



Classroom Guide to Voter Registration



Future Voter Program

In 2018, legislation passed (2SHB 1513) allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to sign up to become automatically registered to vote once they turn 18.

Program Eligibility

Participants must meet all of the following requirements in order to register to vote:

- **Be at least 16 years old**
- **A U.S. Citizen**
- **Legal resident of Washington State**

How To

Online



Scan the QR code or visit **VoteWA.gov**. Registrants will need a current Washington state driver's license or ID card. If they do not have state-issued identification, registration can be made using a paper form.

Paper Registration Form

Download a pdf at sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx. Registrants will need a current Washington state driver's license, ID card, or last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN). Make sure the registrant signs the declaration and that the signature is clear.

Note: Rewards such as class credit, prizes, or gifts may not be offered in exchange for registering to vote.

Tips

Address Types



The residential address must be in Washington as it determines which races and measures will be on a voter's ballot. The residential address may be a traditional or non-traditional address. A non-traditional address requires a description of a voter's residence, with enough detail to assign a precinct and locate the voter to confirm their address. PO boxes may not be used as a residential address. The mailing address is where the ballot will be sent, and can be anywhere in the world.

Incomplete Registration



Registrants without a state-issued ID or SSN may leave the section blank but will be asked for alternative ID by their county elections office before registration can be approved.

Completed Registration Forms



Paper registration forms must be returned to an elections office at least 8 days prior to Election Day, and no later than 5 days after completion. Paper forms submitted within the 8-days prior to Election Day will take effect for the next election.



Phone

(360) 902-4180
(800) 448-4881

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

Website

sos.wa.gov/elections

Email

elections@sos.wa.gov

Elections Office Contacts

Adams County

210 W Broadway Ave, Ste 200
Ritzville, WA 99169-1897
Phone: (509) 659-3249
elections@co.adams.wa.us

Asotin County

PO Box 129
Asotin, WA 99402-0129
Phone: (509) 243-2084
dmckay@co.asotin.wa.us

Benton County

PO Box 470
Prosser, WA 99350-0470
Phone: (509) 736-3085
elections@co.benton.wa.us

Chelan County

350 Orondo Ave, Ste 306
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 667-6808
elections@co.chelan.wa.us

Clallam County

223 E 4th St, Ste 1
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3026
Phone: (360) 417-2221
elections@co.clallam.wa.us

Clark County

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815
Phone: (564) 397-2345
elections@clark.wa.gov

Columbia County

341 E Main St, Ste 3
Dayton, WA 99328-1361
Phone: (509) 382-4541
anne_higgins@co.columbia.wa.us

Cowlitz County

207 4th Ave N, Rm 107
Kelso, WA 98626-4124
Phone: (360) 577-3005
elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Douglas County

PO Box 456
Waterville, WA 98858-0456
Phone: (509) 888-6402
elections@co.douglas.wa.us

Ferry County

350 E Delaware Ave, Ste 2
Republic, WA 99166-9747
Phone: (509) 775-5225 ext 1139
delections@co.ferry.wa.us

Franklin County

PO Box 1451
Pasco, WA 99301-1451
Phone: (509) 545-3538
elections@co.franklin.wa.us

Garfield County

PO Box 278
Pomeroy, WA 99347-0278
Phone: (509) 843-1411
ddeal@co.garfield.wa.us

Grant County

PO Box 37
Ephrata, WA 98823-0037
Phone: (509) 754-2011 ext 2793
elections@grantcountywa.gov

Grays Harbor County

100 W Broadway, Ste 2
Montesano, WA 98563-3614
Phone: (360) 964-1556
elections@co.grays-harbor.wa.us

Island County

PO Box 1410
Coupeville, WA 98239-1410
Phone: (360) 679-7366
elections@co.island.wa.us

Jefferson County

PO Box 563
Port Townsend, WA 98368-0563
Phone: (360) 385-9119
elections@co.jefferson.wa.us

