



WHAT'S AN ELECTION?

Elections are a decision making process where individuals vote for the best person to represent them in public offices. During elections you probably notice signs, television advertisements, or posts on social media. A lot of what we see is considered propaganda-carefully selected information aimed to influence public opinion. You may want to conduct your own research to determine the authenticity of this information.

WHY DO ELECTIONS MATTER?

The United States of America is a representative democracy where public officials can be elected by their own citizens. Public officials are selected because they represent the ideals and concerns of the citizens they aim to serve. The officials you elect will make decisions that can directly impact you, your community, or the people you care about, which is why it's important to vote!

BUT I CAN'T VOTE YET!



That's okay- you aren't just a future citizen, you're a citizen now! Although you cannot vote to elect public officials until you're 18 years old, there are many ways you can be a change maker. Our guide below can help you think about what issues you might care about, and how you can start to enact change.

SELF-REFLECTION

What issues is my school experiencing?



What issues might my community be experiencing?



What clubs or activities can I join?



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Talk to a teacher about issues you notice. With classmates, think about how you can solve them!

With an adult, research the history of your community and what groups live there.

School extracurricular activities, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, and public libraries are great places to start!

"Democracy in the United States." (n.d.). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Retrieved from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/lesson-plans/Government_and_You_handouts.pdf

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