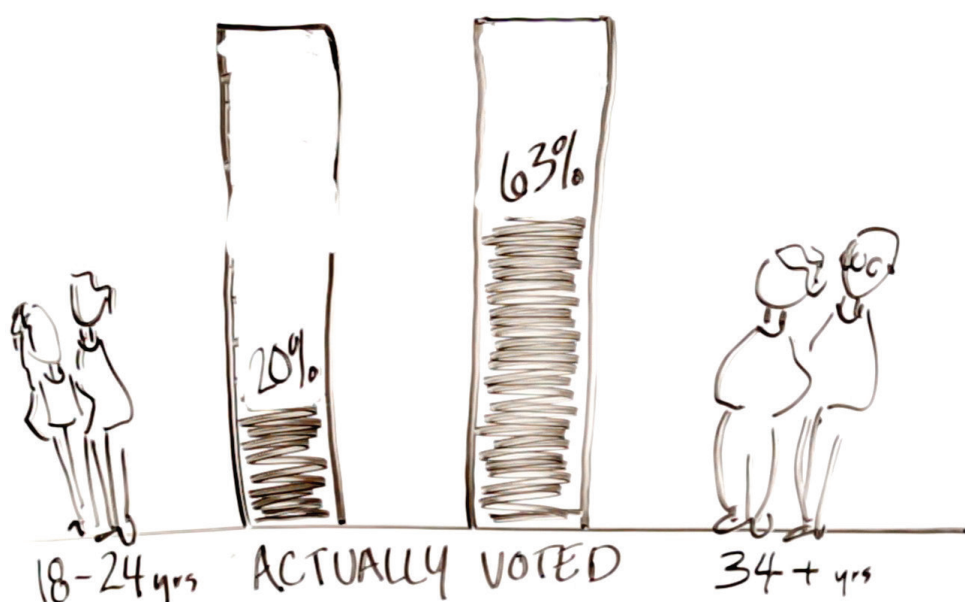


BEING A TEENAGER CAN BE EXCITING.

Rites of passage and coming of age rituals are an opportunity for parents and teachers to give young people guidance, but ultimately let go of some of the control they've had in their lives so far.

We might get to teach her how to drive, but once she's got the keys in hand, we've given up some control on where she goes with the car.

We might give him tips on how to shave, but what he does with his facial hair is out of our control.



When it comes to participation in elections, we can show them how the system works and how to get engaged, but who they vote for, and what they choose to care about is up to them.

For many young people, participation in the most basic political activities - like voting in an election - can be confusing, simply because they've never done it before.

To participate in civic life, young people need support and encouragement from peers and adults in their lives, and reminders of why it's important to be active citizens.

At Elections Nova Scotia - the independent office that runs elections in our province - we're working with school boards to collect the information we need to register students to vote once they've turned eighteen: their names, birthdays and home addresses.

If a student or parent would rather not have this information released, they can opt out by contacting our office.

Our job is to make sure everyone who is eligible to vote has access to a ballot if they want one.

We depend on parents and teachers to remind young people why voting is important, and give them guidance they need as they discover what it means to be a citizen.

Our website has helpful information for parents, teachers and students. Visit electionsnovascotia.ca and, if you have any questions, contact us at elections@novascotia.ca.