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It's Election Season!
Let's all get ready to vote!
INTRODUCTION

It’s back to school time! What does that mean? School supply shopping, after school club sign-ups, pumpkin-flavored everything, and Homecoming! It’s an exciting time of year and a busy time with so many activities at school and in the community. Gearing up for the big game is a whole school event where everyone has a job to do: from players, to cheerleaders, to the crowds in the stands. Every person contributes to a successful event. We also know that Homecoming has a lot of prep work! Spirit Week to show off our pride, team practices so the whole team knows their positions, making signs to cheer everyone on, and then finally the big day.

There is another big game day that we look forward to in the fall. This year it’s on November 8th, Election Day. Civic Engagement is definitely a team sport, and we are all on the same team for this sport. Just like Homecoming, there is a lot to prep for as Election Day gets closer.

1. Know which position you’re playing. Check out our Team Dynamics to figure out how you can take the field on and before Game Day.

2. Get excited and participate in Spirit Week! This year, we’re celebrating September 19th - September 23rd with a ton of different ways to show your civic spirit!

3. It’s time to hit the field! Ready for Coach to put you in the game, but wondering how? There’s a lot of different ways to make the play!

4. Interested to learn about the whole process? Check out our Game Analysis that invites teammates to learn about the game in more detail as a whole team!
TEAM DYNAMICS

Wondering where you fit in to the team dynamics? Figure out what position YOU play and how you can make your play this season!

Quarterback
A quarterbacks’ job is to make that play! Will you be 18 on or before November 8, 2022? Then YOU are a playmaker. Make sure you know the playbook for HOW to cast your vote and make your play for this big game.

Running Back
Running backs are the strategy makers. Research shows that when schools promote civic engagement, young people are more likely to become life long voters. School Administrators and teachers can make a school wide strategy in supporting new voters!

Kicker
Not yet 18 for this big game? There is still a position for YOU to play. Help punt us across the goal line by learning more about the election process. Talk to the adults in your life about their plan to vote and even go to the polls with them!

Tight End
Tight End is the most versatile player on the field! Families can be a huge support system for new voters. Parents and Guardians can set the example for all young people regardless of age! Talk about your voting plan and invite your young people to the polls with you!

Center
The Center’s job is to snap the ball to the quarterback. Are you an experienced voter? Help newly eligible voters with learning about how to vote! Talk to new voters about the process to vote and tee up your teammates for success!

Left Tackle
Studies show that young people want to vote, but often don’t because they don’t know how. Left Tackle's job is to block for the Quarterback. Help to remove barriers by educating new voters on the process of voting! YCV has great resources to help make it easy!
SPIRIT WEEK
Show your CIVIC spirit with these social media activities!
YCV's Civic Spirit Week is September 19-September 21, 2023

Blast to the Past Day  Sept. 19
Let's commemorate Constitution Day, the signing of the US Constitution on September 17, 1787. For today's Civic Spirit Day pride, research voting rights through the years. Post a fact about voting rights from your research!
Use the hashtags #KnowYourRights #CivicSpiritWeek #ConstitutionDay @ycvstudents

Super Hero Day  Sept. 20
Today is National Voter Registration Day! Become an every day super hero by registering to vote! Or help a friend get registered! If you and your friends are already registered, make your plan to vote today!
Use the hashtags #NationalVoterRegDay #CivicSpiritWeek #EverydaySuperhero @ycvstudents

Twin Day  Sept. 21
Twin Day! Grab a friend and wear your favorite color! Pledge to make a voting plan together or to learn more about the process!
Use the hashtags #YCVCivicSpiritWeek #Twinning

Pajama Day  Sept. 22
A spirit week favorite! Wear your best jammies to school! Make sure not to sleep on this election day. Gear up and make your plan with how to vote!
Use the hashtags #DontSleepThroughit #CivicSpiritWeek #PJDay @ycvstudents

Sunglasses Day  Sept. 23
The future is bright when we work together to exercise our voices through civic engagement! You can find YCV out in the community registering voters and wearing cool orange sunglasses to boot! Find an event, get registered, or volunteer and take a sunglass selfie!
Use the hashtags #SunglassesDay #CivicSpiritWeek #TheFutureisBright @ycvstudents
PUT ME IN, COACH!
Voting is one concrete way we can be civically engaged, but it isn’t the only way to stay active! There are many other ways that we can be a good teammate gearing up for game day.