King County

919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057-2906
Phone: (206) 296-8683
elections@kingcounty.gov

Kitsap County

614 Division St, MS 31
Port Orchard, WA 98366
Phone: (360) 337-7128
auditor@co.kitsap.wa.us

Kititas County

205 W 5th Ave, Ste 105
Ellensburg, WA 98926-2891
Phone: (509) 962-7503
elections@co.kittitas.wa.us

Klickitat County

205 S Columbus Ave, Rm 203
Goldendale, WA 98620-9280
Phone: (509) 773-4001
voting@klickitatcounty.org

Lewis County

PO Box 29
Chehalis, WA 98532-0029
Phone: (360) 740-1164
elections@lewiscountywa.gov

Lincoln County

PO Box 28
Davenport, WA 99122-0028
Phone: (509) 725-4971
elections@co.lincoln.wa.us

Mason County

PO Box 400
Shelton, WA 98584-0400
Phone: (360) 427-9670 ext 469
elections@co.mason.wa.us

Okanogan County

PO Box 1010
Okanogan, WA 98840-1010
Phone: (509) 422-7240
elections@co.okanogan.wa.us

Pacific County

PO Box 97
South Bend, WA 98586-0097
Phone: (360) 875-9317
jkidd@co.pacific.wa.us

Pend Oreille County

PO Box 5015
Newport, WA 99156-5015
Phone: (509) 447-6472
elections@pendoreille.org

Pierce County

2501 S 35th St, Ste C
Tacoma, WA 98409-7484
Phone: (253) 798-VOTE (8683)
pcelections@piercecountywa.gov

San Juan County

PO Box 638
Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0638
Phone: (360) 378-3357
elections@sanjuanco.com

Skagit County

PO Box 1306
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1306
Phone: (360) 416-1702
sselections@co.skagit.wa.us

Skamania County

PO Box 790, Elections Dept
Stevenson, WA 98648-0790
Phone: (509) 427-3730
elections@co.skamania.wa.us

Snohomish County

3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 505
Everett, WA 98201-4046
Phone: (425) 388-3444
elections@snoco.org

Spokane County

1033 W Gardner Ave
Spokane, WA 99260-0020
Phone: (509) 477-2320
elections@spokanecounty.org

Stevens County

215 S Oak St, Rm 106
Colville, WA 99114-2836
Phone: (509) 684-7514
elections@stevenscountywa.gov

Thurston County

2000 Lakeridge Dr SW
Olympia, WA 98502-6090
Phone: (360) 786-5408
elections@co.thurston.wa.us

Wahkiakum County

PO Box 543
Cathlamet, WA 98612-0543
Phone: (360) 795-3219
bergsengn@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

Walla Walla County

PO Box 2176
Walla Walla, WA 99362-2176
Phone: (509) 524-2530
elections@co.walla-walla.wa.us

Whatcom County

PO Box 369
Bellingham, WA 98227-0369
Phone: (360) 778-5102
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whitman County

PO Box 191
Colfax, WA 99111
Phone: (509) 397-5284
elections@co.whitman.wa.us

Yakima County

PO Box 12570
Yakima, WA 98909-2570
Phone: (509) 574-1340
iVote@co.yakima.wa.us

OSOS Elections Division

520 Union Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: (360) 902-4180
elections@sos.wa.gov

Washington State Voter Registration Form

Register online at www.votewa.gov.

1 Personal Information

last first middle suffix

date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) gender

residential address in Washington apt #

city ZIP

mailing address, if different

city state and ZIP

phone number (optional) email address (optional)

2 Qualifications

If you answer *no*, do not complete this form.

yes no **I am a citizen of the United States of America.**

yes no **I am at least eighteen years old, or at least sixteen years old and will vote only after I turn eighteen.**

3 Military / Overseas Status

yes no **I am currently serving in the military.**
Includes National Guard and Reserves,
and spouses or dependents away from home due to service.

yes no **I live outside the United States.**

4 Identification — Washington Driver License, Permit, or ID

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

If you do not have a Washington driver license, permit, or ID, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security number to register. x x x - x x - □ □ □ □

5 Change of Name or Address

This information will be used to update your current registration, if applicable.

former last name first middle

former residential address city state and ZIP

6 Declaration

I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true. I am a citizen of the United States, I will have lived at this address in Washington for at least thirty days immediately before the next election at which I vote, I will be at least eighteen years old when I vote, I am not disqualified from voting due to a court order, and I am not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction.

sign here [] date here []

Instructions

Use this form to register to vote or update your current registration.

