

# How to Host a Mock Election

*Voting practices and procedures vary from state to state, particularly regarding the use of voter ID cards. The following instructions and suggestions can be adapted to meet your state's regulations and engage your students in citizenship that is relevant to them.*

## You will need

- Ballots
- Ballot Box
- Voting Booth

## Optional Materials

- Voter Identification Cards
- "I Voted" Stickers



## Preparing for the Election

- Work with students in the week or few days leading up to the election to discuss the candidates, using facts from reputable sources.
- Have students discuss what issues are important to them.
- Provide students with, or have students research the candidates' stances on issues that are important to them.
- Consider discussing the freedom to vote for their own choice, rather than the choice others (parents, relatives, and friends) may vote for.

## On Election Day

- Go over the voting process with your students:
  - where the voting booth is,
  - how to present their voter registration card (if used),
  - that their vote is anonymous,
  - they may only select one candidate,
  - and where to place their ballot once marked.
- VOTE!
- Pass out "I Voted" Stickers (if used).
- Count the votes and announce the mock election winner.

## Things to consider

- Who will count the votes?
- Where will you have the voting booth?
- Will you permit students to use a ballot with a write-in/third party line?
- Who will be included in this mock election: your class, a grade level, a few grade levels, or the entire school?
- Will you use the results of the election to create graphs and charts, or even teach percentages and ratios?
- If you would rather focus on the election process instead of the candidates, consider hosting a mock election for the class's favorite food, flavor of ice cream, or even favorite book that the class has learned about (or read).