Young People
For young people who aren’t eligible to vote in this election, it’s a great idea to be active and involved in this election cycle, making them all the more ready when it’s their time to lace up and hit the field! Check out all the ways, no matter your age on how to be an active participant during this election season!

Families
Family members who have already navigated the election process can be a great guide for young people voting for the first time or watching and waiting for when it’s their turn! It’s important to talk to young people about the election, but also about the voting process! Families can be the first step in understanding the process, check out our tools for engaging with young people in your family during this election season!

Teachers
Teachers have such an important role in creating an open culture of civic engagement! Teachers are the trusted resource for many of our young people, and are perfectly positioned to empower young people with the tools, resources, and eagerness to participate in the election process! This is true of all teachers, not just those who teach civics or history!

School Administration
Creating a school culture of supporting the freedom to vote can start long before students turn 18! Schools can create environments where students not just learn about democracy, but live it by seeing the adults in their lives (not just parents, but teachers and administrators too!) talk and model how and why we vote!
YOUNG PEOPLE

Ask the adults in your life about their experience voting. What is it like? How did they register, research candidates, and cast a ballot?

Seek out non-partisan resources not just about candidates but about the election process!

- youcanvote.org is the one-stop resource on voting in NC
- VOTE411.org has great non-partisan candidate info!

Get the convo started with these discussion questions!

- Why do we vote?
- What makes a good leader?
- How do you do research to know how you want to vote?

Engage in discussion with both peers and the adults in your life about your views and thoughts on the world in general

Ask to go to the polls with your parent, guardian, or caregiver

Find your election day polling place and your sample ballot at youcanvote.org/lookup

Help make a plan to vote with friends and family! Learn about the three ways to vote!

Early Voting

On Election Day, November 8, 2022

By Mail

If you are a citizen and at least 16 years old -- YOU can pre-register to vote!
FAMILIES

Talk about the voting process from your own experience. What was your first voting experience like?

Model civic engagement. Take your young person to the polls with you! Will you vote early, on election day, or by mail? Make your plan and share it!

Have conversations about the elections and the issues on the ballot. Encourage expressing and discussing views!

Meet your young people where they are and be open to their views of the world!

What if you and your child have different views? That’s okay! Check out our top tips for how to have an open conversation!

Top Tips

1. Seek to understand! Clarify or paraphrase back what you hear to make sure you understand!

2. Find common ground. Are there places where you agree? Start from this place!

3. Pivot and share your perspective. Make sure they’re in a space to hear you too!

4. Share your perspective from your own personal space. Tell your story of how you arrived your views on the subject.

5. Most importantly, be curious! Ask questions! Repeat steps as necessary!

What’s on the ballot anyway? Check out You Can Vote’s deep dive on the different offices on the ballot and the power those offices have in our daily lives!

www.youcanvote.org/wob
TEACHERS

× Vote early and wear your I Voted sticker to class and talk about your experience!

○ Invite You Can Vote in to your classroom for an interactive workshop and voter registration! All workshops connect to core curriculum!

× Identify those in your classes who are eligible to vote and help navigate the process with them!

○ Don’t make assumptions! 22% of young people aged 18-29 said they didn’t know how to register to vote.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

× Provide practical information about voting and election processes with whole student body

○ Don’t assume apathy or disinterest; but also don’t assume knowledge or access to tools about the process!