Print all information clearly using black or blue pen. Mail this completed form to your county elections office (address on back).

Deadline

This registration will be in effect for the next election if received by the elections office no later than eight days before Election Day.

Voting

You will receive your ballot in the mail. Contact your county elections office for accessible voting options.

Public Information

Your name, address, gender, and date of birth will be public information if you are at least eighteen years of age.

Notice

Knowingly providing false information about yourself or your qualifications for voter registration is a class C felony punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

Public Benefits Offices

If you received this form from a public benefits office, where you received the form will remain confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only.

Registering or declining to register will not affect the assistance provided to you by any public benefits office. If you decline to register, your decision will remain confidential.

If you believe someone interfered with your right to register, or your right to privacy in deciding whether to register, you may file a complaint with the Washington State Elections Division.

Contact Information

If you would like help with this form, contact the Washington State Elections Division.

web www.votewa.gov
call (800) 448-4881
email elections@sos.wa.gov
mail PO Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

For official use:

OSPI

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Office of the Secretary of State
PO Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

first class
postage
required



Please write your county elections office address below:

WA State Elections Division
PO Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

Adams County
210 W Broadway, Ste 200
Ritzville, WA 99169
(509) 659-3249

Asotin County
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Asotin, WA 99402
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Shelton, WA 98584
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South Bend, WA 98586-0097
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Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-6472

Pierce County
2501 S 35th St, Ste C
Tacoma, WA 98409
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San Juan County
PO Box 638
Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0638
(360) 378-3357

Skagit County
PO Box 1306
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1306
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PO Box 790, Elections Dept
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Snohomish County
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 505
Everett, WA 98201-4060
(425) 388-3444

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Spokane, WA 99260
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215 S Oak St, Rm 106
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Cathlamet, WA 98612
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Walla Walla County
PO Box 2176
Walla Walla, WA 99362-0356
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Bellingham, WA 98227-0369
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Colfax, WA 99111
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Yakima County
PO Box 12570
Yakima, WA 98909-2570
(509) 574-1340

WA State Elections Division
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Olympia, WA 98504-0229
(800) 448-4881

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Temperance *and* Good Citizenship Day

Can you find your home county on this map?
That's where ballots are counted.

