



During the election season campuses will focus on informing students of the election process, what offices can people be elected to, and the requirements for running for different offices at the local, state, and national level. Students will participate in the FBISD Mock Election voting activity at their school, but the “who” to vote for is a topic that we reserve for families to discuss at home.

Below is a suggestion for ways parents can address topics in the weeks leading up to the election.

Week of	Topic	Focus
10/12 – 11/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is voting? Who can vote? Election of the President The Electoral College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce students to the concept of voting and why it’s important in our nation. Students should know the requirements to vote in an election; including registering to vote. Highlight the requirements to be president of the United States. Explain the Electoral College and how it works in the presidential election.
10/19 – 10/30	FBISD 2020 Mock Election Window	<p>All campuses are expected to participate in the FBISD Mock Election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will cast their votes through the district online system during this window. The campus focus should be on explaining to students that all candidates have certain issues and points of view that they represent. A focus can also be on introducing students to the various races at the local, state, and national levels. <p><i>Discussions of key issues and specific candidates should be an “at-home” activity led by parents.</i></p>
11/14	Post-Election Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare Mock Election votes with Election 2020 results, make charts and graphs with county or state data, and create Electoral College maps.

Preparing Students for FBISD 2020 Mock Election

To encourage active civic participation, all FBISD students will be able to vote in the 2020 Mock election.

- The Mock Election window [Oct. 19th - 30th]
 - Review the [POG Attribute of Compassionate Citizenship](#) and emphasize the importance of civic participation, including voting, in the days leading up to the 2020 Mock Election.
 - Locate the 2020 Mock Election link via the Collaborative Communities webpage. See Departments > Collaborative Communities > Programs > 2020 Mock Election
(Will be posted and activated on October 14th)
 - Ensure that students know their username and password to log into the 2020 Mock Election survey.
 - Provide students with the 2020 Mock Election Candidate Review Sheet and sample ballot. We encourage students and parents to discuss the candidates and issues at home. *Students should NOT be required to submit their 2020 Mock Election Candidate Review Sheets or be asked to share their selections with peers.*
- * No student identifying information will be reported or used in this process.**

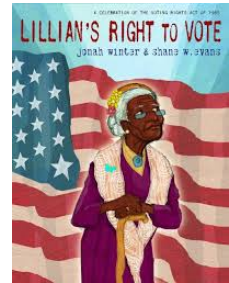
Election Resources for Students

Below is some information if you would like to incorporate election topics into classroom instruction during the election season.

What is Voting and Who Can Vote?

Elementary - Students in elementary grades can't vote, but they learn the requirements to vote and the steps to take once they turn 18. Information below can also be used if you need information on registering.

- [Registering to Vote](#) – Though elementary students are too young to register to vote we can still educate them on the process of registering.
- *Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter helps teach how voting wasn't always a given right for everyone and why it is so important.
- Videos – [PBS Kids: Presley Talks about Voting](#) and [Kids Academy: Voting for Kids – Why is Voting Important?](#)



Secondary - Although most of our secondary students are too young to register to vote, we can still educate them on the process of registering. We should also encourage students who are eligible to register to do so. As an added benefit, providing students with information about how to vote can only encourage them to actively participate.

National voting information:

- [Registering to Vote](#)
- Video – USA.Gov: [First Time Voter](#)

State voting information:

- [Voting in Texas](#)
- [Vote Texas](#)

Fort Bend County voting information:

- [Voting in Fort Bend](#)

Election of the President

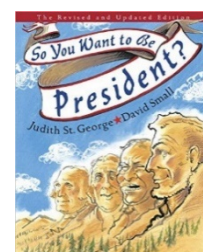
Most students understand that the president is the leader of our country but the requirements to become president and the responsibilities they have can also be taught using the U.S. Constitution.

- Requirements for being president can be found in Article II, Section 1, Part 4.
- Responsibilities and duties of the president can be found in Article II, Section 2, Parts 1-3
 - [Transcript of the Constitution from the U.S. Senate webpage](#)

- Online Article – Scholastic.com: [Can a Kid Be President?](#)

- [Overview of the Executive Branch](#)

- Grace for President* by Kelly DiPucchio



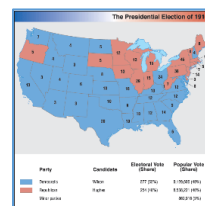
- So You Want To Be President?* by Judith George is a Caldecott-winning book that take you through some of the requirements and light-hearted facts about the presidency.

