

Women's Suffrage

Family Election Day

There are restrictions to who can run to be an elected official. The Constitution of the United States decides who can run for president.

As directed by the Constitution, a presidential candidate:

- Must be a natural born citizen of the United States
- A resident for 14 years
- 35 years of age or older
- There are no restrictions for women or people of different races or religions

Citizens over the age of 21 can vote for president. Presidential candidates go through a process before an election.

- 1) Candidates go through a state-by-state primary election where each party chooses a candidate.
- 2) Candidates develop a platform, which shows voters their opinion on different causes that impact the country. This informs a voter's decision.
- 3) Candidates then campaign, holding rallies, town hall meetings, advertising, and sharing posters and other images about themselves.
- 4) On election day, held in November, voters cast their ballot for their preferred candidate.
- 5) Candidates then are nominated for president.
- 6) The inauguration, held in January, places the nominee in the office of the President.

Conduct an Election

Duration: 1 week

Materials:

- Box with a lid for collecting votes
- Colored paper to decorate your ballot box
- Paper for flyers and posters
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers

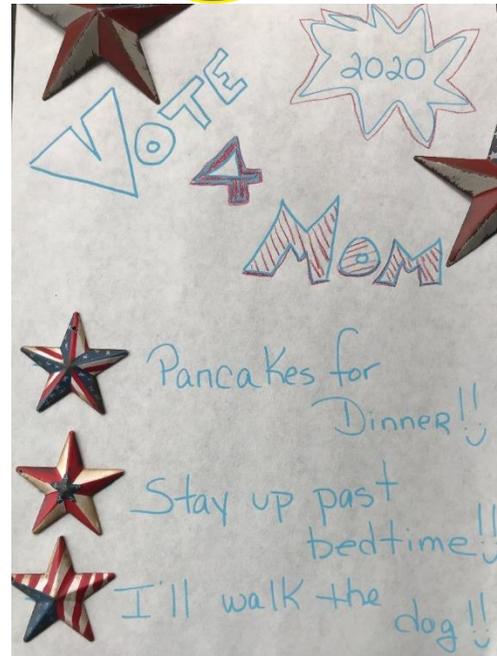
Instructions:

1. Decide on an elected position that you want for your family. Do you need...
 - a. A Family President?
 - b. A Prime Minister for your stuffed animals?
 - c. A Kid Mayor to represent you and your siblings to your parents?
2. Think about the rules to become president. Come up with your own rules for who can run! Some ideas include:
 - a. Age (you have to be between 5 and 15 years old)
 - b. Experience (you had to go to school for 2 years)
3. Once you have the criteria, select your candidates and begin the campaign process.

Campaign

1. Candidates should develop a platform, or a list of things that they stand for.
 - a. Create campaigns themes and slogans to share your platform and help votes remember what you stand for.
2. Write speeches to present to other family members.

3. Seek endorsements from other family members, neighbors, and friends.
 - a. Don't forget that we are social distancing! Call people to get their endorsement.
4. Recruit volunteer staff to help distribute flyers and campaign materials.
 - a. Invite your dog, cat, or other pet (it can even be stuffed!) to help out.
5. Teach your family how to vote and when the vote will take place.
6. All candidates should prepare an acceptance and a concession speech in case they win or lose.



Election Day

1. Encourage everyone to turn up and vote!
2. Decorate a box and use scissors to cut a hole in the top for people to put in their votes.
3. Appoint a vote counter (who is not a candidate) to tally up the votes and announce the winner.
4. Candidates should deliver their speeches when the vote is all done.

Your Responsibility

1. Now that the vote is complete, the winner should deliver on their campaign promises!
2. Have a parade and share with the Museum on social media.



Discussion

In the past in the United States, some people have been unable to vote, such as women. These are some questions to connect this activity with the Lesson Plan about Women's Suffrage in the United States.

1. How does voting give citizens a voice in the election process?
2. How would you feel if you couldn't vote?
3. Have you ever stood up for something you believe in? What was it?
4. Would you stand up for something you believe in again?
5. What are some things that you can do to help change things that you don't like?