

From: [Nina Faust](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)
Subject: SB 23: "An Act relating to civics education
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February 9, 2026

Senate Finance Committee:

RE: SB 23: "An Act relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date."

Given what I have observed regarding the general public's knowledge of and engagement with local, state, and national governments, I think civics education, assessments, and engagement under secondary school graduation requirements is important to implement.

Citizens need an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, branches of government, and how it all works, including the election process. Learning about how state government is structured and how it interacts with Federal and local Borough and City governments should be integral to the curriculum. Borough and City government structure is especially valuable because that is where citizens have the most power to engage and make change.

I can imagine a course with three parts or units: 1. Federal; 2. State; and 3. Local with a wrap up of how all three work with each other. As part of each unit there should be active projects to engage students. They should learn how to contact their legislators, how to testify at hearings, how to follow a bill, and how to lobby elected officials. Each unit should require students to do active projects that require calling officials, writing letters to testify on a bill, or attending meeting of the local city council.

One very important guiding principle in designing a civics education course is that it must be factual, accurate, non-partisan, and unbiased. Most importantly it must be guided by a very balanced, non-partisan working group. I want students to understand how the government works, what our rights are, the importance of active engagement in government, especially voting in all elections.

I support this bill. I hope it is enacted but it is important to enumerate goals and objectives of

the curriculum and outline how students will be required to actively participate with government during this course.

Respectfully,

Nina Faust