× Invite You Can Vote to deliver a school training on voter registration to equip teachers and staff with how to help their students navigate the process!
GAME ANALYSIS

Get in the game by taking a look at the process of how to play! Just like being a super fan for your favorite sports team, it's important to know the history of the game, the rules of the game, and how to make the play. Take a look at these activities to improve your knowledge of voting and the election process!

Know Our History

Part of game analysis is reviewing tapes from old games. We have a long history to review in understanding civic engagement. Check out the Voting Rights History timeline, then activate your knowledge by completing the corresponding activity.

Rules of the Game

Article 1, Section 4, Clause 1 of the US Constitution states:

"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators."

This leaves the rules for voting to the states which includes voter registration, early voting, and absentee ballots to the states. Check out the definitions of the different type of elections and ways we elect our government officials. Activate your knowledge through a mock election and compare and contrast the different systems!

Make the Play

It's time to activate your knowledge and make YOUR plan of how to hit the field and make your plan. Use the playbook to create your scorecard and get in the game.
KNOW OUR HISTORY

A Voting Rights Timeline

The right to vote has never been freely given

1789  First Presidential Election

With no federal voting standard in place, most states restrict voting to white male Protestant landowners 21 and over - about 6% of the population. Initially, property-holding white women in New Jersey are also allowed to vote, as are limited numbers of black male property holders in parts of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Tennessee and Maryland. Those rights, though, are rescinded by the early 1800s.

1870  15th Amendment

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

1882  The Chinese Exclusion Act

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 bars Chinese immigrants from becoming U.S.citizens. Similar subsequent laws prevent Japanese, Filipino and South Asian Indians from becoming citizens. It wasn't until 1952 when Congress passed the McCarran-Walter Act, that first generation Japanese-Americans were granted citizenship, but it also established strict immigration quotas that in reality continued to discriminate.

1920  19th Amendment

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”
1924  The Snyder Act
Officially entitled The Indian Citizenship Act it granted Native Americans full citizenship. Prior to this, Native Americans were not considered Citizens. In 1870, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee declared “the 14th amendment to the Constitution has no effect whatever upon the status of the Indian tribes within the limits of the United States.” Even after the passing of this act, some states continued to block Native Americans from voting. In 1948, New Mexico and Arizona became the last states to officially lift these restrictions.

1964  24th Amendment
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.”

March 1965  "Bloody Sunday"
The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had made efforts to register voters in Selma Alabama, but their efforts were blocked. Civil Rights leaders planned a peaceful demonstration through a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery. 25-year old John Lewis, a Chairman of SNCC (and future US Representative) helped lead 600 voting rights advocates. Governor George Wallace instructed State Troopers “to use whatever measures are necessary to prevent a march.” The footage of the brutal attacks and violence by the State Troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge galvanized the fight against racial injustice.

August 1965  Voting Rights Act
Almost 100 years after the 15th Amendment, African Americans finally assured of right to vote.

1971  26th Amendment
Voting age lowered from 21 to 18. “The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.”

2013  Shelby Vs. Holder
U.S. Supreme Court overrules core provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, eliminating federal protections for voters in 41 North Carolina counties.
Now that you’ve checked out the history timeline, it’s time to activate your knowledge! Grab your art materials or put your digital skills to use and make a poster that shouts out a voting rights champion from a point on the timeline OR make a poster that encourages your peers to vote today! Check out this poster example of a quote from voting rights advocate, John Lewis.

Illustration by Jeff Rogers
Source: Learningforjustice.org
RULES OF THE GAME

Primary Elections
A primary is an election used either to narrow the field of candidates for a given elective office or to determine the nominees for political parties in advance of a general election. Primary elections can take several different forms. In a partisan primary, voters select a candidate to be a political party's nominee for a given office in the corresponding general election. Nonpartisan primaries are used to narrow the field of candidates for nonpartisan offices in advance of a general election.

General Election
A general election is an election in which candidates are elected to offices. This is in contrast to a primary election, which is used either to narrow the field of candidates for a given elective office or to determine the nominees for political parties in advance of a general election. General elections occur at local, state, and federal levels, and typically occur at regular intervals.