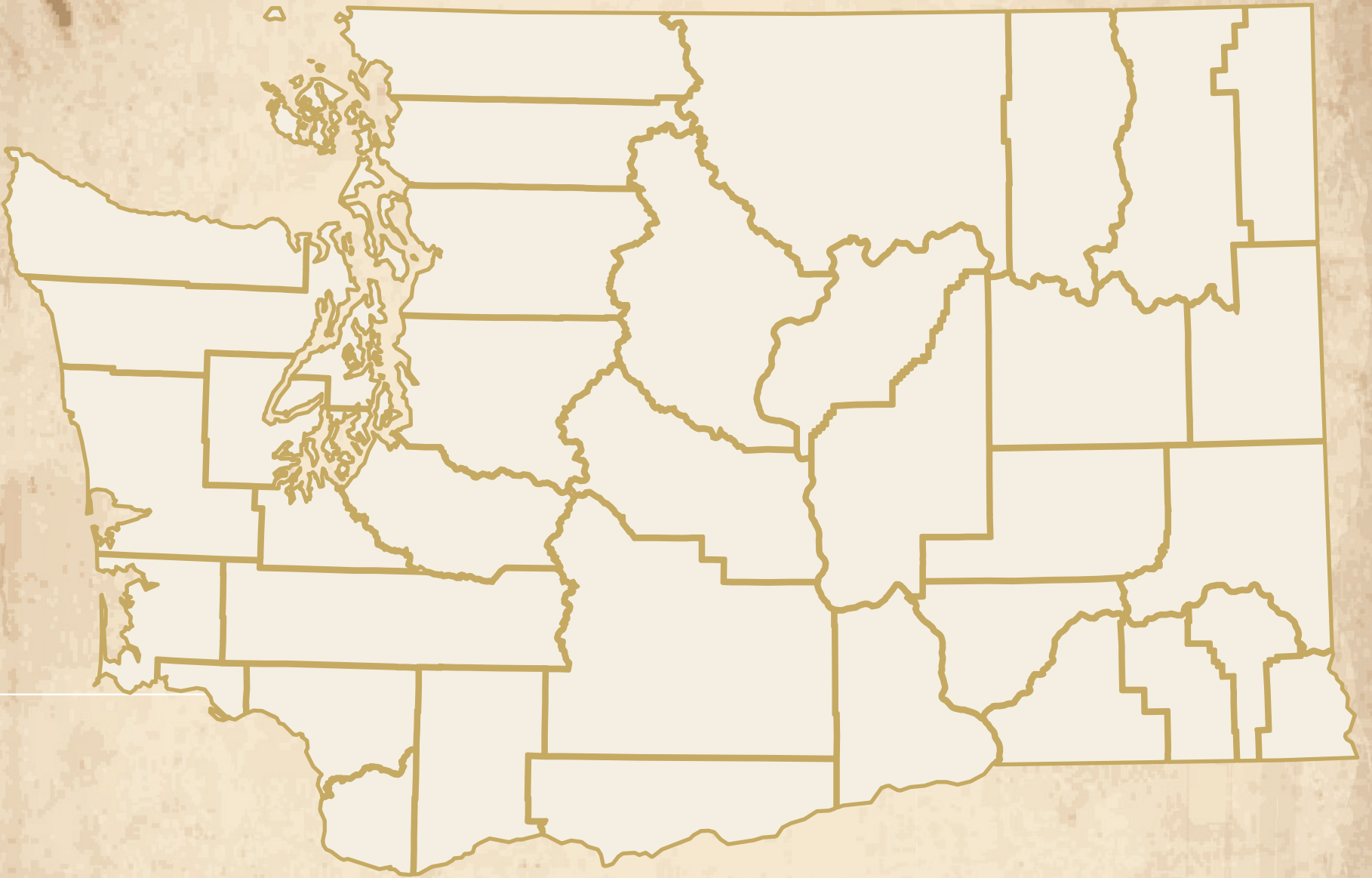
#FutureVoter

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Can you find your home county on this map?
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#FutureVoter

Temperance *and*
Good Citizenship Day

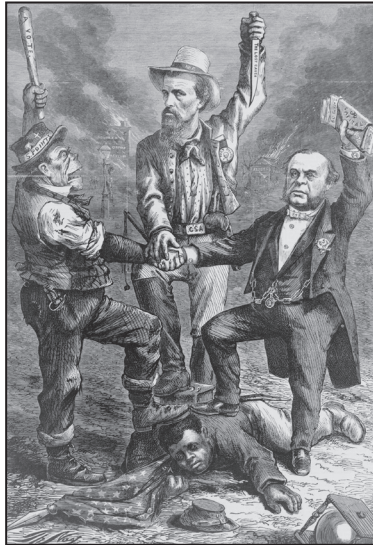


Can you find your home county on this map? That's where ballots are counted.

**#Future
Voter**

History of Voting in America

1776 Voting is controlled by individual state legislatures. Only white men age 21 and older who own land can vote.



1870 The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution eliminates racial barriers to voting; however, many states continue practicing voter discrimination. Poll taxes, literacy tests, fraud, and intimidation still prevent many from voting. Native Americans are still denied the right to vote.



