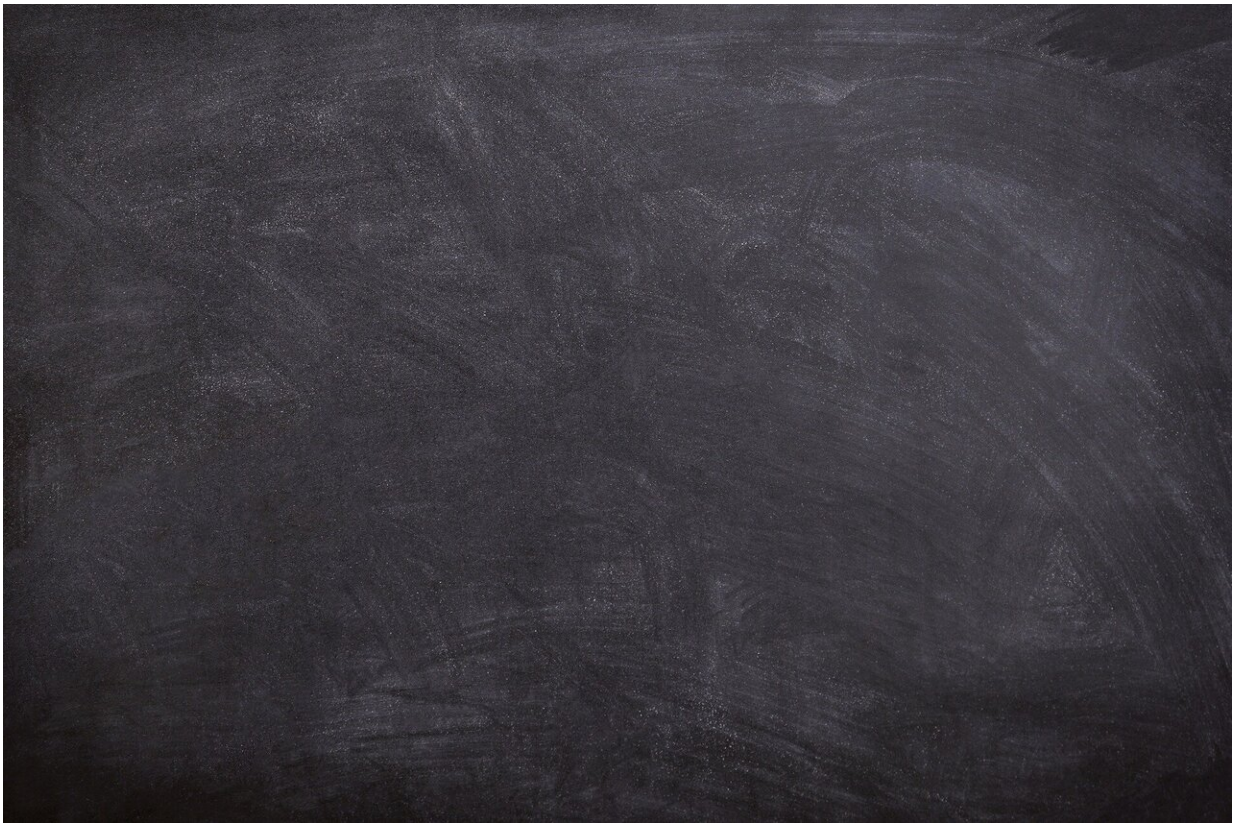


# Can online civic education strengthen democratic values?

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A study published in the *American Journal of Political Science* shows that civic education interventions can work to increase support for democracy, and doing so in the social media context can reach many

more people, with potentially much greater overall impact, than was previously the case.

Results from an online randomized trial of approximately 2,000 [young adults](#) in Tunisia, a new democracy with a relatively recent authoritarian past, indicated that exposure to online civic education had a positive effect on respondents' [democratic values](#), political efficacy, and intentions to register and engage in campaign-related political participation.

"Given the trends away from democracy that we are seeing in so many countries around the world, it is imperative that we find ways to forestall this backsliding into autocracy," said co-author Ericka Rascón Ramírez, MSc, Ph.D., of Middlesex University, in London. "Our findings indicate that civic education interventions provided through [social media platforms](#) can be an effective, and a far-reaching tool, for strengthening people's commitments to democracy and their rejection of authoritarian rule."

**More information:** Can Online Civic Education Induce Democratic Citizenship? Experimental Evidence from a New Democracy, *American Journal of Political Science* (2023). [DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12765](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12765)

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