Plurality Rule
A plurality voting system is an electoral system in which the winner of an election is the candidate that received the highest number of votes. The candidate need not win an outright majority to be elected. This system is sometimes referred to as first-past-the-post or winner-take-all. This is the most common voting system used in the United States.

Majority Rule
A majority voting system is an electoral system in which the winner of an election is the candidate that received more than half of the votes cast. In the event that no candidate wins an outright majority, a runoff election is held between the top two vote-getters. For this reason, majority systems are sometimes referred to as two-round systems.

Ranked Choice Voting
A ranked-choice voting system (RCV) is an electoral system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, that candidate is declared the winner. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. First-preference votes cast for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the second-preference choices indicated on those ballots. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of the adjusted votes. The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority.

Source: Definitions from Ballotpedia
ACTIVATE

RULES OF THE GAME

One of the best parts of going to see a big game is stadium snacks! Everyone has a favorite, but we can only pick one! Time to elect the best food to lead the rest! But we're going to put **plurality** rule and **majority** rule to the test!

**ROUND 1**

1. Cut or fold the ROUND 1 ballots in to 4 squares.
2. Section 1: Fill out the CHOOSE A PARTY section. Circle ONE of the two options.
3. Section 2: If you chose the SAVORY party, fill out this section by circling your favorite choice. If you chose the SWEET party leave this section blank.
4. Section 3: If you chose the SWEET party, fill out this section by circling your favorite choice. If you chose the SAVORY party leave this section blank.
5. As a class, tally up the votes. Who won the **plurality** of the votes, meaning who got the most votes overall in each party.
6. Section 4: Fill in the winners from the two parties. This is now the General Election, but there's an additional 3rd party option on this ballot! Go ahead and vote for any candidate you like regardless of who you voted for in the primary.
7. Tally up the votes. Who is the final winner? Will we be governed by savory or sweet? Or did a wildcard pull out a win?

**DISCUSSION**

1. Who won the vote? Was it what you were expecting?
2. How did each option do in the primary section? Were there any surprises?
3. The option that got the most votes in each category, did either get a majority?
4. Did you feel your voice was heard?
5. Was anyone extremely happy or upset with the results?
RULES OF THE GAME

ROUND 2

1. Cut or fold the ROUND 2 ballots in to 4 squares.
2. Section 1: Fill out the CHOOSE A PARTY section. Circle ONE of the two options.
3. Section 2: If you chose the SAVORY party, fill out this section. This time instead of circling your option, rank your options from 1st to 4th. If you chose the SWEET party leave this section blank.
4. Section 3: If you chose the SWEET party, fill out this section. This time instead of circling your option, rank your options from 1st to 4th. If you chose the SAVORY party leave this section blank.
5. Tally up the votes. Did any of the candidates get a majority meaning over 50% of the vote? If yes, that is your winner. If no, move on to step a.
   a. If there is no majority, remove the option that received the least amount of votes.
   b. Now, take the removed ballots and assign their 2nd choice to the overall tally.
   c. Repeat as many times as needed until one candidate gets the majority. This candidate is now your winner.
1. Section 4: Fill in the winners from the two parties. This is now the General Election, but there's an additional 3rd party option on this ballot! Fill out your ballot by ranking your choices from 1st to 3rd.
2. Repeat the same process as above until one candidate receives a majority.

DISCUSSION

1. Who won the vote? Was it what you were expecting?
2. How did this process change the results?
3. This process is called Ranked Choice voting. Do you know countries or US states that use ranked choice voting?
4. Do you feel your voice was heard? Why or why not?
5. Did making more than one selection influence your thought process?
SECTION 1

CHOOSE A PARTY
Fill in the circle for one of the two options.

SAVORY

SWEET

SECTION 2

SAVORY BALLOT
If you chose the SAVORY party, fill out this section by circling your favorite choice. If you chose the SWEET party leave this section blank.