1920 The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, giving women the right to vote nationwide.

1924 The Indian Citizenship Act grants Native Americans citizenship and voting rights.

1868 The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants full citizenship rights, including voting rights, to all men born or naturalized in the United States.



1923 Washington State voters pass Initiative 40, repealing the poll tax. Poll taxes are used in many states as a way to discriminate against certain voters.

1912 Washington voters amend the state Constitution, giving citizens the power to propose initiatives and referenda; the first statewide initiative in 1914 bans alcohol sales.

1910 Washington voters amend the state Constitution, allowing women to vote and run for office.

1964 The federal Civil Rights Act is passed to ensure that all men and women age 21 and older, regardless of race, religion, or education, have the right to vote.

The 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, eliminating poll taxes nationwide.



1965 The federal Voting Rights Act suspends literacy tests. Registration and voting rights are now federally enforced.

2000 The U.S. Supreme Court decides the Presidential Election after dubious ballot counting practices call into question Florida's electoral votes. The incident sparks national outcry and a wave of election reforms.

The U.S. Census reveals that Washington's non-English speaking population has grown large enough that voting materials in some counties must be translated to comply with the 1975 Voting Rights Act.

1971 The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution lowers the voting age to 18.



1984 The federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act requires polling places to be accessible to people with disabilities.

1975 The federal Voting Rights Act is renewed, permanently banning literacy tests nationwide. Section 203 is added, requiring translated voting materials in areas with large numbers of citizens with limited English skills.

Today About 4 million people are registered to vote in Washington, roughly 68 percent of those eligible.

2009 Washington becomes the second state in the U.S. (after Oregon) to vote entirely by mail rather than in person at the polls.

2008 After a lengthy U.S. Supreme Court battle, Washington enacts the "Top 2 Primary" that allows voters to choose any candidate regardless of party preference.

1 What's a Good Citizen?

Students will describe rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
(30 - 45 minutes)

Elementary Lesson

1. Conduct a classroom discussion on aspects of good citizenship, such as: obeying rules and laws, helping others, voting in elections, telling an adult if someone is a danger to themselves or others, and being responsible for your own actions and how they affect others.
2. No one is born a good citizen. You learn good citizenship from your family, community, friends, and teachers. Draw a poster showing good citizenship in action.

Middle School Lesson

1. Each student is given a primary source quote discussing citizenship (pp. 12–13).
2. Divide the class into groups of three to four students. Have students share within their group what each of their quotes means.
3. Using their quotes, groups will develop a universal definition of citizenship to be shared with the class.

High School Lesson

1. Each student is given a primary source quote discussing citizenship (pp. 12–13).
2. Students will copy their quote, rewrite it in their own words, and write a brief explanation of the importance of the quote.
3. Each student will compare their quote with five classmates and get a variety of quotes from different eras, races, genders, and nations. Each student will create a universal definition of good citizenship.



Primary Sources

Quotes from notable statesmen, scientists, and artists spanning modern history discuss aspects of citizenship (pp. 12–13).

citizens

members of a nation who have the right to its protection because they were born there or legally pledged their allegiance

