten through sixth grade, compiling voting lists, making six voting booths, and listening to guest speakers about judging elections and counting ballots," Schneider explained. The net result was the involvement of many of the kids in school.

"They [students] were talking about candidates and issues, even at the lower grade levels. They all had an opinion!" Schneider added. All of the adults in the building wore buttons to encourage the election process and student-voters got a sticker after they boxed their completed ballot. Parents, indeed, citizens in general, will be hard put to match the voter turnout at Troy Elementary Tuesday, October 19.



Troy Elementary students line up to vote at the Latah County mock election. donated photo

October 19<sup>th</sup>

Susie Schneider, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Troy Elementary School in Troy, Idaho, did a great job in getting her class and others in the school, engaged in every aspect of the voting process.

Susie would be an excellent person for National Student Parent Mock Election to interview for an article on Mock Election projects. Susie can be reached through the Troy Elementary School, 208-835-4261 and is very willing to talk to anyone about Mock Election.