

# The Election Process

## Enduring Understanding

An election is a complicated process that involves much planning and preparation, culminating with each registered voter casting a vote.

## Essential Questions

How are candidates selected?

How do voters register?

How is an election conducted?

## Students will be able to:

C.5.4.5 — Analyze components of the election process:

- *candidacy*
- *primary*
- *general*

## Materials Needed/Attachments

- *art supplies*

Attachment 1: Arkansas Voter Registration Application

## Vocabulary

<i>candidacy</i>	<i>primary election</i>	<i>ballot</i>	<i>campaign</i>
<i>candidate</i>	<i>general election</i>	<i>register</i>	<i>nominate</i>
<i>polling place</i>	<i>voting machine</i>	<i>vote</i>	<i>political parties</i>

## Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss political parties and the selection of candidates.
2. Analyze the steps in the election process.
3. Discuss the responsibilities of election officials and poll workers. (If possible, have children visit a polling place, have local officials discuss the method used in local elections, or contact Election Coordinators from the Secretary of State's Office to describe this process.)

4. Conduct a mock election:
  - Each student completes an Arkansas Voter Registration Application. (*Attachment 1*).
  - Create a ballot with offices at all three levels (Teacher-created or copied from the local newspaper)
  - Select polling place, poll workers, and officials
  - Tabulate the results of the election
5. Each student designs a poster encouraging citizens to register and to exercise their right and responsibility to vote. This can be displayed at school or in local businesses.
6. Write an essay describing the election process. The essay should include use of specific vocabulary.



### **Assessments/Rubrics**

Teacher-created poster rubric

Teacher-created essay rubric (opt. Arkansas state writing rubric available at the Arkansas Department of Education website)



# Voter Registration

Secretary of State  
ATTN: Voter Registration  
P. O. Box 8111  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8111

**First  
Class  
Postage  
Required**

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**From:**

## **Deadline Information**

To qualify to vote in the next election, you must apply to register to vote 30 days before the election. If you mail this form, it must be postmarked by that date. You may also present it to a voter registration agency representative by that date. If you miss the deadline you will not be registered in time to vote in that election.

If you are qualified and the information on your form is complete, you will be notified of your voting precinct by your local County Clerk.

## **To Mail**

Fold form on middle perforation, remove plastic strip, seal at bottom, stamp and mail.

**Questions?**  
Call your local County Clerk  
or  
Secretary of State's Office Voter Services  
1-800-482-1127  
TDD 1-800-262-4704

**Contact your County Clerk if you have not received confirmation of this application within two weeks.**