citizenship

the privileges and duties that come with being a citizen of a nation

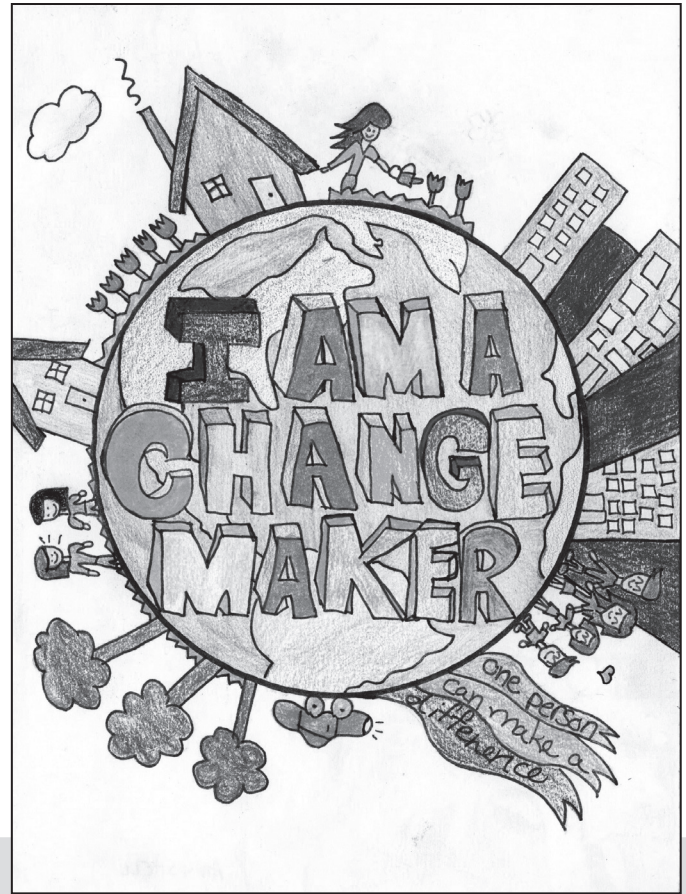
right

a guaranteed benefit or freedom

responsibility

the power to make conscientious and trustworthy decisions

2013 art contest winner ►



Homework

Ask students to discuss with an adult what it means to be a good citizen, and write about their thoughts following the conversation. Here are some questions to discuss:

- What is the most important right of a citizen?
- What is the most important responsibility of a citizen?
- What is one thing you can do to help your community?

Assessment Questions

Elementary: If a responsibility of citizenship is voting, why isn't it required?

Middle & High School (students may choose):

1. Part of citizenship is voting. If non-English speakers become naturalized citizens but are unable to read the ballot, have they been given their full rights as citizens?
2. Have students list and summarize pertinent court cases regarding 18-year-olds gaining suffrage (such as *Oregon v. Mitchell*, 1970). Include historical background regarding why they were granted suffrage and how voting relates to other responsibilities of citizenship 18-year-olds are expected to fulfill.

What's a good citizen?

Quotes for discussion

- 1. The Greek word for idiot, literally translated, means one who does not participate in politics. That sums up my conviction on the subject.**
- Gladys Pyle, U.S. Senator from South Dakota (1890–1989)
- 2. Truth-telling, I have found, is the key to responsible citizenship. The thousands of criminals I have seen in 40 years of law enforcement have had one thing in common: every single one was a liar.**
- J. Edgar Hoover, first director of the FBI (1895–1972)
- 3. Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defense and is conscious that he gains protection while he gives it.**
- Andrew Jackson, 7th U.S. President (1767–1845)
- 4. A generation that acquires knowledge without ever understanding how that knowledge can benefit the community is a generation that is not learning what it means to be citizens in a democracy.**
- Elizabeth L. Hollander, American author (1817–1885)
- 5. The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it. Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the constitutional rights secure.** - Albert Einstein, German-born American scientist and philosopher (1879–1955)
- 6. It is not the function of our Government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the Government from falling into error.**
- Robert H. Jackson, former U.S. Attorney General (1892–1954)
- 7. Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.**
- George Jean Nathan, American journalist (1882–1958)
- 8. The job of a citizen is to keep his mouth open.**
- Gunter Grass, German poet, novelist, and playwright, 1999 Nobel Prize for Literature (b. 1927)
- 9. As citizens of this democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled, the law-givers and the law-abiding, the beginning and the end.**
- Adlai Stevenson, former Illinois Governor and U.N. Ambassador (1900–1965)
- 10. If I knew something that would serve my country but would harm mankind, I would never reveal it; for I am a citizen of humanity first and by necessity, and a citizen of France second, and only by accident.**
- Charles de Montesquieu, French politician and philosopher (1689–1755)
- 11. The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.**
- Charles de Montesquieu, French politician and philosopher (1689–1755)
- 12. There can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship.**
- Ralph Nader, American lawyer and four-time candidate for U.S. President (b. 1934)
- 13. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.**
- Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901–1978)
- 14. The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.**
- Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the U.S. (1858–1919)
- 15. We all have an obligation as citizens of this earth to leave the world a healthier, cleaner, and better place for our children and future generations.**
- Blythe Danner, American actress (b. 1943)
- 16. A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.**
- Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian playwright (1828–1906)
- 17. No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline.**
- Kofi Annan, Ghanaian diplomat, former Secretary General of the United Nations, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient (b. 1938)