Electoral College

This is a difficult concept for adults to understand, yet alone younger students. The main thing you can help with is having students understand each state gets a number of votes based on their population.

This is a good topic to integrate into Math courses as it related to percentages and calculation of electoral votes.

- Online article – [Electoral College](#)
- Elementary Level** video explaining the Electoral College - [Ted talk: Does your vote count? The Electoral College explained](#)
- Secondary Level** video explaining the Electoral College - [Crash Course: Election Basics \(including breakdown of electoral college\)](#)



A teaching example might be to use your school as the country and each classroom as a state. For every 5 students, a classroom gets 1 vote. Some classrooms would have 4 votes while others may have 5 or 6.

- www.maps101.com – This is a district resource with electoral maps from the first election to the present. To find the maps on the site, go to Map Collection – History Map Sets – Historical Presidential Election Map Comparison.
Additional information about the Electoral College can be found at - [Electoral College Resources \(Maps\)](#) and [National Archives - Electoral College](#).

The Candidates and Issues —

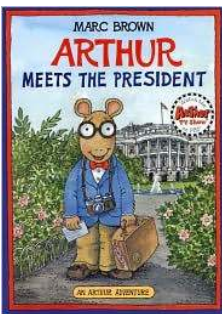
Politics can divide a family more so than college loyalties or professional sports. The district encourages the discussion of the candidates and key issues as a family-centered and “At-Home” event. We do want the students to learn to be informed voters so the candidates’ names and political parties can be mentioned in class but they are used in the context of talking about the election and not in the campaigning for one candidate over another.

The TEKS in some Social Studies courses include how and why political parties developed. Teachers should address the subject of political parties without relying on the rhetoric of the parties, but instead present their traditional roles in American government

To help with the discussion of candidates and issues at home, a simple chart is provided that can be sent home with students. This should not be a required assignment, but rather a tool to assist parents who may want to discuss the election with their children. The last page of this document can be printed for students to take home and share with their parents.

For more information and to conduct research about specific races and candidates, we suggest students and parents visit the following:

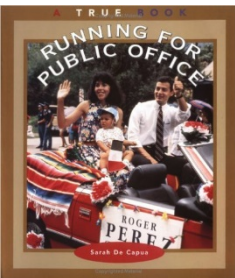
- www.votetexas.gov/
- www.vote411.org



Other Notable Trade Books

Here are also several books that focus on the topic of voting, elections, and the president. Your local librarian can also help you find books to share with your children.

- *Amelia Bedelia’s First Vote* by Herman Parish is a look at elections from the young child that takes everything literally. Watch out for mud-slinging.
- *Arthur Meets the President* by Marc Brown. Arthur wins a contest and gets to meet the president at the White House.
- *Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln* by Jean Fritz take a look at one of the many things a president does – giving speeches - and how President Lincoln would eventually give a speech that is still remembered today.
- *Running for Public Office* by Sarah De Capua is a straightforward look at what it takes to run for office and the many jobs involved.



2020 Mock Election Candidate Review

Purpose: The Mock Election serves to teach students about the process of elections at the national level. Students should have learned about the requirements and history of elections leading up to the district's Mock Election voting.

Being an informed voter is a responsibility of voting citizens. To that end, becoming an informed voter requires knowing what issues one sees as important and looking at viewpoints in a balanced way. We feel it is important that students be informed when they vote but we also do not want to overstep what family's feel are key issues in the election process.

Below are guidelines for helping your child become an informed voter. The depth at which you go into the process is flexible and voluntary. The candidates you choose to highlight can also be of your choosing. The state of Texas' ballot usually has the Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian and Green party candidates, listed so those will be who your students will see on the mock ballot.

Thank you for your support as we help teach our students about the election process.

Party/Candidate	Issue #1 -	Issue #2 -	Issue #3 -

2020 Texas Student Mock Election

OFFICIAL BALLOT (BOLETA OFICIAL)

Instruction Note: (nota de instrucción)

Vote for the candidate of your choice by placing an "X" in the square next to the candidate's name.
(Vote por el candidato de su preferencia marcando con una "X" el cuadro a la izquierda del nombre del candidato.)

Presidential (presidencial)

☐

Donald J. Trump
Republican Party
(Partido Republicano)

☐

Joseph R. Biden
Democratic Party
(Partido Democrático)

☐

Jo Jorgensen
Libertarian Party
(Partido Libertariano)

☐

Howie Hawkins
Green Party
(Partido Verde)