



## **2026 Civic Engagement and Election Conference** Summer Conference for Kansas Government, History and Social Studies Teachers July 22-24, 2026

On behalf of the Dole Institute of Politics, Director Audrey Coleman and I are pleased to invite you to apply for the eighteenth annual conference for Government, History and Social Studies teachers at the Dole Institute at the University of Kansas, July 22-24, 2026. If selected, you would participate in the 2026 Civic Engagement and Election Conference with other teachers from around the state of Kansas.

The 3-day conference will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and end 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. We have invited outstanding presenters, including elected officials, professors, and current and retired teachers.

We will bring together high school and middle school teachers to discuss and debate the significance of getting young people involved in civic engagement, public service and in local, state, and national elections. Youth voting (18-24 years old) is increasing around the country and interest is at an all-time high.

**The Dole Institute will provide a \$400 stipend, two nights lodging, meals, and reimbursement for mileage/tolls up to \$300.**

The following is the mission statement of the Dole Institute of Politics:

*The mission of the Dole Institute of Politics is to promote political and civic participation as well as civil discourse in a bi-partisan, balanced manner. By providing a forum for discussion of political and economic issues, fostering public service leadership and encouraging participation in the political process, we emphasize that politics is an honorable profession and that only through political and civic participation can citizens redirect the course of our nation.*

**Up to twenty (20) teachers may be selected to attend the conference.** If you would like to attend, please complete the attached application and include your short essay. Preference will be given to teachers who have not attended this conference in the past. However, you are eligible to return after five years. Please send completed application to [bballard@ku.edu](mailto:bballard@ku.edu) or by mail to Dr. Barbara W. Ballard, Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas, 2350 Petefish Drive, Lawrence, KS 66045. **Completed applications should be received by Friday, May 1, 2026.**

We will notify all applicants of their status by May 12, 2026. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at [bballard@ku.edu](mailto:bballard@ku.edu) or call me at (785) 864-4900.

Sincerely,

Barbara W. Ballard, Ph.D.  
Associate Director  
Director, Summer Conference

# 2026 Civic Engagement and Election Conference

Summer Conference for  
Kansas Government, History and Social Studies Teachers

Dole Institute of Politics  
University of Kansas  
July 22-24, 2026

(Please Print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (*Best email to reach you when school is not in session*): \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit a short Essay (250 words or less) and address the following:**

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING? DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND WHY YOU WANT TO ATTEND THE 2026 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.**

**If selected, I agree to attend *all 3 days* of the 2026 Civic Engagement and Leadership Conference, July 22-24, 2026.**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed form with your short Essay by Friday, May 1, 2026.**

Submit by mail: 2350 Petefish Drive, Lawrence, KS 66045; email: [bballard@ku.edu](mailto:bballard@ku.edu) or [mvignola66@ku.edu](mailto:mvignola66@ku.edu) or by fax: (785) 864-1414.

**We will notify all applicants of their status by May 12, 2026.** Up to twenty (20) participants may be selected to attend.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Barbara W. Ballard, Associate Director at [bballard@ku.edu](mailto:bballard@ku.edu).



## **Short Essay (250 words or less)**

**Why did you choose teaching? Discuss the importance of civic engagement and why you want to attend the 2026 Civic Engagement and Election Conference.**