- 18. The government is us; we are the government, you and I.**
- Theodore Roosevelt, 26th U.S. President (1858–1919)
- 19. As global citizens, it is our responsibility to become active participants in our democracy, and to make sure that everyone's civil rights are protected.**
- Robert Alan, American author and social activist (b. 1959)
- 20. Citizenship consists in the service of the country.**
- Jawaharlal Nehru, former Indian Prime Minister (1889–1964)
- 21. It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs.**
- Albert Einstein, German-born American scientist and philosopher (1879–1955)
- 22. All that is needed for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.**
- Edmund Burke, British statesman and philosopher (1729–1797)
- 23. The State must follow, and not lead, the character and progress of the citizen.**
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher and poet (1803–1882)
- 24. Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.**
- Edward Everett, former U.S. Secretary of State (1794–1865)
- 25. The most important political office is that of the private citizen.** - Louis D. Brandeis, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1856–1941)
- 26. A passive and ignorant citizenry will never create a sustainable world.**
- Andrew Gaines, philosopher (b. 1938)
- 27. Citizenship is what makes a republic; monarchies can get along without it.**
- Mark Twain, American author (1835–1910)
- 28. It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen.** - Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.–322 B.C.)
- 29. The social and industrial structure of America is founded upon an enlightened citizenship.**
- Bainbridge Colby, former U.S. Secretary of State (1869–1950)
- 30. The measure of your quality as a public person, as a citizen, is the gap between what you do and what you say.**
- Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General (b. 1927)
- 31. Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.**
- John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. President (1917–1963)
- 32. The future is best decided by ballots, not bullets.**
- Ronald Reagan, 40th U.S. President (1911–2004)
- 33. Citizenship is a tough occupation which obliges the citizen to make his own informed opinion and stand by it.**
- Martha Gellhorn, American war correspondent (1908–1998)
- 34. The most important thing an institution does is not to prepare a student for a career but for a life as a citizen.**
- Frank Newman, American civic engagement activist (1927–2004)
- 35. We must work toward the day when citizen service is the common expectation and common experience of every American.** - Bill Clinton, 42nd U.S. President (b. 1946)
- 36. There is much more to being a patriot and a citizen than reciting the pledge or raising a flag.**
- Jesse Ventura, professional wrestler and former Minnesota Governor (b. 1951)
- 37. The American ideal is not that we all agree with each other, or even like each other. It is that we will respect each other's rights, especially the right to be different, and that, at the end of the day, we will understand that we are one people, one country, and one community, and that our well-being is inextricably bound up with the well-being of each and every one of our fellow citizens.**
- C. Everett Koop, former U.S. Surgeon General (1916–2013)
- 38. Always vote for principle though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.**
- John Quincy Adams, 6th U.S. President (1767–1848)
- 39. Democracy is never a thing done. Democracy is always something that a nation must be doing.**
- Archibald MacLeish, American poet and public official (1892–1982)
- 40. We'd do well to remember that at the end of the day, the law doesn't defend us; we defend the law. And when it becomes contrary to our morals, we have both the right and the responsibility to rebalance it toward just ends.**
- Edward Snowden, American dissident (b. 1983)
- 41. The test of good citizenship is loyalty to country.**
- Bainbridge Colby, American lawyer and former U.S. Secretary of State (1869–1950)