

2012 Mock Election

Voters' Guide for the short ballot

Students will read the guide below then vote on the ballot measure and candidates. A **measure** is an idea for a new law. Voters gather signatures from people who agree that the idea for a new law should be voted on. This process is called an **initiative**. If there are enough signatures, the measure appears on the **ballot** during the next **election**.

We have to think carefully about what laws we want passed, who we want to have represent us in office, and how this will affect us. Luckily, we can tell the state how we feel by voting. Choose wisely!

key terms

measure: an idea for a new law written by voters

initiative: how voters propose new laws by collecting signatures

ballot: a piece of paper used to vote

election: how voters choose leaders and pass laws

Initiative Measure

1240

Should we give tax money to private groups to manage 40 public schools?

Vote "yes" if you agree...

Money collected from taxes should be given to private groups to run 40 "charter schools" because these schools will have more freedom to choose what to teach, which teachers to hire, and how best to help each student.

Vote "no" if you agree...

The tax money given to the 40 "charter schools" run by private groups will help very few students and drain millions of dollars from other schools still run by the government; that is not fair to all students.

President of the United States

The chief duty of the President is to make sure that the laws of the United States are faithfully carried out. The President does this by selecting thousands of federal positions, including secretaries of cabinet agencies and all judges of the federal judiciary. These nominees must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The President is commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces. The President has the power to make treaties with foreign governments, which must be approved by the Senate. The President has the power to veto (reject) laws passed by Congress.

Governor of Washington

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state. The Governor chooses staff for hundreds of positions, including directors of state agencies. Every year, the Governor reports to the Legislature on the state and submits a budget recommendation. The Governor may veto (reject) laws passed by the Legislature.