

## **Policy Conversation: Making your mark: Why voting is important**

**Youth Lab** invites you to join the third in our series of Policy Conversation series with the young leaders at **Lancea Vale Secondary School**

### **Theme: Making your mark: Why voting is important**

- What do first-time voters need to know before making their mark?
- How do young South Africans sift through political slogans to find a party they can identify with?
- What is the lasting impact of single vote?
- Local vs. National: Why the 2016 municipal elections are important to you and your community?

### **The Conversation**

As the 2016 municipal elections draw closer, lamp posts will be covered in election sloganeering posters, politicians will star in slick television adverts, and colourful rallies will make their way through communities. Politicians from all walks will vie for the attention of new voters, using impassioned speeches and even songs to offer promises and policies. For first time voters, this onslaught of politicised media can be overwhelming, sometimes leading to apathy.

Voters of every age must identify a party or movement that resonates with their personal emotional and material needs. How do young voters weigh up the sentiments of South Africa's past, the frustrations of the present and the challenges and opportunities of the future? The needs of young South Africans are wide – from jobs, to community safety, and well-functioning service delivery – all issues articulated (or not) in the policies put forward by political movements. So how do South Africans make their choice, if at all?

This Policy Conversation is the opportunity to directly engage with the learners who will become first time-voters in 2016. Learners will hear from panellists who will explain concepts in a language relevant to young South Africans, with the aim to equip them with the knowledge to make an informed decision. However, this is also an opportunity for them to voice their own frustrations in a safe and encouraging space, finding a solution through vibrant debate with our panellists and each other.

### **The Conversation Starters**

- Ebrahim Fakier, Electoral Institute of Southern Africa
- Pearl Pillay, Youth Lab Research Director
- Kelsley Sharpley, Visionaries Influencing By Example – Eldorado Park
- A member of the Johannesburg Junior City Council

### **What to bring**

- Your opinion
- Your attitude
- An open mind
- And a friend, of course

**Date: 29 September**

**Venue: Lancea Vale Secondary School, Eldorado Park**

**Time: 13:00-15:00**

For more information, email [info@youthlab.org.za](mailto:info@youthlab.org.za) or find us on Twitter @YouthLabZA, or Facebook Youth Lab ZA