HAMBURGER

HOTDOG

NACHOS

PIZZA

SECTION 3

SWEET BALLOT
If you chose the SWEET party, fill out this section by circling your favorite choice. If you chose the SAVORY party leave this section blank.

ICECREAM

CUPCAKE

SNOW CONE

COTTON CANDY

SECTION 4

GENERAL ELECTION
Fill in the winners from the two parties, but there's an additional 3rd party option on this ballot! Go ahead and vote for any candidate you like regardless of who you voted for in the primary.

Savory

Sweet

Fries

WildCard
SECTION 1

**CHOOSE A PARTY**
Fill in the circle for one of the two options.

- SAVORY 〇
- SWEET 〇

SECTION 2

**SAVORY BALLOT**
If you chose the SAVORY party, fill out this section. This time instead of circling your option, fill in a bubble for each option based on the ranking 1-4. If you chose the SWEET party leave this section blank.

- HAMBURGER 〇 〇 〇 〇
- HOTDOG 〇 〇 〇 〇
- NACHOS 〇 〇 〇 〇
- PIZZA 〇 〇 〇 〇

SECTION 3

**SWEET BALLOT**
If you chose the SWEET party, fill out this section. This time instead of circling your option, fill in a bubble for each option based on the ranking 1-4. If you chose the SAVORY party leave this section blank.

- ICECREAM 〇 〇 〇 〇
- CUPCAKE 〇 〇 〇 〇
- SNOW CONE 〇 〇 〇 〇
- COTTON CANDY 〇 〇 〇 〇

SECTION 4

**GENERAL ELECTION**
Fill in the winners from the two parties. This is now the General Election, but there's an additional 3rd party option on this ballot! Fill out your ballot by ranking your choices from 1st to 3rd.

- **Savory**
  - 1st 〇 〇 〇 〇
  - 2nd 〇 〇 〇 〇
  - 3rd 〇 〇 〇 〇

- **Sweet**
  - 1st 〇 〇 〇 〇
  - 2nd 〇 〇 〇 〇
  - 3rd 〇 〇 〇 〇

- **Fries**
  - 1st 〇 〇 〇 〇
  - 2nd 〇 〇 〇 〇
  - 3rd 〇 〇 〇 〇

**WildCard**
MAKE THE PLAY

During the game, we want to run the ball down the field and eventually score a touchdown. Each play helps us gain yardage and get a little bit closer to the end zone. During our Civic Engagement game, there is a process to get towards the goal. Check out how you can move towards the endzone one step at a time!

#KnowYourRights
Understand your vote matters!
Research the voting process!

Awareness

Interest
Get Registered to vote!
Download a sample ballot!
Explore the issues & offices on the ballot

Participation
Vote!
or Go to the polls with a family member

Commitment
Volunteer!
Create the habit of voting!

Leadership
Advocate for others!
How are you going to make your play? Check out the Team Dynamics to find out what your position is; read up on the Put Me In Coach section to find ways you can get in the game; use the Make Your Play pyramid to set your pace and gain yardage. Fill out the scorecard with action steps you'll take at each yardline to activate your knowledge and get in the game!

NAME:

POSITION:

COACH:

100 yardline
What's your play? (Fill out your goal for each yardline)

70 yardline
What's your play?

50 yardline
What's your play?

20 yardline
What's your play?

10 yardline
What's your play?
RESOURCES

You Can Vote  youcanvote.org

The "easy button" for all information of how to vote in NC and the election process!

Make a plan to vote!

⏰ Early Voting: Vote at any early voting site in your county - youcanvote.org/vote

📦 Election Day: Finding your assigned polling place. youcanvote.org/lookup

✉️ By Mail: Request an absentee ballot with this form. youcanvote.org/mail

Know the important dates in 2022!

Early Voting   October 20th-November 5th
VR Deadline    October 14th
Election Day   November 8th

Be informed!

What's on the Ballot - learn the duties and powers of the offices on your ballot!
youcanvote.org/wob

SOURCES


